



**mari wester** has completed this personal reflection on **25/07/2023**

**Paper:** Winter 2022/23 CPD questions

### **Personal Reflection:**

#### Description of the learning

The first paper describes how a group of hospitals, mainly in the Czech Republic, use duplex ultrasound to diagnose problems with arteriovenous fistulae and grafts.

The second paper is a single centre study of patency of venous stents in patients experiencing venous TOS

#### Evaluation

There is a problem with diagnosing AVF/AVG stenoses and assessing their significance in that there is no universal set of criteria. This type of duplex has been used since the early 1990's but still there is no consensus due to the complexity and variation of the vessels involved and the unusual haemodynamics experienced. The study concluded that a combination of suspected stenosis and symptoms remains the best threshold for intervention.

The second study has weakness in that it has a small cohort, being only from one centre and a rare condition. Venous involvement in TOS occurs only in 3-5% of all cases.

#### Action Plan

Although an awareness of all variations of vascular science is useful, we do not have a cohort of AVF/AVG patients at our centre, however we do have thoracic outlet syndrome patients attending clinics for diagnosis, and it is useful to know possible scenarios beyond assessment even though we do not currently have a surveillance program post stent currently.