

What has changed in phlebology in the past 10 years



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Disclosure of interest

None

**I never had to choose a subject –
my subject rather chose me.**

Ernest Hemingway

- **Anticoagulation**
- **Thrombolysis**
- **Thrombectomy**
- **Stents**
- **Deep vein reconstructive surgery**
- **Embolization**
- **...**



What's new in **Symptoms**

- **What is rather true**
 - So called venous symptoms
- **What is rather wrong**
 - Restless legs, Cramps
- **What should be considered**
 - Spine
 - Foot (Uhl, Phlebology 2013)
 - Ankles...



What's new in **Varicose veins**

- *Esthetic problem only ?* **NO!**

1. **Quality of Life**

2. **A risk factor**

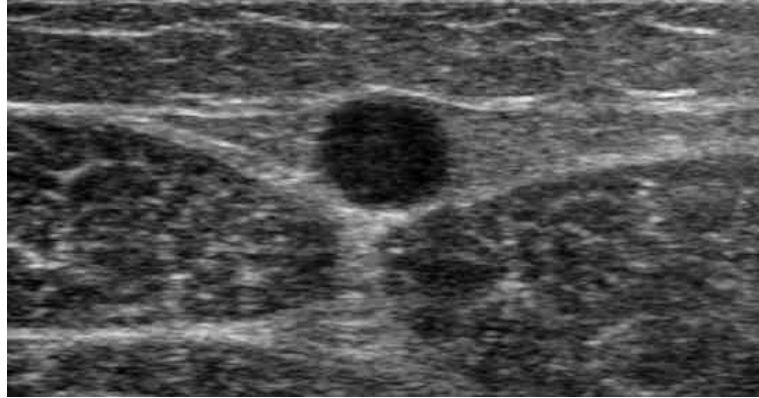
- **Skin changes**
- **Leg ulcer**
- **Deep vein thrombosis**

Muller-Buhl U et al. Vasa. 2012;41(5):360-5.

Duplex (> 10 years!)



G. Braque: Hespéris



G. Braque: Hymen

Duplex ?

- Is “All-Comers” venous Duplex scan policy for patients with lower limb varicose veins justified?
- Even experienced surgeons cannot predict those who will require duplex scanning nor correctly identify DVR

Duplex ?

- **Superficial and perforator vein reflux is the major cause of disease**

Labropoulos N, Patel PJ, Tiongson JE, Pryor L, Leon LR Jr, Tassiopoulos AK.
Vasc Endovascular Surg. 2007;41:33-40.

Endovenous procedures

- **Thermic** (radiofrequency, laser, steam)
- **Chemical** (foam and echosclerotherapy)
 - less pain
 - less time work off
 - less costs
 - patients under anticoagulation
- Material employed in the RCT is frequently **obsolete** when long term results are available!

Health Econ Rev. 2013 Apr 3;3(1):9

Endovenous procedures

- Substitute treatments like the injection of **cyano-acrylate glue** close to the junction just need confirmation

Proebstle, Communications, 2011, 2012
Min, Phlebology 2012
Chan, Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg 2013
Lawson, Phlebology 2013

Saphenous sparing procedures

- **Surgery is also progressing thanks to the new hemodynamic concepts derived from Muller's phlebectomy**
- **As such, ablating the varicose reservoir while conserving the saphenous vein becomes a valid option**



Venous ulcer

- **Drugs** : debatable

Scallion, Cochrane 2013

- **Compression**

- Stiffness index
- Non elastic bandage

- **Refractory ulcers**

(> 3months compression)



Theodoric Borgognone
Cyrurgia (fin XIIIe)

Venous ulcer

- **The new dressings of leg ulcers represent a major advance, at least from a commercial perspective**
- **EBM ?**

Venous ulcer

- The new dressings of leg ulcers represent a major advance, at least from a commercial perspective
- EBM ?

