

Do we need a UK vascular surgery journal?

Survey of multidisciplinary UK vascular specialists

At present there is no dedicated UK vascular specific journal. A number of vascular societies world-wide have an allied or specific vascular journal for the publication of work presented or conducted by their members. Now that UK vascular surgery is a speciality in its own right there are very few choices for vascular specific research from the UK. This limits the opportunity that UK based vascular health professionals have for publishing academic work and sharing exemplary case studies.

This survey was put together to gain the opinion of the potential partners and audience to ascertain whether there is sufficient demand for a new journal and to the viability of such a venture. The survey design was agreed by the Vascular Society Research Committee.

Highlights

Between May and August 2020, the online survey was distributed via Vascular Societies' membership emails and links shared on social media (twitter). A total of **359** completed responses were submitted from individuals identifying as Surgeons, Nurses, Technologists, Radiologists, Trainees and 'other'. It should be noted that the category of 'other' comprises 25 responses from Physiotherapists.

Overall, the top three vascular and surgery journals for reporting research were identified as EJVES (**29%**), JVS (**26%**), BJS (**20%**) with Annals of Surgery rated as the next best option. CVIR and JVIR rated highly amongst BSIR members.

When participants were asked if they thought a UK vascular specific journal was required, **67%** answered **Yes**. This was reflected across all vascular professions; however, it is noted that those who identified in the **Surgeon** category, a smaller proportion (**55%**) answered **Yes**. When participants were asked if they would consider submitting to a UK vascular journal first, **73%** answered **Yes**. This positive response was also reflected across the breakdown of all vascular professions.

60% of participants answered that the journal should be published online, quarterly. **85%** selected to format the journal by category of disease. **51%** would **not** be willing to pay a subscription fee and **74%** think a subscription fee should be included in societies' membership fees.

The suggested journal title “UK Vascular Societies' Journal (UKVSJ)” was not well received. A number of alternative titles were submitted with **22** participants independently suggesting **British Journal of Vascular Surgery (BJVS)**.

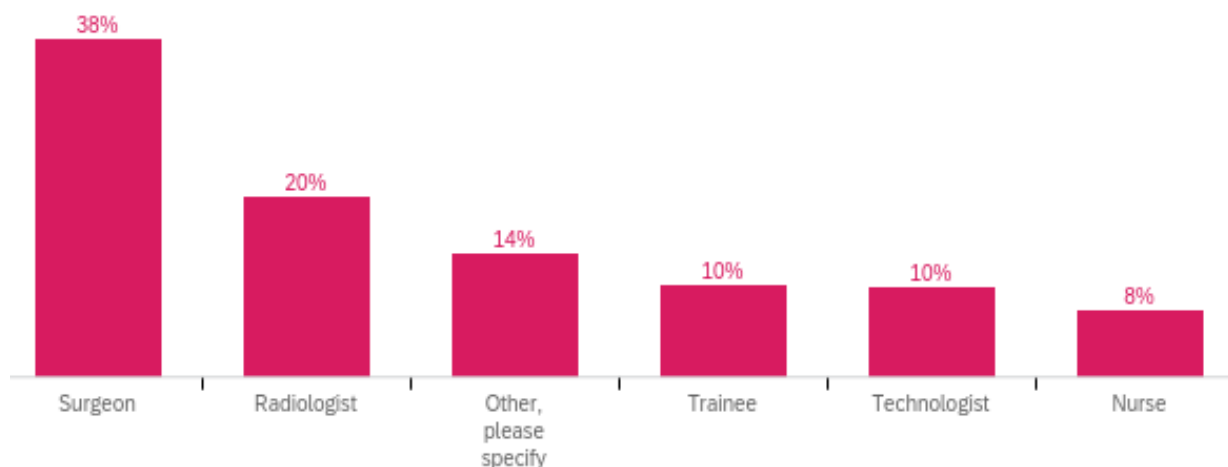
54% of participants answered that they would be willing to participate in an editorial committee and identified from across the range of vascular professions; **x5** Nurses, **x79** Surgeons, **x12** Technologists, **x24** Radiologists, **x19** Trainees, **x12** Other

A mixture of free text comments were submitted and range from positive comments such as “**excellent idea**” and “**long overdue**” to negative comments such as “**terrible idea**” and “**unnecessary**”. A number of individuals commented that there are already “**too many journals**” and that the introduction of another could result in “**poor quality**” and would be “**low impact**”. It was also suggested that instead of creating another journal, the focus could instead be to improve links with existing journals such as EJVES.

There are comments relating to advice or suggestions about the format of the journal with references to **inclusivity** of all UK vascular professions and reflecting this in the journal title and layout (e.g. relevant sections for other clinical professionals such as Physio/OT/Nursing/Podiatry, inclusion of Ireland). Others also suggested including update sections for **education and training**.

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What is your vascular health or care profession?



