

CORRESPONDENCE

Re: 'Editor's Choice—Management of Chronic Venous Disease: Clinical Practice Guidelines of the European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS)'

We would like to share some concerns regarding the information on CHIVA included in the recently published guidelines on the management of chronic venous disease.¹

First, the objective of CHIVA is erroneously described as “to obtain a well drained superficial venous system with low pressure and high flow”, when it should say: “to suppress the overloading flow/pressure, respecting the outflow that drains the tissues”.

Furthermore, unfortunately the authors of the guidelines did not include the Cochrane Review about CHIVA published in 2013,² which included more randomized controlled trials (RCTs), using a more sensitive search, with a complete evaluation of the evidence. As a result, we do not agree with the following statements about CHIVA included in the guidelines: the bias concerning the randomization in one of the RCTs included; the type of anesthesia as a confounder for the evaluation of the post-operative side effects; and the lack of a definition of recurrence in the studies included. None of these arguments is consistent.

Finally, data from three RCTs should give a level of evidence of 'A'; however, the guidelines gave CHIVA a level of evidence of 'B'. Did the authors of the guidelines really think that the ASVAL technique, based on cohort and no controlled studies, has the same level and a better class of evidence than CHIVA?

The inaccurate, missing, and contradictory data require an explanation and, if deemed appropriate, a correction.

REFERENCES

- 1 Wittens C, Davies AH, Bækgaard N, Broholm R, Cavezzi A, Chastanet S, et al. Editor's choice — Management of chronic venous disease: clinical practice guidelines of the European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS). *Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg* 2015;**49**:678–737.
- 2 Bellmunt-Montoya S, Escribano JM, Dilme J, Martinez-Zapata MJ. CHIVA method for the treatment of chronic venous insufficiency. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2013 Jul 3;7:CD009648. Update in: *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2015;6:CD009648.

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The authors of the guideline acknowledge the comments of Bellmunt-Montoya S et al.,¹ especially with respect to not referencing their Cochrane review article. However, on review of the studies that make up the Cochrane review and various criticisms of the articles involved, it is still the view that the CHIVA technique still warrants a Grade B recommendation.

When the guidelines² are next revised hopefully within a year, any new data with respect to techniques will be included with the possibility of altering the level of recommendation

REFERENCES

- 1 Bellmunt-Montoya S, Escribano JM, Dilme J, Martinez-Zapata MJ. CHIVA method for the treatment of chronic venous insufficiency. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2013;7:CD009648.
- 2 Wittens C, Davies AH, Bækgaard N, Broholm R, Cavezzi A, Chastanet S, et al. Management of chronic venous disease: clinical practice guidelines of the European Society for Vascular Surgery (ESVS). *J Vasc Endovasc Surg* 2015;**49**:678–737.

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