



Theresa Fail has completed this personal reflection on **15/08/2022**

Paper: Spring 2022 CPD Questions

Personal Reflection:

This based on two research papers focused on the effectiveness and different imaging techniques used during EVAR surveillance. The first looked at adherence to surveillance and outcomes on survival and interventions. The second looked at a new ultrasound imaging technique to detect endovascular type II leaks comparing it to the more established CEUS using CTA as the gold standard.

For me it wasn't unexpected that non adherence to surveillance post EVAR was not associated with poorer outcomes. I have followed up significant number of post EVAR patients over many years and have detected very few leaks. During COVID some surveillance was postponed or delayed and many patients were still reluctant to come to appointments when surveillance programmes were restarted. So further data should be available for future studies to investigate this further. But again anecdotally, I haven't come across any missed leaks or become aware of any aneurysm associated deaths related to patients who have had significantly delayed follow ups as a result of COVID. EVAR follow up is a significant part of the workload in my vascular lab and whilst we have worked hard to clear the back log due to COVID we are now short of trained staff. Hence any evidence based reduction in our EVAR surveillance work due to increasing follow up periods would be helpful. Hence it is important to follow this up by looking for any further literature and guidance and discussing this within our team,

CTA has been the gold standard for detecting EVAR leaks. CEUS is also used in our lab and is carried with one of our vascular surgeons. It does require significant training and skill. So it was very interesting to see this new technique, Ultrasound Superb Microvascular Imaging (SMI) from Toshiba. The paper explained this technique is less invasive, less expensive, and less

time-consuming and the study found the results compared to CEUS were very similar. The same number of type II leaks were found and missed in the study. This paper was published this year and it is important to look into this technique further. This could be by contacting Toshiba directly for more information.