

# The state of vascular access teams: results of a European survey

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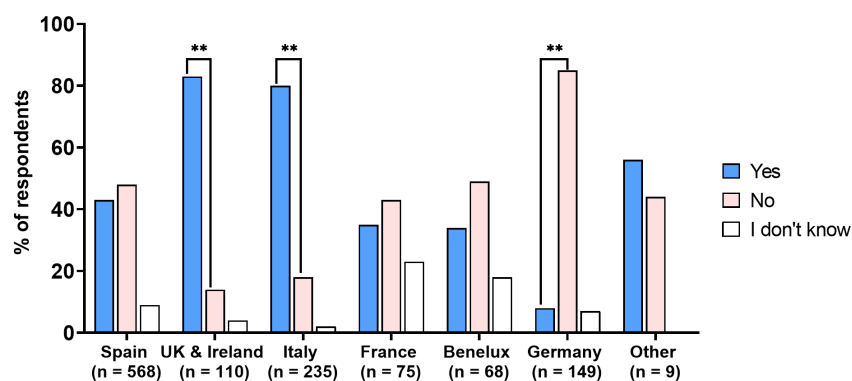
## Abstract

**Background:** Many European health institutions have appointed multidisciplinary teams for the general management of vascular access to help improve efficiency, patient safety and reduce costs. Vascular access teams (VATs), or infusion teams, are specifically trained groups of healthcare professionals who assess, place, manage and monitor various outcomes and aspects of vascular access care. **Objective:** To assess the current landscape of vascular access management as a discipline across Europe. **Methods:** A Faculty of European VAT leads and experts developed a survey of 20 questions which was disseminated across several European countries. Questions focused on respondent and institution profile, vascular access device selection and placement, monitoring and reporting of complications, and access to training and education. The 1449 respondents included physicians, nurses, anaesthetists, radiologists and surgeons from public and private institutions ranging in size. **Results:** Availability of dedicated VATs vary by country, institution size, and institution type. Institutions with a VAT are more likely to utilise a tool (e.g., algorithm or guideline) to determine the appropriate vascular access device (55% vs 38%,  $p < 0.0002$ ) and to have feedback on systematic monitoring of complications (40% vs 28%,  $p = 0.015$ ). Respondents from institutions with a VAT are more likely to have received training on vascular access management (79% vs 53%,  $p < 0.0001$ ) and indicated that the VAT was a source of support when difficulties arise. **Conclusion:** The survey results highlight some of the potential benefits of implementing a dedicated VAT including use of a broader range of vascular access devices, increased awareness of the presence of vascular access policies, increased likelihood of recent vascular access training, and increased rates of systematic monitoring of associated complications. The study reveals potential areas for further focus in the field of vascular access care, specifically examining the direct impact of vascular access teams.

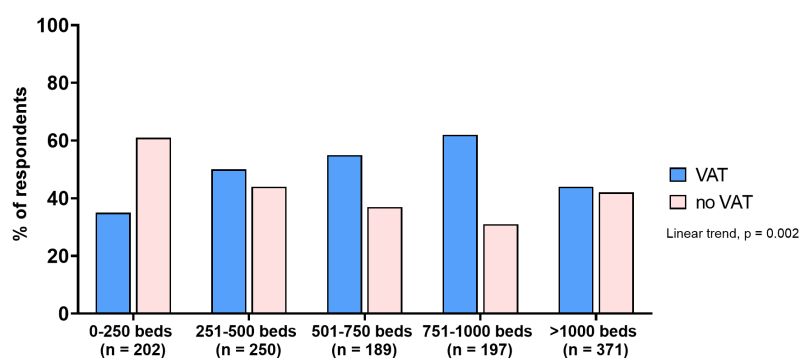
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VAT survey manuscript\_submission\_main text.docx available at <https://authorea.com/users/422980/articles/528568-the-state-of-vascular-access-teams-results-of-a-european-survey>

# **A** Is there a dedicated vascular access team/service in your institution?



# **B** Which best describes your institution size?



# **C** Which best describes your institution type?