#	Answer	Count
1	Trainee	37
2	Nurse	27
3	Surgeon	136
4	Technologist	36
5	Radiologist	73
6	Other, please specify	50
	Total	359
	OTHER	
	Physiotherapist	25
	Vascular scientist	8
	Allied health professional	2
	Associate Research Consultant/Media, Clinical Exercise Physiologist, Clinical researcher, Devices engineering, Independent researcher/new technology and policy, Interventional Radiologist, None, ODP, PhD fellow / Exercise Physiologist, Podiatrist, Prosthetist, Researcher, Retired, Therapist	14

Gender

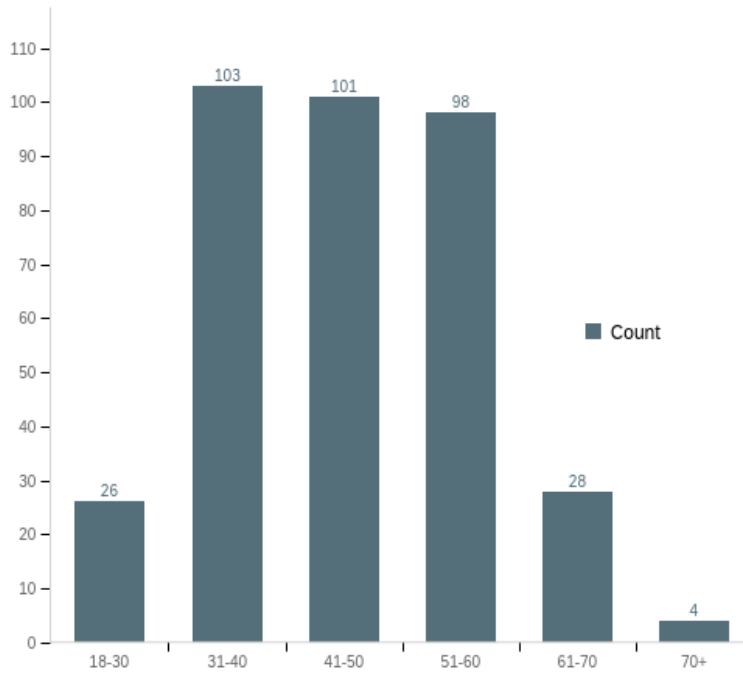


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Response by gender and profession

#	Question	Trainee		Nurse		Surgeon		Technologist		Radiologist		Other		Total
1	Male	12%	28	1%	2	49%	117	6%	14	26%	62	6%	14	237
2	Female	7%	9	20%	25	16%	19	18%	22	9%	11	30%	36	122

