

Tools, Education & Resources for a Healthier You!

VASCULAR VITALITY

**LIMB SALVAGE -
A LIFESAVING
APPROACH IN
VASCULAR
SURGERY**

Dear Readers,

We believe that education is the key to better health, not only in treatment but in prevention and awareness. We have developed this publication as a tool for education with articles devoted to your vascular health, information about diseases that affect the vascular system and the latest in treatments. It is our hope that you will read this publication, save it for future reference, and share it with family and friends. Communication with your primary care provider is vital to maintaining the health of your vascular system. Risk factors such as tobacco use, high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol and a family history of vascular disease can significantly increase your risk. Talk to your doctor about screenings for abdominal aortic aneurysm, carotid artery disease and peripheral vascular disease — these simple, non-invasive screenings can be lifesaving.

In good health,

Joseph V. Lombardi, MD, FACS

Professor & Head, Division of Vascular and
Endovascular Surgery

Director, Acute Aortic Treatment Center

Director, Vascular Surgery Integrated Residency

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Limb Salvage –

A Lifesaving Approach in Vascular Surgery

Limb salvage is a critical and lifesaving approach in vascular surgery, aimed at preventing amputation and preserving the function and appearance of a limb threatened by severe conditions such as peripheral artery disease (PAD), diabetic foot ulcers, or traumatic injuries. This procedure is essential for maintaining mobility and quality of life for patients facing severe vascular challenges.

Limb salvage involves a combination of medical, surgical, and rehabilitative strategies designed to restore adequate blood flow to the affected limb, promote healing, and prevent further complications. This comprehensive approach is tailored to each patient's unique condition and needs, ensuring the best possible outcomes.

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Indications for Limb Salvage

Limb salvage may be necessary in various situations, including:

- **Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD):** Reduced blood flow due to narrowed arteries can cause severe pain, non-healing wounds, and increase the risk of amputation.
- **Diabetic Foot Ulcers:** Diabetes can lead to poor circulation and neuropathy, resulting in non-healing ulcers that are prone to infection.
- **Traumatic Injuries:** Severe injuries, such as those from accidents, can damage blood vessels and tissues, threatening limb viability.
- **Infections:** Serious infections, including osteomyelitis (bone infection), can necessitate aggressive intervention to save the limb.

Limb Salvage Techniques

Vascular surgeons employ various advanced techniques to achieve limb salvage, including:

- **Medical Management Medications:** Antiplatelet agents, cholesterol-lowering drugs, and medications to improve blood flow can help manage underlying conditions and promote healing.
- **Wound Care:** Specialized dressings, debridement (removal of dead tissue), and infection control are critical components of wound management.

Surgical Interventions

- **Revascularization:** Procedures such as angioplasty and stenting or bypass surgery are performed to restore blood flow to the affected limb.

- **Debridement:** Surgical removal of dead or infected tissue to promote healing and prevent the spread of infection.
- **Skin Grafts and Flaps:** These techniques are used to cover large wounds and facilitate healing.
- **Rehabilitation and Follow-Up**
- **Post-operative care and rehabilitation** are essential for successful limb salvage. Patients may require physical therapy to regain strength and mobility, along with regular follow-up visits to monitor healing and prevent recurrence.

When to Seek Help

Early recognition and intervention are crucial for limb salvage. If you experience symptoms such as persistent leg pain, non-healing wounds, or signs of infection, it's important to seek medical attention promptly. Delaying treatment can lead to further complications and increase the risk of amputation.

Our Commitment to Your Health

Our vascular surgery team is dedicated to providing comprehensive care for patients at risk of limb loss. Through advanced surgical techniques, personalized treatment plans, and ongoing support, we strive to improve outcomes and enhance quality of life. Don't let vascular conditions threaten your mobility and independence. For more information or to schedule a consultation, please contact our clinic. Together, we can work towards preserving your limb health and ensuring a better future. •



Limb salvage is essential for maintaining mobility and quality of life for patients facing severe vascular challenges. Our comprehensive approach, tailored to each patient's unique needs, ensures the best possible outcomes.”

