



# Considerations for operating as an ASC

**Physician Operators Forum**  
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Now, in your quietest golf-announcer voice, what seems to be the problem?

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## EXISTING PARADIGM: Provide dialysis access care in an EOP

- \* **Vessel mapping**
- \* **Endovascular dialysis access therapies**
- \* **Related vascular procedures**
  - PAD - diagnostic and therapeutic**
  - Vein ablation**
- \* **PD catheter insertion and removal**

Mission accomplished, we do a good job:

## Clinical and Economic Value of Performing Dialysis Vascular Access Procedures in a Freestanding Office-Based Center as Compared with the Hospital Outpatient Department among Medicare ESRD Beneficiaries

- ▶ Matched cohorts (n = 27,613)
- ▶ Patients treated in the FOC had significantly better outcomes (p < 0.001) including:
- ▶ **Fewer related or unrelated hospitalizations** (3.8 vs. 4.4)
- ▶ **Fewer vascular access-related infections** (0.18 vs. 0.29)
- ▶ **Fewer septicemia-related hospitalizations** (0.15 vs. 0.18)
- ▶ **Mortality rate was lower** (47.9% vs. 53.5%)
- ▶ **PMPM payments were lower** (\$4,982 vs. \$5,566).
- ▶ This study shows that DVA management provided in a Clinical and Economic Value of Performing Dialysis Vascular Access Procedures in a Freestanding Office-Based Center as Compared with the Hospital Outpatient Department among Medicare ESRD Beneficiaries FOC has multiple advantages over that provided in a HOPD

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**Difficult cases can be done in the EOP model:**