Age range in years

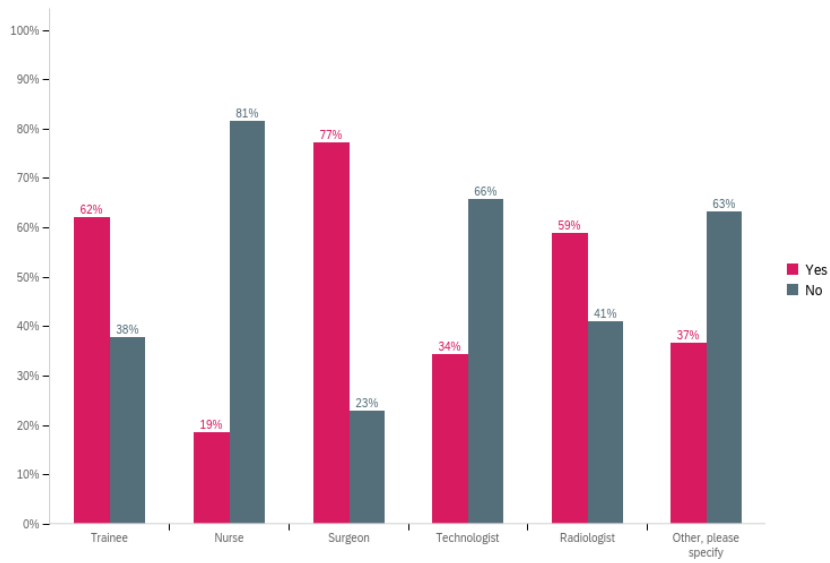


#	Answer	%
1	18-30	7%
2	31-40	29%
3	41-50	28%
4	51-60	27%
5	61-70	8%
6	70+	1%
	Total	100%

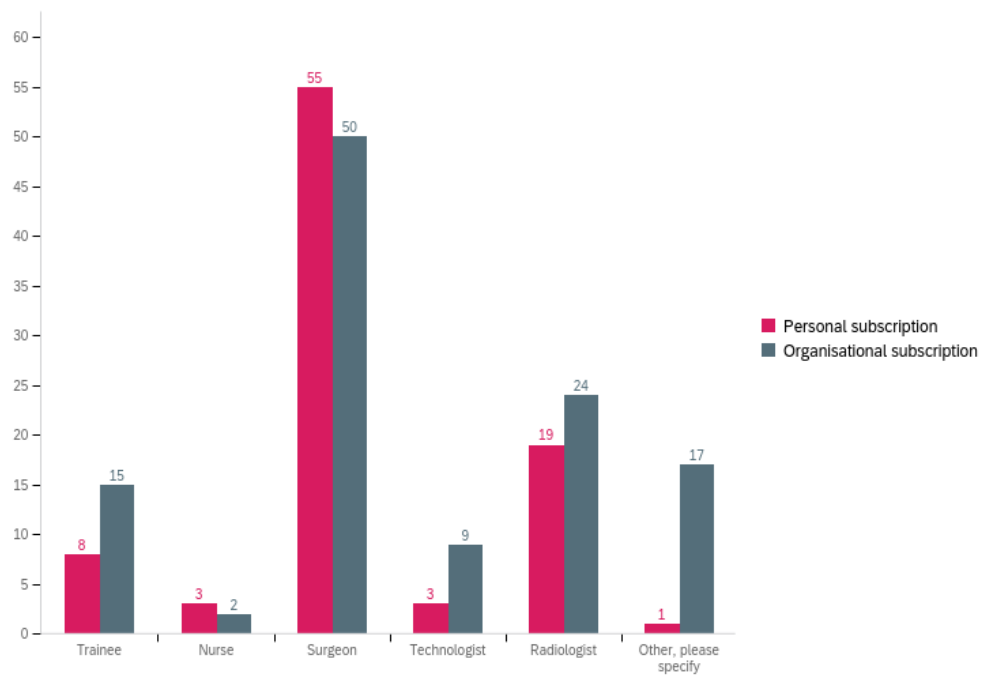
Do you or your employer organization currently subscribe to a vascular journal?



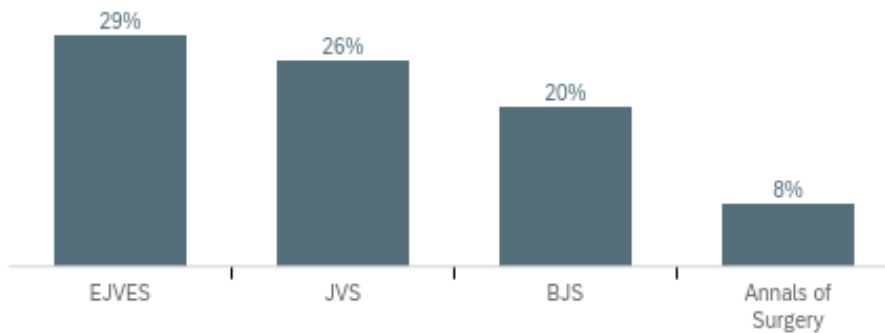
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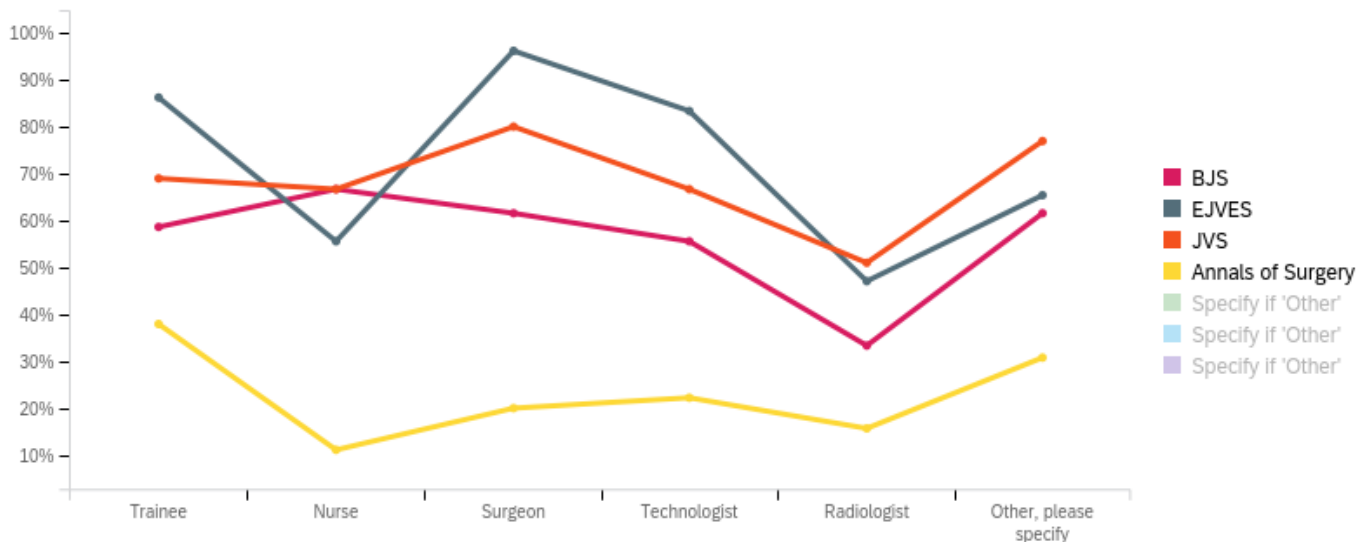
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What are your top three vascular and surgery journals for publication of your research?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	BJS	20%	146
2	EJVES	29%	211
3	JVS	26%	188
4	Annals of Surgery	8%	58
5	Other	17%	123
	Total	100%	726
	OTHER	17%	
	CVIR		29
	JVIR		19
	Circulation		13
	Phlebology		9
	JAMA		5
	JEVT		5
	Annals of vascular surgery		4
	Clinical radiology		3
	Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology		2
	JACC		2
	Physiotherapy		2
	Stroke		2
	'Other' single journal identified by individual		24



If you are unsuccessful at your chosen three journals, where would you submit your research?

