

Establishment of Interventional Radiology Specialist Out-Patient Department (IR-SOPD) for Vascular Malformations Multidisciplinary Clinic

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• Objectives

Vascular malformations present a clinical challenge requiring coordinated care from multiple specialties. We have established a monthly outpatient clinic for these patients based within our interventional radiology department as the centre of co-ordinated patient care. We believe there are many benefits to this model of care and are as listed:

1. One-Stop Diagnosis

- On-site bedside ultrasound allows immediate confirmation of diagnosis in many cases.
- Eliminates the need for separate appointments, reduces patient wait times, and enhances patient convenience and experience.

2. Enhanced Treatment Planning

- Clinic ultrasound is used for treatment planning with referencing to other prior imaging modalities and discussed in real-time with the patient.
- Immediate feedback, streamlined decision-making, whilst improving patient understanding and informed consent.

3. Collaborative Management of Complex Cases

- Difficult cases, such as complex arteriovenous malformations (AVMs), can be discussed immediately with the multidisciplinary team who joins our clinic in person.
- Formulates a comprehensive and cohesive management plan, ensuring all aspects of care are considered.

4. Improved Communication

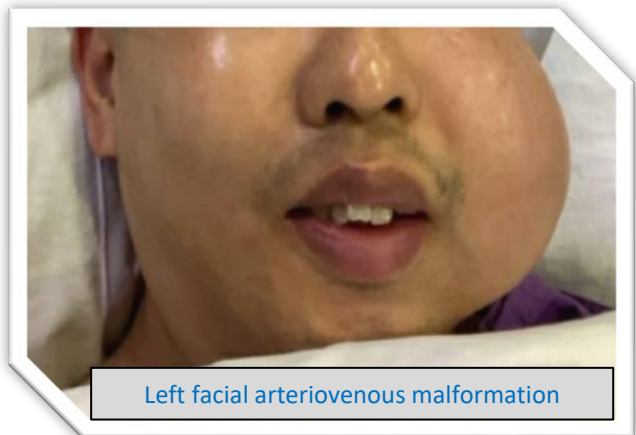
- Direct interaction between team members and the patient within the same setting.
- Reduces miscommunication, ensures consistency in patient information provided and builds patient trust and expectations.

5. Integrated Follow-Up Care

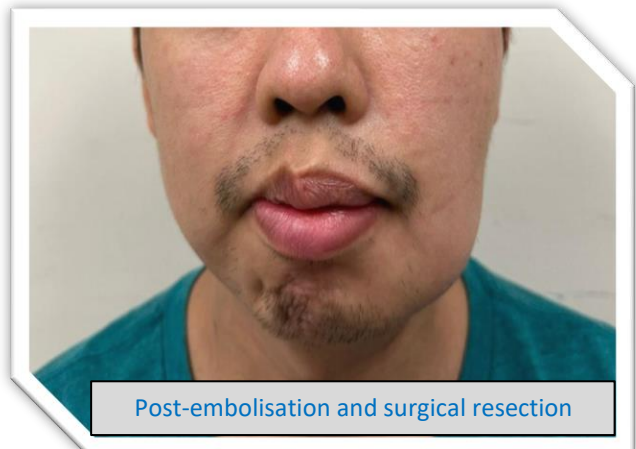
- Ability to schedule follow-up visits and assessments efficiently within the clinic.
- Provides continuity of care, timely interventions, follow up imaging and monitoring progress effectively. Clinical images are saved to CMS patient album for comparison and serial changes.



QMH IR-SOPD Clinic Room



Left facial arteriovenous malformation



Post-embolisation and surgical resection

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6. Education and Training

- The clinic serves as an educational platform for medical students, residents and fellows.
- Enhances training for future healthcare providers through exposure to multidisciplinary care approaches.

7. Patient-Centered Care

- The team works collaboratively to address patient concerns and preferences.
- Holistic approach to patient care, tailored treatment plans, and improved patient satisfaction.

• Materials and methods:

Referral to IR-SOPD is welcomed from all clinical specialties and vetted by our IR team with specialist interest in vascular malformations.

Our IR-SOPD is scheduled monthly with our referring clinicians invited for joint multidisciplinary assessment of the patient.

Clinical teams including plastic surgery, paediatric surgery, ENT surgery, oral-maxillary facial surgery and haematology have participated in relevant cases so far.

The clinic logistics are supported by our IR nurses and secretaries.

• Results:

Since the establishment of the monthly IR-SOPD clinic in October 2023 to August 2024, we have had 31 consultations and built rapport with 28 patients, some who have been seen more than once already in this 11-month period.

On average the time from clinical team referral to being seen at the IR-SOPD was less than 40 days.

Of these seen patients, there were 18 planned IR procedures decided in the clinic and were subsequently performed. 6 patients were suggested for further imaging assessment and expedited in the clinic.

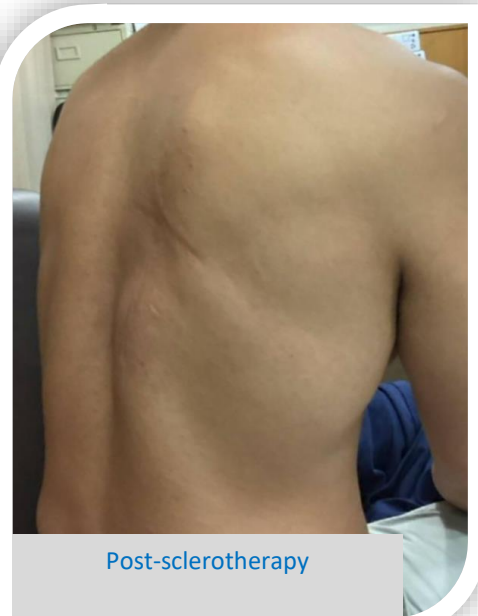
• Conclusion:

The establishment of a multidisciplinary clinic for vascular malformations has shown significant benefits in many patient care factors.

Incorporating multiple specialties within a single clinic setting enhances diagnostic accuracy, patient flow efficiency, treatment planning, and overall patient experience.



Right upper back venous malformation



Post-sclerotherapy