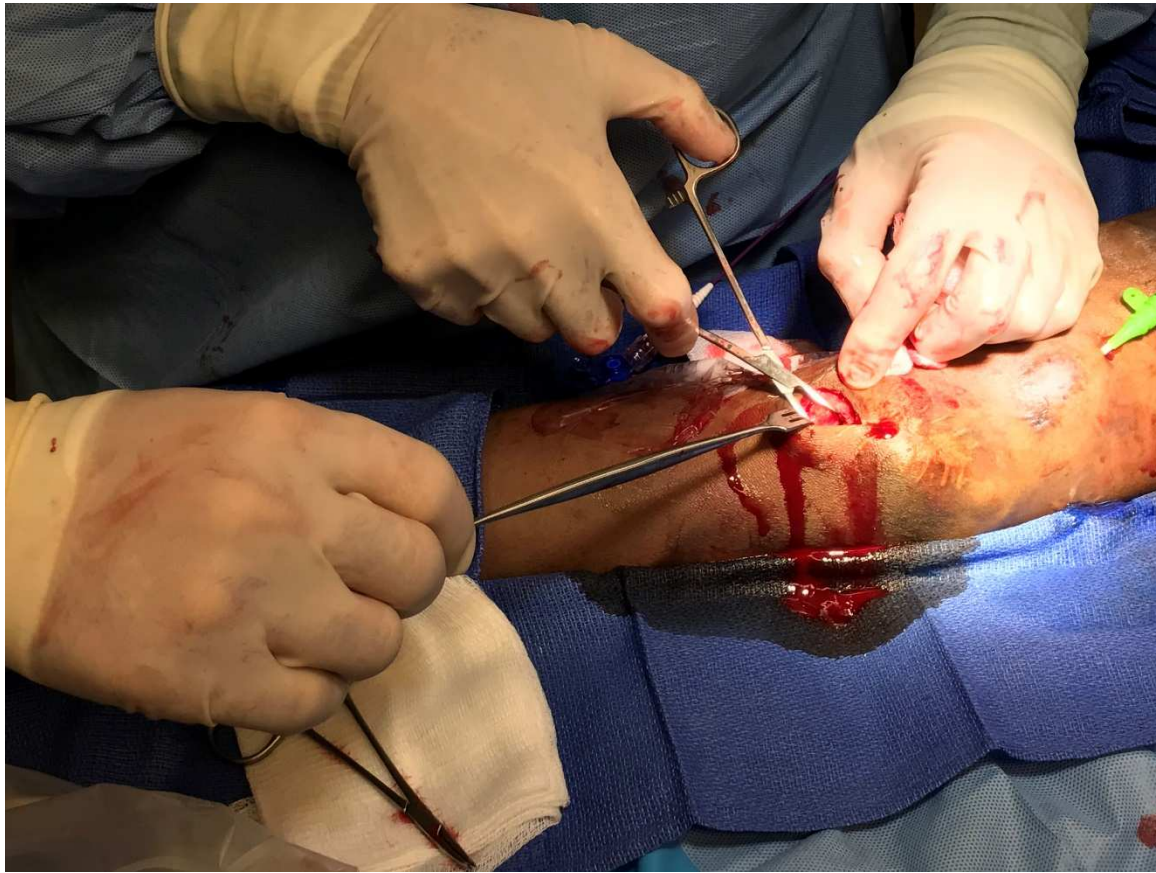
**37 YOM on dialysis**

**Right brachial artery->cephalic vein AVF**

**Central Vein Stenosis**

**Flow 3,400 cc/min**





**PTA of central stenosis and  
a banding procedure**



**2 months later**

## **Existing paradigm – partial ownership of the access**

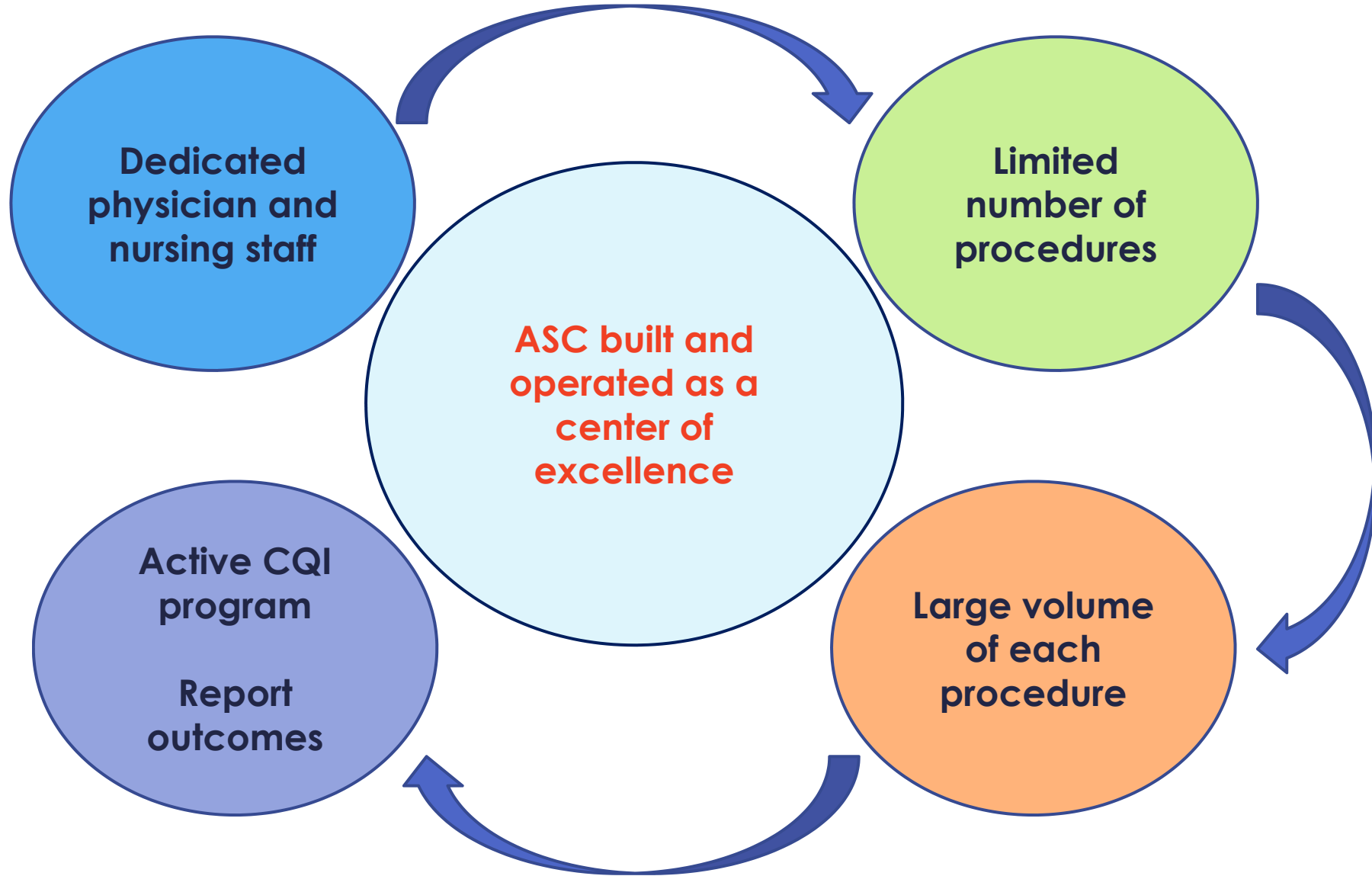
There is a limited amount of dialysis access care in an EOP