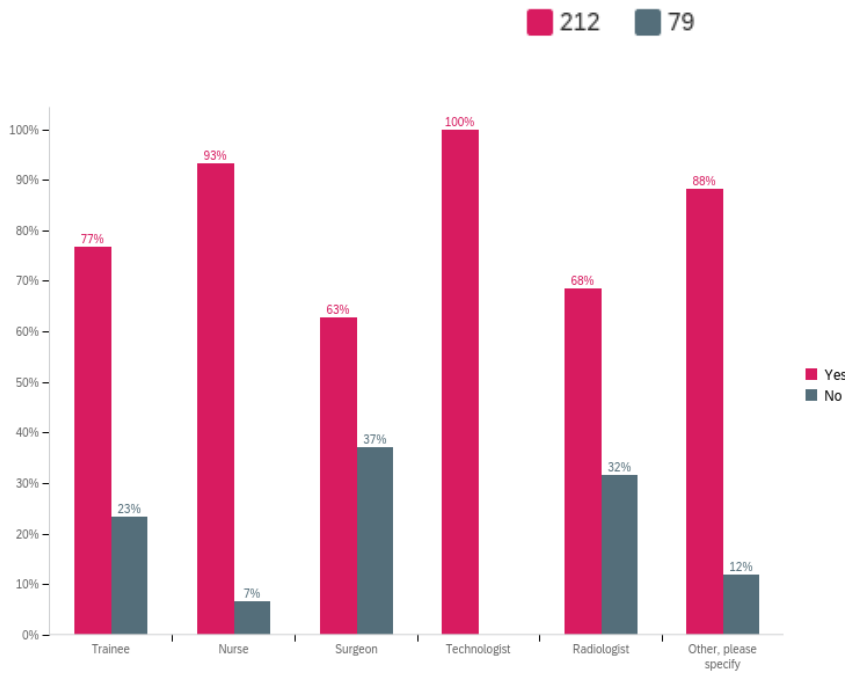
Annals of Vascular Surgery	30	Any one that would listen	Nowhere
Clinical Radiology	7	A specialist journal	Not sure
EJVES	7	Angiology	Open access journal
JEVT	7	Annual meeting	Other
Phlebology	7	ANZJS	Other international journals
CVIR	6	BJR	AJNR
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery	5	BMUS	Ultrasound
Int Angiology	4	Consider IR based publications	Clin Rad
JVIR	4	DIR	Rehabilitation journal
JVS	4	IJMS	Southern Hemisphere journals
BJS	3	IJVM	Sports Science specific journal
PLOS One	2	IR journal	Surgeon (RCSed)
Anywhere	2	It wouldn't merit publication	The Surgeon
BMJ	2	J CV Surgery, American J Surgery	Try lower tier journal
Circulation	2	J Hospi Medicine	Unsure
Depends on the paper	2	JAVA	Vascular News
Depends on topic	2	JVur	Wouldn't
RCS	2	Lancet	
Ultrasound medicine & biology	2	Limited	
varies	2	Lower impact	
Vasa	2	Lower impact factor international	
Vascular Medicine	2	Nejm	

Depends on the research - small local paper could go to lower impact national/regional paper like The Surgeon. A paper with international themes would go to a suitable journal. Can always consider radiology/vascular imaging and stroke journals too

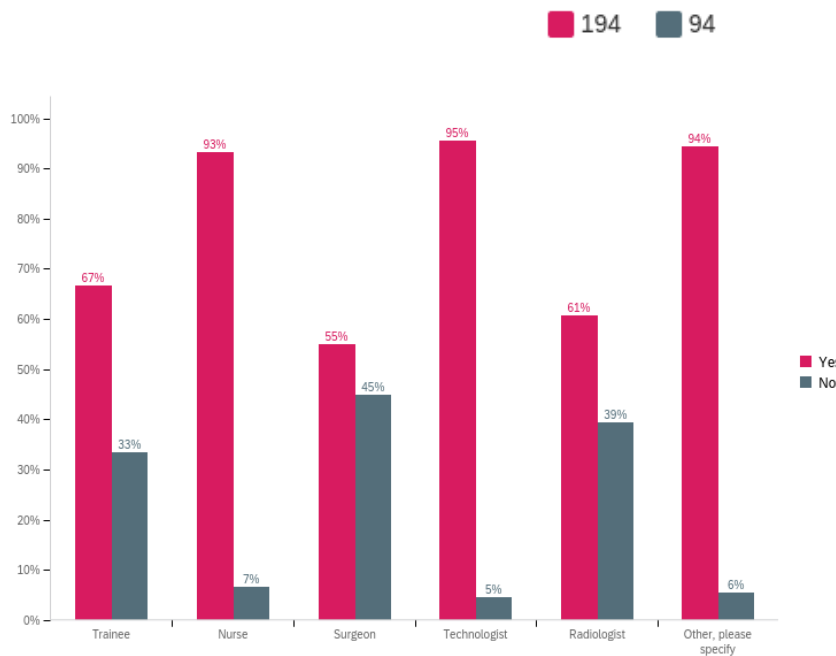
I would be left severely dejected but might try an even lower impact pub such as vascular and Endovascular surgery

