



## Electronic Publication of VSI Articles One by One: A Paradigm Shift for Easy Accessibility, More Citations, and Survival of the Fitter

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“Your beginnings will seem humble,  
so prosperous will your future be.”  
- The Bible -

The printed version of the June 2021 issue of the journal Vascular Specialist International (VSI) has just been published. As many readers may have noticed, VSI's publishing process has undergone a major evolution, so-called “one-by-one publication.”

VSI is a peer-reviewed open-access international journal published every quarter at the end of March, June, September, and December in both electronic and printed versions. Although submission and peer review happen year-round through the online submission system, the journal being a quarterly publication means that authors of some accepted articles need to wait for up to three months before their work is published. To reduce this delay and increase accessibility, VSI adopted advanced online publication (ahead of print [AOP]) from May 2020, and free access to accepted articles is available on its website <https://www.vsjournal.org/>.

However, every three months, the editors have had to collect the articles to be published, align the contents, and allocate the page numbers, all of which put a huge burden on the editorial team. Recent advances in electronic publication and young users' preference for reading an article in the electronic rather than printed format thus motivated us to adapt. Based on the publishing company MEDrang Inc.'s proposal for one-by-one publication during the editors' workshop in February 2021, VSI's publisher and editors de-

ecided to take this big step forward. Each article is now published online as soon as it is accepted—the aim is to increase accessibility and possible citations. Major reputed international publishers such as Elsevier and Springer already have such a system in place. One-by-one publication has several advantages:

- 1) The quality of an article can be improved through intensive revision, and the editors can reduce the quarterly workload for meeting the deadline.
- 2) The manuscript editor and publishing company can distribute the workload.
- 3) The reader can easily access an article immediately after its acceptance.
- 4) Authors can derive greater satisfaction from the publication of their work right after its acceptance.
- 5) There is no need to accumulate articles in AOP.
- 6) There is no need to document a certificate of acceptance.

Furthermore, we have also decided to keep the printed version as is as per the preference of senior surgeons and collectors. Thus, the main changes are as follows:

- 1) No sequential pagination of articles in an issue

As you can see in the image of the contents page below, there are no page numbers for the articles (Fig. 1). The numbers 37:19 for the editorial mean 37th volume of VSI and 19th published article of the year. We grouped and arranged the articles according to their type, not the order of acceptance. However, in each issue, you can find every

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<h1>Vascular Specialist International</h1>	
Vol. 37, No. 2, June 2021 pISSN 2288-7970 • eISSN 2288-7989	
<b>Editorial</b>	
37:19	Geriatric Vascular Surgery: Time to Build Optimal Resources for the Perioperative Care of Elderly and Fragile Vascular Patients <i>Seung-Kee Min</i>
<b>Review</b>	
37:14	Insights on Bridging Stent Grafts in Fenestrated and Branched Aortic Endografting <i>William J. Yoon, Victor M. Rodriguez, Cheong Jun Lee</i>
<b>Original Articles</b>	
37:17	Gallium-67 Scan with Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography for the Evaluation and Monitoring of Infected Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms: A 10-Year Case Series <i>Hoi-Ming Kwok, Wing-Hang Luk, Lik-Fai Cheng, Nin-Yuan Pan, Ho-Fung Chan, Johnny Ka-Fai Ma</i>
37:12	Association between Laterality and Location of Deep Vein Thrombosis of Lower Extremity and Pulmonary Embolism <i>Sangmin Gong, Eun Ji Lee, Jin Sung Kim, Hyangkyoung Kim, Minsu Noh, Hojong Park, Bong Won Park, Songsoo Yang, Sang Jun Park</i>
<b>Rapid communication</b>	
37:13	Distribution of Peripheral Arterial Disease in Patients Undergoing Endovascular Revascularization for Chronic Limb Threatening Ischaemia: Insights from the Vascular Quality Initiative in Singapore <i>Shereen X. Y. Soon, Ankur Patel, Tze Tec Chong, Charyl J. Q. Yap, Hsien Ts'ung Tay, Kiang Hiong Tay, Chandramohan Sivanathan, Tjun Y. Tang</i>
<b>Case Reports</b>	
37:16	Do Not Tunnel the Small Bowel during the Tunneling of a Femoro-Femoral Bypass <i>Chris Tae Young Chung, Sangil Min, Seung-Kee Min</i>
37:15	Adventitial Cystic Disease of the Superficial Femoral Vein without a Joint Connection: A Case Report <i>Young Sup Yoo, Yoo Duk Choi, Ho Kyun Lee</i>
37:18	Iliofemoral Vein Stenting in a Patient with Pelvic Metastasis <i>Sina Zarrintan, Negin Yavari, Niki Tadayan, Fuad Majidi, Seyed Masoud Hosseini, Hamidreza Haghighatkah, Ehsan Parvas, Seyed Moahammad Reza Kalantar-Motamedi</i>

**Fig. 1.** Table of contents in the recent June 2021 issue of Vascular Specialist International.

article's pagination starting from 1, showing "Page 1 of 8" in the bottom outer corner.

## 2) Change in citation methods

Previously, VSI followed the Vancouver style for citations. However, articles in this issue have no sequential pages, and thus, every article should be cited with its digital object identifier (DOI). The citation format for VSI authors is as follows:

- Journal article with page numbers  
Min SK, Kim YH, Joh JH, Kang JM, Park UJ, Kim HK, et al. Diagnosis and treatment of lower extremity deep

vein thrombosis: Korean Practice Guidelines. *Vasc Specialist Int* 2016;32:77-104.

- Journal article (electronic publication without page numbers, including VSI articles published after April 1, 2021)

Min SK. Geriatric vascular surgery: time to build optimal resources for the perioperative care of elderly and fragile vascular patients. *Vasc Specialist Int* 2021. <https://doi.org/10.5758/vsi.213721>

This change does not influence VSI's evaluation process. The important feature meeting the prerequisites of the Korea Citation Index (KCI) and national electronic solution for system academic activities (e-NEST) evaluation is the article

number of each year, not each issue.

Another significant change that VSI has implemented is the revamp of its website homepage—the previous one was made in 2013, and was dedicated to ensure easy access for authors and readers. However, young surgeons want a novel design that is fancy and dynamic, and the preference for images and video content is increasing. Therefore, we decided to redesign the homepage to make it more interesting and fun, similar to *Daily Prophet*, the magical newspaper in the Harry Potter series (Fig. 2). The left column lists the recent articles posted with key figures; the middle one has videos (lectures, educational clips, and author interviews) playing to capture the viewer’s attention—every member of VSI is welcome to submit any video related to vascular specialists; and in the right column, the most popular articles are posted for easy access. In the top-left corner, one

can check VSI’s metrics; next to it is the “My Read” button, which redirects to one’s previously read articles, providing direct access to the articles of one’s interest.

All these changes are to enable VSI to survive as a premier journal for vascular specialists [1]. Its success depends on the quality of the articles submitted and published and the citation index. VSI’s editors aim to do their best to improve the quality of articles, the online submission system, and online accessibility.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Seung-Keel Min has been the editor-in-chief and Suh Min Kim has been the managing editor of Vasc Specialist Int since 2019. Soo Ho Kim has been the director of MEDrang, the company which provides manuscript editing and print-



Fig. 2. Novel Vascular Specialist International website on <https://www.vsjournal.org/main.html>.

ing service for Vasc Specialist Int.

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## REFERENCES

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- 1) Min SK. Survival of the FITTER: moving forward together for a premier journal in vascular surgery. Vasc Specialist Int 2019;35:1-3.