



Matthew Gawel has completed this personal reflection on **02/10/2024**

Paper: Autumn 2023 CPD Questions

Personal Reflection:

Description of the Learning

An interesting delve into the differential diagnoses and incidental findings in the first paper, and the inconsistencies between diagnostic techniques in the second paper. The first emphasised the importance of recognising non-vascular pathology during vascular studies whereas the second showed discrepancies in diagnoses of PAD, particularly in patients with diabetes, and suggested the need for a gold standard diagnostic tool.

Evaluation

The first paper was highly informative and offered comprehensive insight into non-vascular findings found incidentally during a vascular examination. The illustrative examples were highly useful and the ultrasound descriptions have been beneficial in practice. The second paper expressed how different diagnostic screening methods could impact patient care, and both papers have described the importance of appropriate diagnosis and the consequences of misdiagnosis.

Analysis

The information in these papers will benefit diagnostic accuracy and patient care within our vascular lab. The first emphasises that incidental findings are not overlooked. The second ensures the importance of multiple imaging modalities in the diagnosis of vascular disease, and the caution that should be taken in result interpretation. A single imaging modality could lead to misdiagnosis.

Conclusion

The insights reinforced the need for a comprehensive, wholistic, and cautious approach when completing Vascular ultrasound. Recognition of non-vascular pathology can significantly impact patient management, while understanding the limitations of different PAD screening modalities can help avoid misdiagnosis.

Action Plan

1. Documentation and further assessment of incidental findings during examination.
2. Ensure results are audited against multiple imaging modalities.
3. Consider the true confidence of diagnosis.
4. Ensure collaboration with multiple specialists to paint a complete picture
5. Educate patients about the likelihood of a diagnosis being accurate, the limitations, and overall picture.