Lower impact vascular journals in my locality GB Ireland Europe in that order

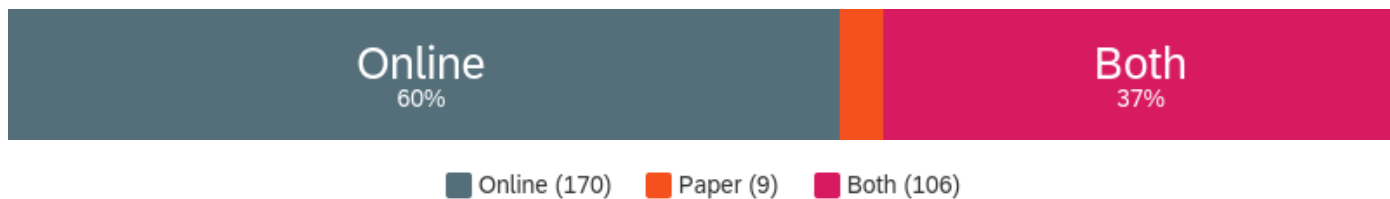
Would you consider submitting to a dedicated UK vascular journal first?



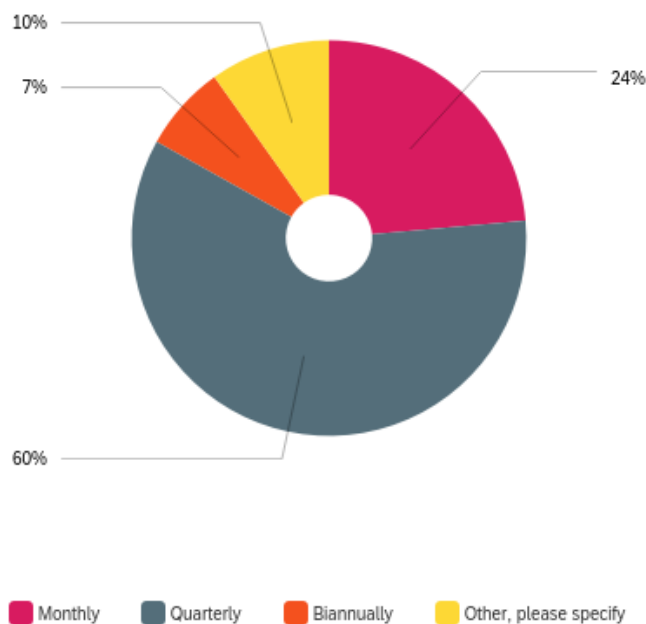
Do you think that a UK vascular specific journal is required?



If there was a UK vascular specific journal, how would you prefer to access the Journal?



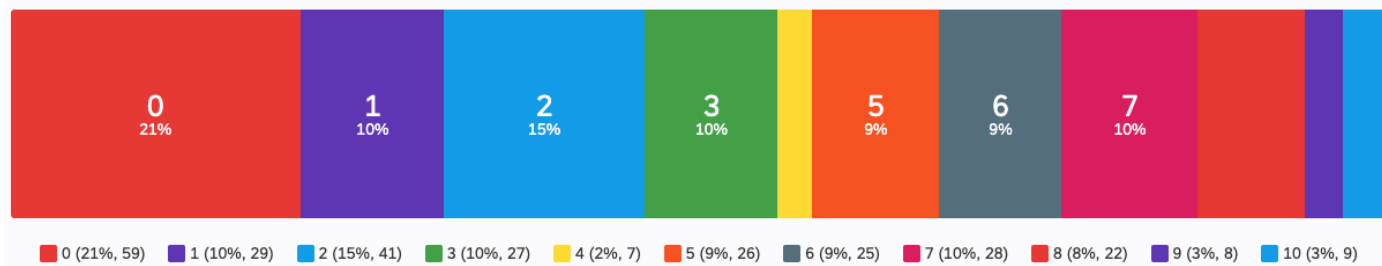
How frequently do you think the journal should publish?



Other, please specify

If it's not monthly, it's not current	1	Never	5
Already stated not required	1	None	2
An online open access journal	1	Not	1
Annually	2	Not at all	2
Bi monthly	1	Not necessary	1
Bimonthly (depends on content though)	1	Not needed	1
Depends how successful and IF	1	Online only so no regular volumes	1
Depends on volume of submissions	1	Quarterly	1
Don't need one	1	Quarterly initially, then increase if the papers will support that	1
I don't think it is needed	1	Quarterly to start with and adjust frequency to demand	1
This would depend on demand, papers published etc but I this quarterly to start			1

On a scale of 1-10 how would you rate the following suggested journal title?
UK Vascular Societies' Journal (UKVSJ)



If you have a suggested name for a UK vascular specific journal, please write it below.

