

Identifying the Research Priorities of Healthcare Professionals in UK Vascular Surgery: Modified Delphi Approach

Smith et al. (2021)

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

vascular surgery

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Europe - United Kingdom

Why was it conducted at all?

Although there is already a highly active academic vascular surgery community in the UK, with over 40 percent of the consultant workforce in academic roles, there is currently no agreement regarding research priorities within the specialty. Indeed, academic vascular surgery units are frequently in direct competition for the limited available research funds.

What was the objective?

to produce a prioritized list of questions to guide and direct future vascular surgical research

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 10 research questions

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

Delphi

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: Delphi round 1: participants invited to submit important research questions, 1231 questions submitted. Step 2: data processing: resulting in 83 questions. Step 3: Delphi round 2: list of 83 questions in 10 pathology categories, participants asked to rank questions

Which stakeholders took part?

Members of the vascular society, society of vascular nurses, society for vascular technology, and the Rouleaux club. Delphi round 1: 481 participants. Delphi round 2: 323 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

The e-mail addresses were supplied from the membership databases of the Vascular Society of Great Britain and Ireland, the Rouleaux Club, the Society of Vascular Nurses, and the Society for Vascular Technology. All invited participants from Delphi round 1 and respondents were invited to participate in Delphi round 2.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders not only participated but were also actively involved in the research prioritization process: They were part of a steering group. The steering group consisted of members of the VRC and chaired by the surgical specialty lead for vascular surgery, including representatives from societies being surveyed and regional Clinical Research Network leads for vascular surgery.