

Vascular surgery consult guide

Feb 4, 2019 | 0  | [onthephones](#)

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In a hurry? Make sure you know:

- Patients clinical situation
- Symptoms and duration
- Pulses, sensation and motor response
- Ulcer location and extent of involvement:
 - Try to appreciate the underlying pathology of the ulcer

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What history should JMOs know/collect?

- What vascular pathology is most likely present
- Medical co-morbidities e.g. smoker, diabetes, IHD, stroke
- Past Vascular Surgical History
- Relevant medications:
 - Anticoagulation

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What examinations and investigations should JMOs perform/collect results of?

- Examine the vessels: feel for pulses, test sensation and motor response
- Ankle Brachial Pressure Index (ABPI) – Should be performed by JMO
- Duplex ultrasound
- FBC, EUCs (Renal Function)
- CT Angiography

What additional information would impress you?

- Special Tests:
 - Bergers Sign
 - Possible palpable aneurysms
 - Audible Bruits

What are common mistakes/omissions made by JMOs?

- Not examining the patient's pulses or overcalling the presence of pulses
- Not examining the ulcer
- Calling for a consult without taking a thorough history and exam
- Not having a clear question in mind or an impression (it's ok to be wrong!)

Helpful Resources

Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Surgery - <https://www.anzsvs.org.au/>

Peripheral vascular examination - https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peripheral_vascular_examination

Tags: #anticoagulation,#consult guide,#junior doctors,#Peripheral vascular examination,#referral,#requesting a consult,#ulcers,#vascular surgery