Answer	Count
British Journal of Vascular Surgery (BJVS)	22
British Journal of Vascular & Endovascular Surgery	8
British Vascular Journal	7
Vascular UK	6
British Journal of Vascular Research (BJVR)	3
UK Journal of Vascular Surgery (UKJVS)	3
BJVES	2
British Journal of Vascular Disease	2
British Journal of Vascular Therapy	2
Journal of UK Vascular Societies	2
UK journal of vascular surgery	2
UK vascular	2
Vascular Journal UK	2
Angiology UK	1
Annals of the Vascular Society of Great Britain & Ireland	1
Anything but the heart	1
B Vessel UK	1
BJEVVS	1
BJIR	1
BJVS - British Journal of Vascular Society	1
Brexit vascular	1
Bristish Journal Vascular and Endovascular Surgery	1
British & Irish JVS	1
British and Irish Vascular Journal (BIVJ)	1
British endovascular research	1
British Journal of Vascular & Endovascular Therapies	1
British Journal of Vascular & Endovascular Therapy (BJVET)	1
British Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Disease	1
British Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Intervention	1
British journal of vascular and interventional radiology	1

British Journal of Vascular Intervention	1
British Journal of Vascular Interventional Radiology (BJVIR)	1
British Journal of Vascular Medicine and Surgery	1
BVSJ	1
Do not have one	1
Endovascular UK	1
Flow	1
I think it's very important to include Ireland in this....	1
If Vascular it should be noted that his include interventional radiology in its title	1
Imaging Guided Surgery	1
Journal of British vascular and endovascular surgery	1
Journal of British vascular societies (JBVS)	1
JOURNAL OF THE UK VASCULAR SOCIETY	1
Journal of the Vascular societies of Great Britain and Ireland	1
Journal of Vascular Surgery Great Britain	1
Journal of VSGBI	1
Journal Vascular Surgery UK	1
JOVASUK	1
No	1
redundant	1
British Journal of Vascular & Endovascular Surgery	1
THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF VASCULAR SURGERY	1
The British Vascular societies journal	1
The Journal of Vascular Disease	1
The Vascular Surgeon	1
UK Journal for Vascular Sciences	1
UK Journal of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery (UKJVES)	1
UK Journal of Vascular Disease	1
UK Vascular practice	1
UKVASC	1
UKVJ	1
United Kingdom Journal of Vascular Surgery	1
Vasc Surg UK	1
Vascular and Endovascular Surgery UK (VESUK)	1
Vascular Disease	1
Vascular Express	1
Vascular Intervention (with out any nationality)	1
Vascular UK Today	1
VE UK	1

How should the journal feature sub-sections on vascular disease?

Arrange by category of disease (85%)

■ Arrange by category of disease (231) ■ Arrange by vascular society (28) ■ Other, please specify (12)

Other, please specify

All intervention - not just vascular

Topic of interest

It should have Interventional in its title

No

Rehabilitation

category of disease and section on service delivery

Don't have one

Not necessary

Do not segregate, becomes too limiting

Should be a collaborative journal with all societies

basic research and clinical research categorized by disease

Would you be willing to pay a subscription fee?

Yes
49%

No
51%

■ 140 ■ 144

Should a subscription fee be included in vascular societies' membership fees?

