

GLOSSARY

Acute limb ischaemia (ALI)	A sudden decrease in blood supply to a limb, most commonly a leg, threatening its viability. It is a medical emergency requiring prompt diagnosis and treatment to prevent limb loss.
Cognitive impairment	A decline in mental abilities such as thinking, learning, remembering, and problem-solving. It can manifest as memory loss, difficulty concentrating, trouble completing tasks, or problems understanding, remembering, following instructions, and solving problems.
Compartment syndrome	This is a serious medical condition where an increased pressure within a body compartment reduces blood flow and tissue function. In a limb this is a medical emergency that is usually treated with a fasciotomy.
Critical limb threatening ischaemia (CLTI)	This is a severe form of peripheral artery disease (PAD) characterised by a chronic reduction in the blood supply to a limb, usually the legs and/or feet. This reduced blood flow can lead to rest pain, non-healing ulcers, gangrene and infection. If the blood supply cannot be improved there is a risk of amputation.
Direct oral anticoagulant (DOAC)	A class of medications that prevent blood clots.
Dysphasia	Sometimes referred to as aphasia, is an impairment of language processing.
Fasciotomy	A surgical procedure to cut through the fascia, a layer of connective tissue, to relieve pressure within a muscle compartment. It is primarily used to treat acute compartment syndrome.
Gangrene	This is caused by a loss of blood supply causes body tissue to die. It can affect any part of the body but typically starts in the toes, feet, fingers and hands.
Ischaemia	A less-than-normal amount of blood flow to part of the body. This lack of blood flow means tissues do not get the oxygen they need.
Motor impairment	This is where the movement or co-ordination of a limb is reduced or absent.
Necrosis	The death of body tissue.
Pallor	An unhealthy pale appearance.
Paraesthesia	The feeling of tingling, numbness or ‘pins and needles.’
Perfusion	The passage of fluid, usually blood, through the circulatory system or lymphatic system to an organ or tissue.
Peripheral arterial disease	A common condition where the arterial supply to a limb, most commonly a leg, is reduced. The most common cause is a build-up of fatty deposits.
Revascularisation	A medical procedure used to restore blood flow to a part of the body where it has been reduced or blocked.
Rutherford classification	A system used to categorise the severity of acute limb ischaemia based on symptoms and objective clinical findings.
Sensory impairment	When sensory impairment occurs in a limb there is reduced touch sensation and/or, paraesthesia (‘pins and needles.’) and/or co-ordination
Spoke hospital	These have an emergency department but no 24/7 inpatient specialist vascular services.
Thromboembolectomy	A procedure to remove a blood clot (thrombus or embolus) from a blood vessel, either an artery or a vein.