

SVS Survey Key Takeaways



SURVEY OVERVIEW

The Society for Vascular Surgery Survey engaged Wakefield Research to conduct a nationally-representative survey to gain insights into consumer perceptions and awareness of vascular disease and the vascular surgeon specialty.

The survey was deployed among 1,000 nationally representative US adults ages 18+, between September 20th and September 24th, 2024, using an email invitation and an online survey. Data has been weighted.

Results of any sample are subject to sampling variation. The magnitude of the variation is measurable and is affected by the number of interviews and the level of the percentages expressing the results. For the interviews conducted in this particular study, the chances are 95 in 100 that a survey result does not vary, plus or minus, by more than 3.1 percentage points from the result that would be obtained if interviews had been conducted with all persons in the universe represented by the sample.



KEY SURVEY INSIGHTS

A Dual Epidemic: Americans Lack Awareness of Vascular Diseases and Who Best to Treat Them, Leaving Most At-Risk in Danger

Common vascular health conditions include peripheral artery disease (PAD), carotid artery disease, venous diseases (such as varicose veins or spider veins), blood clots and aortic aneurysms - **yet most Americans are unaware of these conditions and who to go to for treatment.**

- **More than one-fourth of Americans (29%) have not heard of any of the most common vascular health conditions.**
- Over half of Americans (54%) would not seek out a vascular surgeon for symptoms related to their blood vessels, such as leg swelling, pain or difficulty walking—despite vascular surgeons being the experts in this area.

The vascular is the largest organ in the human body - **yet nearly two-thirds of Americans (63%) have not talked with a healthcare provider about their risk of vascular disease.**

- This number **increases to 71% among those aged 50 or older, who are at higher risk for vascular conditions.**

Delays & Hesitancy of Critical Care

Vascular diseases can increase the risk of amputation, heart attack, stroke but **over half of vascular-related amputations are preventable**. Despite this, almost **one in three Americans (29%) would wait at least a few weeks to seek care** if they noticed persistent leg pain and difficulty walking, the most common symptom of vascular disease.

- More than half (55%) would wait at least a few days before scheduling an appointment with a provider.

A vast majority of Americans (85%) lack a firm understanding of what vascular surgeons do. This can affect their decisions on which medical professional to see, preventing them from seeking appropriate care from this speciality to treat their condition early on and monitor disease progression.

- 50% would be hesitant to see a vascular surgeon for ongoing monitoring of a vascular condition, and for 31% this is due to lack of knowledge or awareness of what they do.

A Population Left At Risk

Tobacco use is the number one risk factor for vascular diseases - there is a greater need for patient-physician discussion of vascular health among tobacco users.

- More than one-third (36%) of current tobacco users and more than half (56%) of former tobacco users have **never had their provider talk to them about their vascular disease risk**.

73% of current tobacco users and 56% of former tobacco users do not have a firm understanding of what vascular surgeons can do, although the specialty can play a key role in maintaining their overall health and at-risk conditions.