

## VASCULAR INJURY PATHWAY (VIP) ; AN INNOVATION IN GLOBAL SURGERY

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**AIM/BACKGROUND :** Vascular Injury Pathway (VIP) which is established as part of global surgery implementation by Hospital Tuanku Ampuan Najihah (HTAN) to facilitate a prompt management and quick transfer of vascular injury patients from Hospital Jempol (HJEM). VIP is created to reduce mortality and morbidity following increased number of vascular injury cases in Jempol.

**METHODOLOGY:** VIP is created through:

- A team effort involving general surgery, orthopaedics, emergency medicine, radiology and pathology departments
- Monitoring from top management
- Incorporation of supporting staffs from medical emergency coordinating centre (MECC)
- Expert opinion from hospital, state and national level to create a pathway adherent to guidelines and local limitations
- Multidisciplinary meetings and discussions to strengthen the pathway
- Workshops for HJEM doctors on identification, assessment and resuscitation
- Development of effective communication between HTAN and HJEM through VASCULAR ALERT
- Drill sessions to identify pitfalls in implementation of VIP

Vascular Alert is the main component of VIP. Once the vascular injury is suspected in HJEM, vascular alert will be activated which in turn will:

- Alert HJEM doctors regarding vascular injury case in the Emergency Department (ED)
- Alert the radiographers to arrive to ED within 10 minutes
- Alert HJEM blood bank to standby blood products for resuscitation
- Alert MECC to standby transportation
- Alert HTAN team to receive the patient

**RESULTS:** Total of five patients have been managed since implemented of VIP in November 2022. All five patients reached HTAN within two hours with adequate resuscitation. Two of them were transferred to vascular centre for further management while the rests were treated in HTAN. Of these five patients, one of them underwent limb amputation and the remaining were successfully re-vascularised. No mortality recorded since VIP implementation in HTAN.

**CONCLUSION:** Access to timely and quality surgical care is the main goal of global surgery. We hope VIP will continuously help HTAN team to achieve this goal.