



Vascular Society of New Jersey
202 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08608
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MONTHLY REPORT March 2007

From the President

Steven M. Hertz, M.D.

*It seemed the world was divided into good and bad people. The good ones slept better...
while the bad ones seemed to enjoy the waking hours much more.....* **Woody Allen**

The year has passed quickly. I have enjoyed serving as VSNJ President and I thank you for the privilege.

The Spring meeting is soon upon us. The planning committee is excited about the program and we hope that many of you will be able to join us. I am hopeful that hosting the meeting again at a Medical Center will infuse an "academic feel" to the meeting. Please bring interested Residents, Medical Students, Nurse Practitioners, Physician's Assistants, etc. along. Here's to the future...

It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop. **Confucius**

SEE ATTACHED VSNJ Annual Conference Registration – Sign Up Today!

From the Statehouse

Beverly Lynch

Out-of-Network Regulations

There has been extensive activity regarding the Department of Banking and Insurance proposed regulations which would set reimbursement rates for out-of-network services. The Department has extended the deadline for comments to May 2, 2007. They have created a "work group" comprised of six physicians, MSNJ executive director, and representatives from the Department of Banking and Insurance and the Department of Health and Senior Services. They have met once and plan to meet regularly. The Department has not agree to withdraw the proposal and appears committed to move it forward in some form or fashion.

We continue to lobby legislative leadership and members of the Administration on this onerous regulation. We continue to encourage physician grassroots by sending comments to the Department on the impact of this regulation.

It's important to personalize your comments, and include specific examples of the reimbursement practices of insurers that you have experienced, as well as any patient complaints/responses that you have received.

If the proposed rule is adopted, providers will be forced to balance-bill patients more regularly, and for larger amounts, in order to obtain their UCR. Balance-billing reduces the probability of collecting for the full amount billed, and also decreases the likelihood that patients will agree to undergo out-of-network treatment at all.

The carrier community continues to deny clean claims, down-code, and otherwise frustrate the ability of providers to get paid. Carriers also have been prohibiting the assignment of benefits (i.e., paying patients directly), thereby further inhibiting the ability of providers to get paid. **Please include specific examples of these types of payment practices of insurers that you have experienced.**

Your comments to DOBI (deadline May 2, 2007) should be addressed as follows:

Robert Melillo, Chief
Legislative & Regulatory Affairs-DOBI
20 West State Street
P.O. Box 325
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0325
Fax: 609-292-0896
E-Mail: LegsRegs@dobi.state.nj.us

MSNJ is hosting a meeting of interested physicians on March 7, 2007, at 4 pm in their Lawrenceville office for a briefing on DOBI activity.

PIP Fee Proposal

DOBI has reported that it plans to have completed its review of all of the (three hundred plus) comments submitted on the PIP Fee Proposal by the end of this month. More disturbing was the Department's dismissal of the Foreman Report, instituted by MSNJ, and apparent unwillingness to address the concerns that have been raised.

The good news is that legislation (A-3703) introduced by Assemblymen Neil M. Cohen (D-20), Wilfredo Caraballo (D-29) and Jon M. Bramnick (R-21), which would (i) repeal the proposal if adopted and (ii) compel DOBI to adhere to the statute's original mandate to base any fee schedule on prevailing PIP fees, was voted out of the Assembly Financial Institutions & Insurance Committee on 8. Testifying were physicians Rick Scott, MD, Marc Kahn, MD and Rich Schenk, MD. Mark Manigan, Esq., from WolfBlock drafted the bill. This is the first step toward this bill becoming law. We are working to secure Senate movement on its companion (S-2402) and floor votes.

We urge you to contact the Governor and your state representatives to support A-3703/S-2402. Your comments to the Governor should be addressed as follows:

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 001
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Go to www.njleg.state.nj.us to find the address for your representatives in the legislature.

Licensure of One Room Surgical Suites

As reported previously, I recently met with Senator Loretta Weinberg (D-Teaneck) to discuss her legislation, S-2394, which would require the Department of Health and Human Services to license single-room surgical facilities operated by physicians in their private medical practices. We discussed existing regulations governing physician offices and I forwarded information to her at her request. I have received a letter from the Senator stating "please note that after reviewing the information I will not pursue the bill at this time."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Watch your mail for your promotion soon!

March 14, 2007
11:00 am

VSNJ Spring Meeting
St. Barnabas Islami Auditorium

Spring Meeting Schedule includes....

