

Title: Vascular Surgery Selective

Course Directors: Dr. Todd Berland

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Basic Science Faculty: Dr. Jeffrey Berger

Students per session: 2

Description: The student in vascular surgery participates in the care of patients with arterial and venous disease on the vascular surgery services of Tisch and Bellevue Hospitals. Outpatients are seen with diagnostic problems and for post-operative follow-up. In-hospital activities involve patients with a wide variety of arterial and venous syndromes. In addition to daily ward rounds and the weekly Vascular Surgery Conference, the student participates with the house staff in pre-operative and post-operative care and assists in surgery. There are abundant opportunities in the OR, office practice, and rounds for student-faculty participation.

Integration of Disciplines: The basis of most vascular disease is atherosclerosis. Sessions with basic science faculty in vascular biology will provide a robust understanding of the etiology of the vascular disease treated on the service. At least two formal didactic sessions with basic science vascular biology faculty will be provided, which cover:

1. Vascular Disease and the Coagulation Cascade: Pathogenesis to Treatment
2. Medical Therapy in Peripheral Vascular Disease
3. Pathophysiology of Vascular Disease (atherosclerosis, aneurysmal disease)

Goals of the Selective: The student will become exposed to all of the common problems associated with vascular disease, including arterial insufficiency, both in the lower extremities and in the carotid arteries, aneurysmal disease of the aorta and other vessels, venous insufficiency and in some cases, lymphatic disorders. The goal is to have the student become familiar with the use of noninvasive diagnostic tests, interventional radiology and surgery for the management of patients with these problems.

Objectives of the Selective:

- Perform a complete vascular exam on a patient
- Describe radiographic imaging findings and their implications
- Understand the interactions of co-morbidities on operative risk
- Comprehend the major arterial and venous diseases and their underlying basic science mechanisms

Key Responsibilities of the student while Selective:

- The student will work closely with the housestaff in the management of vascular patients in the hospital. This would include histories and physicals, preoperative and postoperative assessment, as well as daily rounds.
- The student will spend more time in the Operating Room than the junior housestaff officers, giving them the opportunity to see the pathology firsthand.
- In general, the students take night call twice a week with a senior housestaff officer.

Didactic Program: Vascular Service has a weekly Tuesday morning conference geared toward students and housestaff officers. The Selectives Director will formally meet with the student at least weekly to insure that proper clinical and basic science exposure is occurring as contemplated.

Method of Evaluation: Students will be evaluated by attendings with input from surgical house staff. The Selectives Director will give formal feedback to the student on her/his performance. Evaluation will be based upon the level of knowledge displayed by the student on a daily basis, the depth of his or her reading, and the clinical performance as evaluated by the residents and faculty.