



First vascular audit released

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The Australasian Vascular Surgical Audit, which is designed to improve surgical performance and enhance patient outcomes, has captured 65 per cent of estimated procedures in its first year, an article in the latest issue of the *ANZ Journal of Surgery* states.

“This has been a great start, but is just the first step in building a robust tool for the future use of the vascular surgical community, and the benefit of our patients,” the article’s lead author, Mr Barry Beiles said.

A bi-national quality assurance activity, the audit captures procedures in Australia and New Zealand at two points in the clinical process – at the time of operation and at discharge.

Reports are available to provide real-time feedback of user performance compared with peer group data in key categories of arterial surgery.

Data from 36,734 admissions and 42,653 operations were entered during 2010 by vascular Fellows and Trainees. The mean age of patients was 66 years and the mortality rate was 1.2%.

The audit, established by the Australian and New Zealand Society for Vascular Surgery, details the data of procedures such as Aortic, Carotid, Infrainguinal bypass and AV fistulae surgery.

Prior to the audit, the only data available came from Victoria and New Zealand.

“The AVA has been well received by the vascular surgical community, but there are distinct challenges ahead,” Mr Beiles said.

“The vast majority of surgeons and independent commentators have recognised the benefits of participation in this venture.”

The *ANZ Journal of Surgery*, now in its 80th year and published by Wiley-Blackwell, is the pre-eminent surgical journal published in Australia, New Zealand and the South-East Asian region. The Journal is dedicated to the promotion of outstanding surgical practice, and research of contemporary and international interest.



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