Clinical Fellowship in Vascular & Thoracic Anesthesia

The academic Thoracic and Vascular Anesthesia Program located at Victoria Hospital, is an extremely busy program covering all types of complex elective and emergency cases, with the exception of lung transplantation.

Vascular surgery operates five times a week and Thoracic surgery three times a week. Our TEE Program is well developed with formal teaching and rounds. We have monthly Multidisciplinary, Morbidity and Mortality Rounds with our surgical colleagues.

The majority of vascular and thoracic patients coming through our institution have multiple co-existing diseases including cardiorespiratory compromise. These patients have an extensive preoperative evaluation by anesthesia and/or internal medicine, cardiology and respirology. We have developed a multidisciplinary perioperative high-risk clinic for optimization and follow up of these patients. The Thoracic and Vascular surgical programs have their own postoperative step-down monitored units.

THORACIC

The robotic and video-assisted thoracic surgical programs are well developed at our institution and currently account for 80% of cases, the remainder being open thoracotomies or investigative procedures. On average, per year, we perform 300 lobectomies and 80 esophagectomies.

VASCULAR

The Vascular Division of Surgery at Victoria Hospital has and continues to be a pioneer in endovascular stenting of abdominal and thoracic aneurysms and claims one of the largest series in North America. Ruptured abdominal and thoracic aneurysms that have favorable anatomy are also repaired by the endovascular route at our institution. The thoraco-abdominal aneurysm program is well developed and these aneurysms are now generally repaired using fenestrated stents. The thoraco-abdominal aneurysms that cannot be repaired using stents, are repaired utilizing partial left heart bypass. On average, per year, we perform 150 open abdominal aneurysms, 50 endovascular thoracic and 100 abdominal endovascular stents.

TEE is specifically available for management of thoracic aneurysm stenting and for adjunctive management of the vascular patient with associated cardiac disease. While not every anesthetist involved in Vascular Anesthesia is experienced in TEE, there is usually one of the anesthetists experienced in TEE, available for guidance.

FELLOWS

Our Fellowship program is well established with ongoing clinical research opportunities, in collaboration with our surgical colleagues. The program is one year in duration and in

accordance with Fellowship training elsewhere in the city, the Fellow works independently in the operating room two days per week, one day in vascular, one day in thoracic per week with a consultant, and the fifth day is for academic and research projects. The Fellows are encouraged to attend X-Ray Rounds, Thoracic/Vascular Rounds and fiberoptic bronchoscopy clinics. Reading material is provided and they are encouraged to go to another centre for two weeks to broaden their experience. The Fellowship Program is extremely flexible, and is designed to accommodate the individual Fellow's needs.

Overall, the Thoracic/Vascular Program at Victoria Hospital is a very busy program with an incredible variety of interesting and complex cases. It is constantly evolving to keep up with medical, technological advances, to ensure that patients receive the most optimal perioperative care currently available. The program offers excellent opportunities for Fellows and Residents to become proficient in Thoracic/Vascular anesthesia, both in a clinical and research setting. It is designed to meet the individual's needs, along with the best exposure to the available clinical caseload.