Yes
74%

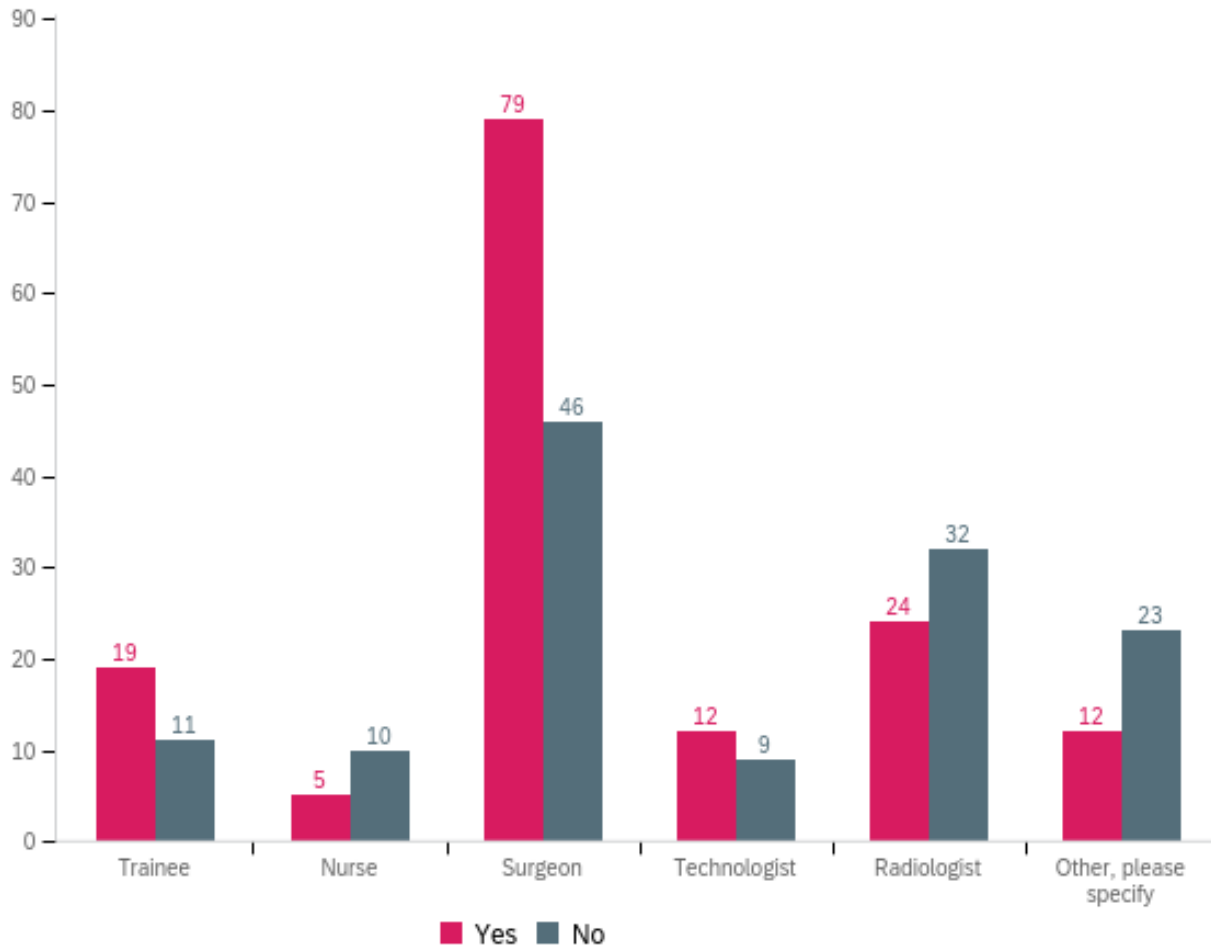
No
26%

■ 209 ■ 74

Would you consider participating in the editorial committee?



151 131



COMMENTS

Positive

This is an excellent idea that could be used to promote collaboration between the professionals who provide vascular services

This is an excellent idea and long overdue. It will be a good place to publish conference abstracts. I would be keen that the role of Editor-in-Chief is not always a surgeon and could be a vascular scientist, nurse or physio.

many endovascular techniques and studies Needs to be published on VS journal rather than IR journals

a joint journal is a great idea to foster intersociety and interspecialty relations in the UK

Previously a lot of papers from UK have been submitted to EJVES but now with Brexit, makes sense to consider a UK journal of vascular surgery.

Never a better time to launch: on the swell of national pride following C-19. Long overdue and I would be proud to support it.

Let's do it

I like the idea of all the Vascular Societies being involved in one journal, where all members can readily see what is happening in each others' fields and hopefully encourage more cohesive working across the whole MDT

Great idea - issues focussing on rehab would be great

Good idea. Would need to be relevant to UK practice. Probably a mix of research and relevant opinion/news pieces.

Good idea

Excellent idea - would definitely support

Cool beans

A UK based vascular surgery/radiology journal would be great

I like the idea of a UK vascular surgery journal, accepting international submissions but retaining a view on 'UK vascular surgery'. From obvious reasons, this perspective is somewhat lost in the EJVES/JVS so a new UK-based journal would help fill this gap.

The difficulty with any new journal will be getting sufficient coverage and building a reputation. For example, 'The Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons' has great potential as a UK surgery journal, but never seems to publicise itself that well and therefore is under valued amongst trainees/researchers. Potentially having a link with the EJVES/JVS (similar to the way that both journals publish selected abstracts from each other's journal) could help in this regard.

I would be delighted to help with the editorial committee if asked.

Negative

This really doesn't seem necessary

This is not really necessary.

Think it is unnecessary. Good research gets into the three top journals. no need for a second-class journal with a low impact factor.

The quality of published research is in general poor. We need less, better quality research. Not more low-quality stuff.

Not a winner

Just not needed. I am not a vascular surgeon and a small part of my work is treating vascular diseases. This will invariably be run by and be heavily biased to vascular surgeons. This will just be another way to try and marginalise the IR community to try and further diminish our perceived worth and future working.

Frankly do not feel this is justified

Don't need another open access or non pubmed citable journal. Too many dodgy journals online.

Do not have one

Existing journals

Better to strengthen Impact of EJVES and have sister case reports open access journal

Another journal will dilute the overall vascular output; there are also concerns that this will become a UK-based academic club. There should likely be a default arrangement with the EJVES.

There is an abundance of vascular journals with a variety of impact factors. EJVES should be the go to journal for UK practices with a range of smaller journals free to publish in already available. Please do not start another journal in an already crowded market.

There is an abundance of publications. Another journal is unlikely to make a real impact

There are too many publications already. Another just encourages poor quality.

There are too many journals and a surfeit of poor utility publications

There are enough Journals with poor quality papers, we do not need yet another one.

There are already too many journals

There are already many good journals in vascular medicine and this is not a good idea.

There are already a number of good journals to submit manuscripts. All of which require subscription or payment of membership fees. I'm not keen to pay for another subscription (particularly through membership fees) when good journals already exist.

The journal market is packed and let's face it there have no new paradigm shifts now for 30 years! The research produced is corporate driven or disorganised well-meaning science

The European Journal is so good that I can't really see any need for a UK specific publication. I would think that paying for/sponsoring a subsection of Vascular news highlighting UK specific research would be both cheaper and more effective.

