Cost and outcome implications of the organisation of vascular services
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Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
To evaluate the cost and quality implications of different possible organisational models for sub-specialist vascular services.

Authors' conclusions
The study has demonstrated a number of problems stemming from the current configuration of vascular services, which are leading to excess mortality and morbidity, including limb loss and stroke. There is a need to rationalise services, taking into account the demonstrated clinical benefits of sub-specialisation and patient preferences for local services. The compromise of 'hub and spoke' arrangements, with a variable range of facilities being provided locally through a service linked to a major centre would seem likely to best achieve this compromise for centres without sufficient workload to provide a full range of local services. Such an arrangement would also be relatively straightforward to achieve through a staged reconfiguration of services.

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