

Medicine beyond frontiers

PD10

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Vascular Surgery

Priebjrivat K.
Vascular and Hand Surgery, Ltd.,
Belleville, Illinois

Vascular diseases are diseases of the aging process. As life expectancy improves in most of the countries of the world, including Thailand, vascular diseases are becoming more prevalent. In the United States, arterial diseases are a leading cause of death, and Thailand will probably follow this trend as the lifestyle of Thai people becomes more Westernized. Vascular diseases cause disability in many. Of the approximately 500,000 Americans who suffer from stroke each year, many are left with a permanent neurologic deficit. Vascular diseases also cause angina pectoris, leg claudication, and ischemic foot lesions.

The incidence of serious venous problems is also increasing. Pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis and its complications cause many deaths and much debilitation.

The social and economic impact of vascular diseases can be devastating to patients, families, and society. Improvement of vascular treatment should alleviate some of these effects.