The Brits have worked hard to making EJVES a success, we submit the largest country share of papers. I voted Remain. Let us remain strong as European Vascular Surgeons

Terrible idea, but I am biased as former Ed in Chief of BJS. Better suggestion to accept offered links with BJS and BJSopen

Sounds like Brexit for vascular people, grow up we have too many vascular journals already

No need for another journal. EJVES serves very well

I think the existing journals are sufficient

I served on the editorial board of the JDS for more than 10 years and additionally edited the vascular specialist for the JBS for six years. I believe that we have too many Vascular surgical journals not too few. The quality of the work has suffered as more journal pages need to be filled.

Design / format

vascular IR is a small proportion of IR work and the other work is overlooked, if there is a need for a UK publication it should cover all of IR

the major problem will be the initial low impact factor, which will adversely affect the quality of submissions

a new journal needs to have quality content. The world is awash with journals containing rubbish

Therapies need to be given a section-especially with amputees. Physio also help with AAA repair and bypass graft recovery

Subscription should be complimentary if VS member.

Should be a mix of research and critical updates and interesting scholarly reviews

Please make sure there is a training section

Please include sections relevant for other clinical professionals such as Physio/OT/Nursing/Podiatry etc.

Not including Ireland in the journal's name may be neglecting a significant proportion of the membership of the vascular societies

Need a Vascular Diseases Journal and not a Vascular Surgery Journal which would dissuade other vascular specialists from submitting their work.

My only concern Re including a subscription fee added to membership fees would be that if it was expensive it might deter some nurses from joining the SVN -

It is very important that this journal is as inclusive as possible. Therefore, the management, editorial board, topics/subjects, authors and readers of the journal should represent the wide range of vascular disease professionals in the UK. It should not be Vascular Surgeons, although I appreciate the much higher research/audit activity they represent.

But I applaud the inclusion of all of the UK vascular societies.

It has to rival vascular news for readership and dissemination.

Including subscription fee in membership fees may not work for all the societies. It should be an option to opt into.

If possible, we should try and make the journal multi professional - encouraging non-medics to research/write and non-medical topics

I would strongly recommend an open access online journal as this is the direction of travel in medical publishing

I think it's very important to include Irish vascular surgeons, trainees, nurses and physiologists in this endeavour. It sounds like something worth pursuing. There is a market for a vascular-specific medium level journal for well-researched and written local/smaller studies that are lost in multi-speciality journals but without the impact/power/numbers to get into bigger journals

I hope there is a dedicated space for appraisals of vascular training, student engagement, surgical education, etc

A journal will be an enormous amount of work - unless there is 3-5 years of firm commitment by a core group, this could easily fizzle out.

..... and Irish.....

Joint journal

Would be worth considering this as a joint venture between Vascular surgeons and Interventional radiologists - as I suggested in the proposed name. This will be good for both societies and both specialities.

Would be best to be inclusive of surgeons and interventional radiologists.

There is no option to include any other society membership inclusive apart from vascular society's Perspective. It is therefore a flawed survey and omits other vascular specialities to have a try input

The survey is about vascular disease journal and vascular related topic, so why call it vascular surgery?

Endovascular is not all surgery. I feel it more appropriate to title vascular and endovascular UK and leave out surgery if you anticipate to include everyone in the U.K involved in this pathology

Support an image guided surgery journal, not a pure vascular journal

Other

Would be happy to chat my thoughts with whoever is leading this idea and help in light of experiences gained as an Editor. Could list a number of points. Happy to discuss

Would such a journal be purely academic, or would it publish articles of interest to the U.K. vascular surgical community (education, opinion piece etc)?

There isn't enough journal's out there from which I would love to read.

Suggested in Council in the late 1990's put down by put down greenhalgh bell Baird

It feels that the survey was not designed to examine the UK vascular community attitude about creating a vascular journal that they have to ultimate pay for its expenses.

There are many journals with plenty of poor papers and there is a shortage of good quality peer review even among the high-quality journals. Improving BJS and EJVES should be the priority instead of spending resources on an insular national journal.

I understand the attractions of a dedicated vascular journal but this had potential to remove vascular cases from most IRs. There are already many journals (almost too many) as most institutions do not allow access to most already.

I feel strongly that our societies should be supporting open source publication of scientific research and that articles published by an affiliated journal should not be pay walled. If the financial implications of this mean that a new journal is not feasible we should consider voicing our support for one (or some) of the excellent open source journals already in circulation and encourage our members to consider submitting their research to them

Having not attempted to publish in a Vascular Journal before, I am unaware of how difficult it is to get published in these specific journals. Is lots of vascular research being rejected by EJVS, JVS, etcetera? If that is the case then the need for UKVSJ is self-evident, but if research is not being rejected unreasonably - then where is the need for a new journal? It simply increases the administrative burden and cost upon academia for no perceivable benefit. Obviously if UKVSJ existed and I had applicable research I would consider submitting to the UK journal, however principal concern would be availability of that research - namely unless UKVSJ was open-access I would instead make a first attempt submitting to 'higher impact' (i.e. preestablished) journals.

Discussed back in the early 1990s big mistake for the VS but opposed by those leading the EJVS