

I am a Vascular Surgeon at Republican Vilnius University Hospital, Vilnius, Lithuania. I got this opportunity from ESVS to visit critical limb ischemia (CLI) specialist Dr. Mariano Palena in 2019. However, the pandemic started, and training was cancelled. As soon as courses were renewed, Dr. Palena moved to another hospital, and ESVS gave me an opportunity to visit one of the most advanced endovascular centers led by Dr. Marco Manzi and Dr. Mariano Palena.

The last time I have been working as an interventional radiologist was also 2-3 years ago, and after the training, I definitely got back my motivation for this work, the possibility to become a both vascular and endovascular surgeon and help critically ill “no option” patients. During the training, I have written myself a full writing book of incredibly valuable notes.

One month of working together with these professionals was a remarkable experience.

Dr. Marco Manzi is an adventurous specialist and lecturer, renowned for his pioneering in endovascular techniques and extensive scientific work and presence.

The interventional radiology department at Maria Cecilia Hospital accounting for two interventional radiology rooms, a dedicated nursery team, and numerous ongoing studies and training with doctors from all over the world every 2 days, met much more than all my expectations.

There, I was exposed to complex critical limb ischemia (CLI) and peripheral artery disease (PAD) management. I enhanced my knowledge on:

- The most important thing in endovascular procedures – “respect the entrance point”.
- Measurement, sizing, device selection, and characteristics. New devices.
- Protocol steps in endovascular procedures.
- Importance of dedicated medical and nursery team.
- Postoperative management and follow-up after complex CLI cases.
- Dealing with certain endovascular complications.
- And, the importance of using ultrasound every time: puncture and for the closing with Angioseal, and follow up after all procedures.

I had the chance to work, discuss and learn about numerous complex CLI cases with both very different and notable specialists: Dr. Mariano Palena and Dr. Marco Manzi.

Furthermore, I gathered notable insights from these experts in endovascular techniques for critical limb ischemia.

I wanted to thank Dr. Mariano Palena, Dr. Marco Manzi, and their radiology team for the knowledge and skills obtained during this month, contributing to my development as a vascular surgery specialist in the endovascular era.

As Dr. Marco Manzi once said:

"I think that our philosophy for revascularization is based on a treat the volume of patients in the last 15 years. But - revascularisation is only a fact of the treatment. So good revascularization together with good foot care, good foot surgery, good therapy, and metabolic control ... So, the approach basically is the most important aspect, the multidisciplinary approach.

That's why we tried to be a physician, not a plumber. So, this is the concept. Creating a team is very important. And then you can learn of course technical aspects, techniques, devise, what you want. Anatomical aspects. What is also important, is to have an algorithm, and strategy, dedicated to the patients, and of course, every single patient is different, with different needs."

I also wanted to thank Dr. Marco Manzi for his inspiring soul and professional skills, showing up that believing in the thing you do is the most important. Especially in the hospital, where are no vascular surgeons at all, always doing everything the best you could do, doesn't matter how hard the case is, and how much effort is needed for the best results, never giving up because there is no chance to fail in the endovascular procedure.

As a result, I can share my own experiences gained in Abano Terme with my colleagues in Lithuania, to improve healthcare in my country.

Overall, this great opportunity helped me learn and grow and my parental department to develop and implement complex vascular strategies. This will eventually advance the field of vascular surgery and bring promising new technologies to a greater number of patients in Lithuania.

I would like to thank the ESVS Educational Grant Committee for this unique opportunity, to educate in the prestigious European Centre of endovascular excellence, to work with world-class experts, to learn so much, and then take home and apply the acquired knowledge to future well-trained and highly skilled vascular surgeons.

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