

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

ScienceDirect

www.elsevier.com/locate/semvascsurg

Using the Vascular Quality Initiative to improve quality of care and patient outcomes for vascular surgery patients

Rodney P. Bensley, and Adam W. Beck*

Department of Surgery, Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy, University of Florida College of Medicine, Shands Hospital, 1600 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32603

ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT

The Society for Vascular Surgery Vascular Quality Initiative (VQI) is a collaborative network of vascular specialists from various specialties that seeks to improve the quality and safety of vascular care by sharing data among physicians, medical centers, and regions. Working under a Patient Safety Organization designation by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the VQI provides a protected environment where data can be pooled and evaluated for trends that might provide opportunities to improve the care we provide our patients. Since its inception in 2011, this national organization has grown rapidly and now involves >300 medical centers that are separated into 18 active regional groups who meet twice yearly to discuss quality improvement. The structure of the VQI provides a powerful platform for data collection and analysis, and has allowed the development of a large body of literature that demonstrates the importance and benefits of participation. Here we provide a brief overview of the VQI to date.

© 2015 Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

The Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS) Vascular Quality Initiative (VQI) began as the Vascular Study Group of New England (VSGNE) in 2001, and eventually included medical centers in all six New England states collecting data for vascular procedures for quality improvement purposes. The VSGNE was eventually designated as a Patient Safety Organization (PSO) by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and in 2011 the SVS assumed ownership of the PSO. The quality effort rapidly grew to its current state, including 18 regional groups and >300 medical centers (Fig. 1). The physicians collecting data in the VQI include vascular surgeons, cardiologists, and interventional radiologists,

as well as other surgical specialties performing vascular procedures.

Centers participating in the VQI collect and analyze data in a concerted effort to lower costs and improve the health care provided to patients undergoing vascular procedures. The VQI currently prospectively collects clinical data related to 12 commonly performed major vascular procedures (Table 1). All data elements collected, and their definitions, were developed for each procedure and are collected at the time of initial treatment and at early and late follow-up. Follow-up information is collected at 1 year for all procedures, which is unique to the VQI in comparison with other quality efforts, such as American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program. For endovascular aortic repair

*Corresponding author.

E-mail address: adam.beck@surgery.ufl.edu (A.W. Beck).

18 Regional VQI Groups

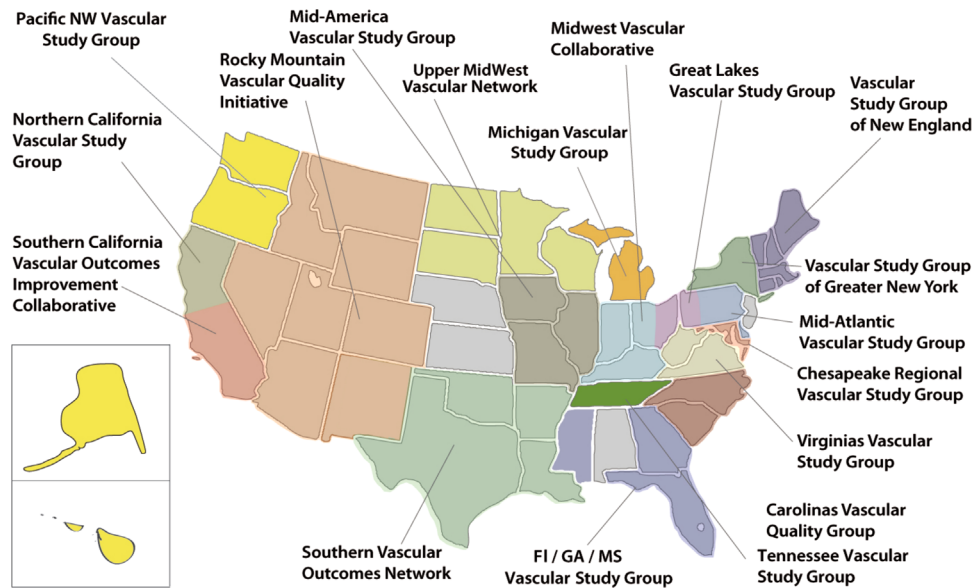


Fig. 1 – Regional groups comprising the Vascular Quality Initiative (VQI). The VQI patient safety organization is a nationwide collaborative that currently including 18 regional groups and >300 participating medical centers.

(abdominal [EVAR] and thoracic [TEVAR]), data are collected to 5 years. Further, unlike administrative databases, the VQI collects important clinical details such as preoperative risk factors, symptom severity, in-depth intraprocedural variables, post-procedure outcomes, and 1-year follow-up data. The VQI uses these data collected to provide real-time benchmarked reports, which individual physicians and hospitals can use to assess the quality of care they deliver. These reports are also used to help establish best practices for vascular procedures.

As mentioned, the VQI functions within the structure of the SVS PSO. The SVS PSO ensures a focus on quality improvement and provides safeguards for data confidentiality [1], and provides a secure environment where physicians and health care organizations can collect, share, and analyze patient data. Use of the data for marketing purposes is strictly

prohibited, and the information is protected from legal discovery.

The leadership structure of the VQI includes the Governing Council, which directs the operations of the SVS PSO as well as an Executive Committee and Arterial and Venous Quality Committees that direct the analyses and reporting of data. A national Research Advisory Committee is made up of individuals with experience using VQI data to perform outcomes research. This committee exists to evaluate requests from participating physicians who wish to perform research studies using national VQI data, and functions primarily to guide the performance of these studies.

Data are collected using the secure, cloud-based platform PATHWAYS, provided by M2S Inc. (West Lebanon, NH). The Pathways platform allows for data entry at the point of care as well as real-time benchmark reporting. Data are audited using hospital claims data to ensure that all eligible procedures within a given procedural registry are captured. Any discrepancy is reported back to the hospital and physician to ensure missing cases are entered [2].

Table 1 – Vascular surgery procedures collected by the Vascular Quality Initiative.

Carotid artery stent
Carotid endarterectomy
Endovascular AAA repair
Open AAA repair
Hemodialysis access
Inferior vena cava filter
Infra-inguinal bypass
Supra-inguinal bypass
Lower extremity amputation
Peripheral vascular intervention
Thoracic and complex EVAR
Varicose vein

Twelve commonly performed vascular procedures are currently collected in the VQI.

Abbreviations: AAA, abdominal aortic aneurysm; EVAR, endovascular aneurysm repair.

2. Quality improvement mechanisms

The local collection and availability of data provide a unique ability of practitioners, centers, and regions to benchmark against local, regional, and national data. This allows for the use of VQI data to inform local morbidity and mortality conferences and allows the regular performance of data reviews to evaluate trends in procedural outcomes that might inform local or regional quality initiatives.

The Pathways platform allows for users to perform their own analytics and benchmarking, which can also be used to compare with claims data from which many hospital systems derive their local quality data.

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/3026097>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/3026097>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)