PRESENTATIONS by

Dr. Randy Shafritz - *Radiofrequency Ablation of Incompetent Perforating Veins*

Dr. Bruce Mintz - *The Medical Management of the Surgical Patient*

Dr. Kenneth Goldman - *Exposure for Anterior Spine Surgery*

And Fellows Debate: *Carotid Endarterectomy vs Carotid Stenting*

To be removed from this mailing list please call 609-392-7553



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Vascular Society of New Jersey
29th Annual Meeting
Wednesday, March 14, 2007

Islami Auditorium, Saint Barnabas Medical Center
Livingston, NJ

PROGRAM

11 a **Registration and Exhibits Open**

12 noon **Luncheon and Business Meeting**

Presiding: Steven M. Hertz, MD, VSNJ President
Election of VSNJ Board of Directors

12:45 – 1:10p **Fellows Debate -**
Carotid Endarterectomy vs Carotid Stenting

(Surgery: Drs. El-Shaarawy & Zeo, NBI;
Stenting: Drs. Abai & Manis, UMDNJ-NJMS)
Moderator: Robert W. Hobson, II, MD, Emeritus-President

Objectives: *A debate with presentation to the Society covering all aspects of carotid disease, including duplex and other non-invasive evaluation, epidemiology, follow-up protocols, standard and endovascular therapy. This will include a discussion of the present and planned trials regarding endovascular therapy, (including stenting, angioplasty, anti-embolic protection, intra-cranial rescue, etc.). The membership will be encouraged to participate in formulating questions that the debate team will expound upon.*

1:10-2:10 **Presentations**

Moderator: Jonathan Levison, MD, President-Elect

Anterior Spinal Exposure for the Vascular Surgeon
Kenneth Goldman, MD

Objectives: *Review techniques for exposure of the anterior spine; Discuss common pitfalls and how to avoid them; Review coding for these procedures.*

Radiofrequency Ablation of Incompetent Perforating Veins

Randy Shafritz, MD

Objectives:

Discuss pathophysiology of venous disease; Discuss approach to treatment; Describe techniques, indications, and results of ablation.

The Medical Management of the Surgical Patient

Bruce L. Mintz, DO

Objectives

Discuss reversible risk factors associated with the vascular patient; Review medical management techniques to improve clinical outcomes.

2:10 – 2:40 p Refreshment Break and Exhibits Open

2:40 – 2:55 p **Fellows Presentation -
Clinical correlation:
from the office to the vascular lab to imaging studies
(Drs. Wang & Ortega, Englewood)**

2:55 – 3:40 p **Abstract Presentations**

Moderator: Steven Hertz, MD, President

- 1.) Treatment of Chronic Major Deep Venous Thrombosis with Excimer Laser Thrombolysis – Mark Moritz, MD et al.
- 2.) Abdominal Aortic Debranching: A Novel Approach to Expand Indications for Endovascular Solutions for Complex Thoracoabdominal Aortic Aneurysms. – Dennis Ng, MD et al.
- 3.) Autogenous Arterio-Venous Access Options in the Morbidly Obese: Fistula First for even large arms. – Raymond Holmes, MD et al.
- 4.) Aneurysms In The Superficial Veins of The Lower Extremities – D. Varnagy, MD et al.
- 5.) Combined carotid endarterectomy and coronary artery bypass graft procedures: *Analysis of procedures performed on and off pump.* – Prakash Paragi, MD et al.

3:40 – 3:55 p **Vascular Surgery Under Fire -
A Surgeon's Experience in the Combat Theater
Joseph Costabile, MD**

3:55 – 4:00 p **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

REGISTRATION FORM

Vascular Society of New Jersey

29th Annual Meeting

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

11 am - 4 pm

Islami Auditorium, Saint Barnabas Medical Center

Livingston, NJ

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____ Fax(____) _____

E-mail (important) _____

***All confirmations will be sent by email, unless specifically noted by registrant**.*

Registration Fees : *Includes lunch, exhibits and CME lectures*

(Please circle one)

VSNJ Members	(Pre-Registration)	\$25.00	(On Site)	\$50.00
Non-Member Physicians				\$50.00
Technologists/RN and Allied Health Care Professionals				\$15.00
Residents				Complimentary

Please return this registration form with your payment.

Make checks payable to: **VSNJ**

and mail to: 202 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

or

Visa® and MasterCard® Payments:

Account #: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Exp Date: _____ Signature: _____

or fax to: 410-642-2118

Email: blynch@blynchassociates.com

ppassman@blynchassociates.com

No refunds after March 6, 2007