COCHRANE REVIEWS: LOCAL WOUND CARE

[Alginate dressings for venous leg ulcers](#)

[Aloe vera for treating acute and chronic wounds](#)

[Antibiotics and antiseptics for venous leg ulcers](#)

[Autologous platelet-rich plasma for treating chronic wounds](#)

[Dressings for healing venous leg ulcers](#)

[Foam dressings for venous leg ulcers](#)

[Honey as a topical treatment for wounds](#)

[Topical agents or dressings for pain in venous leg ulcers](#)

[Topical silver for preventing wound infection](#)

[Topical silver for treating infected wounds](#)

Venous ulcer – debridement !

- Sharp debridement is effective in stimulating healing of recalcitrant ulcers:
 - safe,
 - well tolerated
 - outpatient setting

Williams D. et al. Wound Rep Reg 2005

Blumberg SN et al. J Am Coll Surg 2012



Martorell ulcer

- Complete mechanical **debridement** of all necrotic tissues immediately followed by **mesh skin grafting**:
 - healing is very quick
 - pain will disappear quasi-instantly

Dagregorio G, Guillet G.
JEADV 2006; 20:166



Venous ulcer – excision ?

- **Shaving** (Schmeller W)
- **Excision** (Nachbur B, among others)
- **Fasciectomy** (En-bloc resection of the ulcer, including the crural fascia)
(Schmeller W, Obermayer A, Schwahn-Schreiber C, Hach W, among others)



Venous ulcer – ttt of reflux ?

- 40 – 50% of venous ulcer = superficial venous insufficiency
- Does operative treatment help chronic venous ulcer healing?
- **No**: Guest M. 2003; ESCHAR study: Barwell JR. 2004, Gohel MS. 2005
- **Yes**: Alden, 2013
- Faster healing and decreased ulcer recurrence

Venous ulcer – ttt of reflux ?

- Surgery and/or foam sclerotherapy:
Obliteration of insufficient veins/perforators
around the ulcer reduce ulcer healing time
AND recurrence !

Cabrera J et al. 2004
Stucker M et al. 2006
Darvall KA et al. 2009
Bush RG. 2010
Kahle B. 2010

O'Hare JL et al. 2009
Pang KH et al. 2010
Buettiker U et al. 2012
Kulkarni SR et al. 2012
Williamsson C et al. 2013



Venous ulcer – obsolete methods?

- Paratibial fasciotomy ?
- Fasciotomy

Christenson JT et al. 2011

- SEPS !

Kusagawa H et al. 2013

Nelzen, O et al. 2013

Van Gent et al. 2013

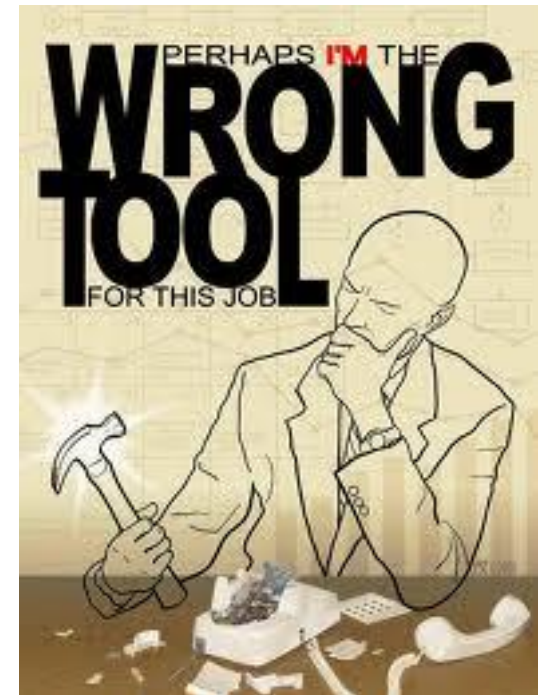
Gan S et al. 2013

Rueda CA, 2013



Take home message 1

- If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail
- Good results of surgery are the results of good surgery
- Idem for sclerotherapy !



Take home message 2

- **Obsolescence of new technologies may be more rapid than that of older ones**



- C'est une étoile filante?
- Non, c'est le voisin du dessus qui jette son mégot..

Own experience

