Vascular surgery as a self-contained and distinct specialty has a very brief history. Virtually all its development has taken place in the last 50 years. In Bangladesh, the history of this specialty is more recent. In National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) vascular patients were being admitted and treated in early 80s. There was no different entity of the specialty and patients were mainly admitted on emergency conditions. Afterwards, in late 80s definitive operations for vascular disease were being performed scatteredly in addition to cardiac surgery in NICVD, Dhaka. In Bangladesh till that time there was no specialist in the field of vascular surgery. Later on in early 90s as specialists became available in the country and vascular surgery as a distinct entity began to establish. Only in 2001 separate vascular surgery unit was established in NICVD. But as there was no self-sufficient department the development of this specialty was little. A little later, in 2004 an independent department in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) was established. At present, our country is having 7 (seven) recognized vascular surgeons and both NICVD and BSMMU are treating vascular patients in Bangladesh. Although, all specialists in different fields of medical science are indiscriminately treating vascular patient’s, as a result vascular surgeons are getting their patients very lately. Awareness regarding vascular disease in general population has not grown very much. People cannot usually distinguish vascular disease as it is not very much commonly seen. Actually, cardiovascular disease can be regarded as the disease of civilization. Till today this disease is very rarely found in village population.

The scope of diagnosis and treatment eg.

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surgical intervention were very limited in first half of 20th century, since lesions producing surface manifestations could be diagnosed and successful results were rare. This was so, since even simple vascular procedures were far more fastidious in their demands for an appropriate operative environment and more technically demanding than operations on other anatomical systems. Vascular surgery's emergence in early twenty centuries based on the essential triad: anticoagulants, antibiotics and synthetic arterial substitutes. In 1947, Cid dos Santos (the son of Raimundo), who is regarded as father of vascular surgery, performed operations on a femoral artery in 1947, the two decades between 1950 and 1970 saw unprecedented advances of the clinical use of the new-found vascular surgical techniques.

At present in Bangladesh, as a new specialty-vascular surgery has made substantial progress. Diagnosis of the disease can be made both in private and public sector. Almost all type of investigation can be performed in Bangladesh eg. doppler and duplex study, arteriography, venography, lymphscintography, CT angiogram and CT venogram, MRA and MRV etc. Almost all types of treatment facilities are also available both in private and public sectors eg. operations for venous diseases including operation for varicose vein, haemangioma, venous malformation, arterio-venous malformation, operations for arterial diseases including aortic bypass surgeries; all types of anastomosis and graft replacement, carotid endarterectomies, and endarterectomies at different sites, operations for lymphatic diseases eg. lympho-venous anastomosis but these facilities are now available in Dhaka city only as enough specialists are lacking in this field. Efforts are going on to produce more specialists in this new and emerging field of medical science.
Editorial

References