

My name is Paolo Tripodi, vascular surgeon actually working in Hospital Universitari Sagrat Cor and as on-call vascular specialist in Hospital Clinic in Barcelona.

In the last decade, the treatment of abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) has changed dramatically from open repair to an endovascular approach. The declining number of open AAA repairs has raised concerns regarding the competence of future vascular surgeons to perform this complex and high-risk procedure.

For this reason, as a young vascular surgeon, I have felt the need to apply for a training stay in one of the highest volume centers in Europe such as Clinic for Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Clinical Center of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia, from 24th of May until 2nd of July.

In addition to being one of the centers with the highest volume, it is the only emergent vascular center in whole country and the referent national aortic center (8 million people).

My professional experience has been remarkable and absolutely useful.

Since the beginning, I was integrated into their daily schedule and the vascular team was very keen to show me their techniques as well as tips and tricks in different open surgical procedures. They have an excellent expertise especially in the open treatment of complex aortic disease, such as type B aortic dissection, and thoraco-abdominal aneurysms, as well as aorto-iliac aneurysms.

I took part in nearly 50 operations, especially open aortic and carotid procedures, including urgent cases of rAAA and thoraco-abdominal aortic aneurysm repair.

During this month I also discovered the beauty of the city of Belgrade, the hospitality and generosity of local people.

In order to increase open surgery knowledge and training I would definitely recommend this destination. I really want to thank the European Society of Vascular Surgery, Prof. Lazar Davidovic for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

I also would like to thank all the staff of doctors and residents, for the kindness and friendship they have shown me since the first day making me feel always fully part of the group.

If you are considering visiting the Clinical Center of Serbia and want further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at +34635019009 or via email at paolotripodi1@gmail.com.

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