Bruce L. Tjaden Jr., MD
Director, Specialty Treatment for Extremity Preservation (STEP) Program
Assistant Professor of Surgery, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University



Cooper Aortic Center

The Aortic Center at Cooper University Health Care is one of the region's top programs treating diseases and conditions that attack the body's arterial system.

Our team of vascular experts are internationally renowned leaders in the field, developing new treatments and technologies for superior patient care. As the region's leading academic health system, Cooper offers patients the latest new devices and access to groundbreaking clinical trials.

The Cooper Aortic Center provides state-of-the-art treatment for the following conditions:

- Complex aortic repair
- Abdominal aortic aneurysms (AAA)
- Arch aneurysms
- Thoracic aortic aneurysms (TAA)
- Thoracic aortic dissection (type A and type B)
- Iliac aneurysms

Aortic disease poses significant health risks because when an aneurysm or dissection bursts or tears, severe internal bleeding and shock can occur. Blood clots can also break off traveling to other organs in the body, cutting off oxygen and restricting blood flow, resulting in loss of life or limb.

South Jersey's Expert Aortic Team Saving Lives

Cooper Aortic Center is staffed by the only multidisciplinary team in southern New Jersey committed to the care and treatment of aortic disease. Patients of the Cooper Aortic Center have access to the region's best physicians and clinicians dedicated to providing expert care in a compassionate, patient-focused environment.

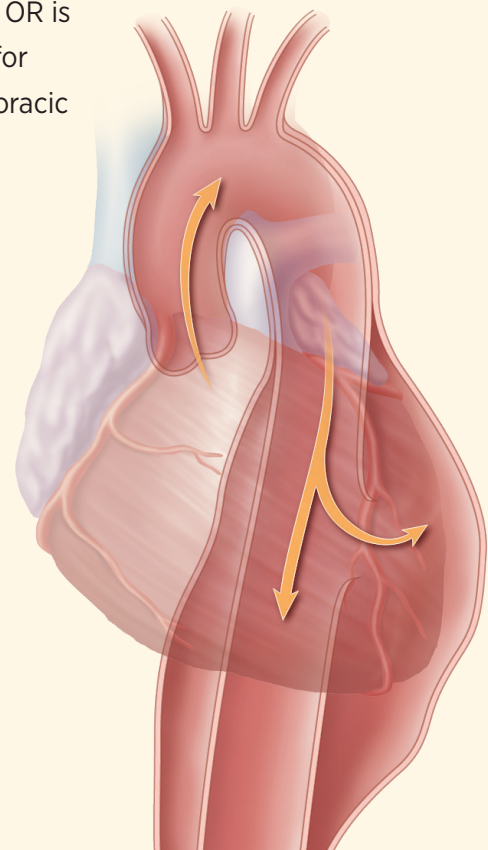
Cooper's vascular and cardiothoracic surgeons are leaders in the endovascular repair of aortic disease and are renowned for their ability to perform complex open surgical procedures. The physicians and staff of the Cooper Aortic Center work closely with each patient to identify the best treatment options for their disease and lifestyle.

Cooper's Vascular Diagnostic Centers - The Area's Most Advanced Vascular Labs

Cooper's Vascular Diagnostic Centers are conveniently located, staffed with registered vascular technologists, and offer fast and convenient scheduling. Vascular tests include:

- Peripheral arterial imaging
- Venous ultrasound
- Abdominal aortic evaluations
- Visceral vascular evaluations
- Cerebrovascular (extra/intracranial)
- Vein mapping (pre-op evaluation)

Aortic procedures are performed in Cooper's hybrid operating room (OR), a state-of-the-art surgical suite. Cooper's hybrid OR is designed specifically for vascular and cardiothoracic patients, combining cutting-edge surgical technology with the most sophisticated imaging capabilities.



Our Vascular Providers



Joseph V. Lombardi, MD, FACS

Head, Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery
Director, Cooper Aortic Center
Director, Level One Vascular Emergency Program



Brittani Abele, MSN, APN, ACNP-BC

Vascular Surgery Advanced Practice Nurse



Philip M. Batista, MD

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Cooper Vascular Surgery

Cooperhealth.org

800.8.COOPER (800.826.6737)

LOCATIONS

- Camden
- Egg Harbor Township
- Moorestown
- Sicklerville
- Voorhees
- Washington Township
- Willingboro
- Woodstown