Care remains fragmented – a lot of access care is not done in an EOP

## **New Paradigm - full ownership of the access**

In an ASC provide end-end care -> from vessel mapping -> AVF surgery -> maturation procedures and TDC removal

# ASC/EOP Models





# 1. ASC is a highly regulated and safe environment for patient care

## Specific Federal and State requirements to insure patient safety:

- \* **Maximum number of patients who could require “assistance for self preservation” (sedated patients)**
- \* **Transfer agreements with the hospital and receiving physician agreements**





**ASC medical staff is fully credentialed:**

**Privileges are granted at the ASC in an identical manner as hospital**

**\* If you do not have hospital privileges you must be proctored**

## 2. ASC Model

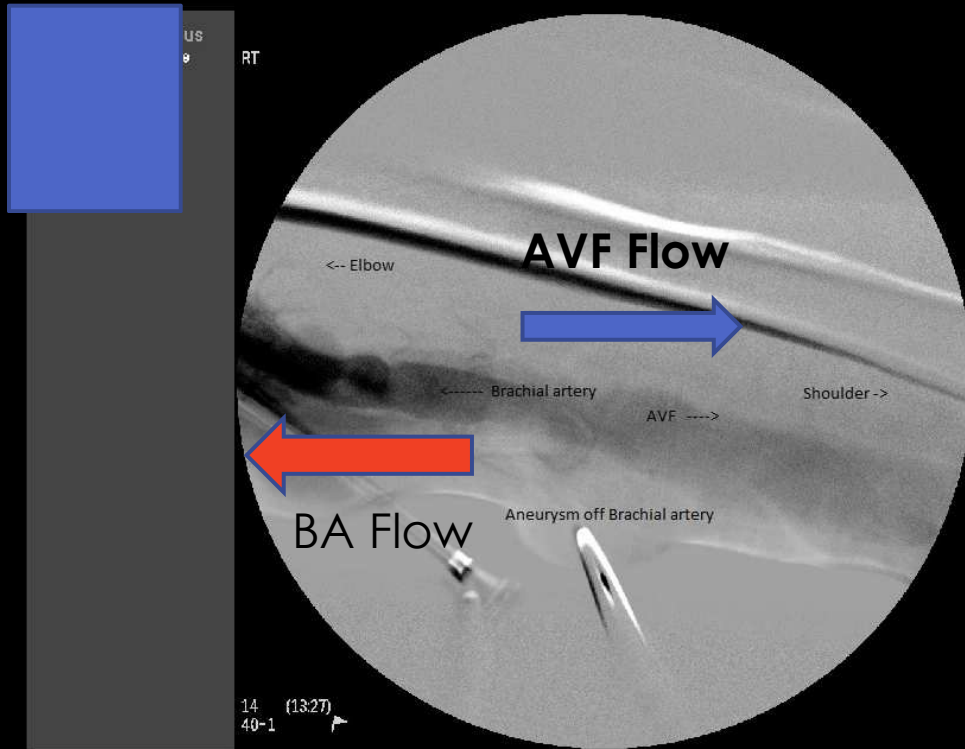
**Same procedures that are done in EOP model but add additional procedures, potentially more complex procedures, and surgery**



**ASC – high risk patients should be referred to the hospital**

**What are examples of a more complex procedures?**

- \* AV fistula creation**
- \* Second stage brachial artery -> brachial or basilic vein AVF transposition**
- \* AVG surgery**
- \* Surgical treatment of access aneurysms**
- \* DRILs**
- \* Other**



**Same patient that had the banding procedure:**

**Make the diagnosis and plan the surgical treatment**

**An example of a new and more complex case that can be done in an ASC.**



### 3. Demonstrate improved patient outcomes and as a result, better value based outcomes

**Without quality outcomes you cannot produce value based outcomes such as was demonstrated in the Dobson study**

Quality outcome-> value based outcomes?

Same criteria that were reported in the Dobson study along with additional data gathered in concert with the dialysis provider:

- \* Time (days) from vessel mapping -> Sx consult -> working AVF
  - \* Incidence of patients starting HD with an AVF
  - \* Prevalence of patients using a TDC at 90 days
  - \* Increase % of home patients primarily on PD
- \* These are the type of metrics that are tracked for determining value based outcomes



# What Local Issues Drive the ASC Model?

What we faced in San Jose:

**Fragmented care**

**Significant delay in surgery**

**Poor surgical outcomes**

**Oftentimes bad patient experience**

**High costs: Hospital > HOPD > ASC**

**In some dialysis facilities:**

**Low prevalence of AVF**

**High prevalence of TDC at 90 days (some units >30%)**



**Continuous quality improvement is a dynamic process**

**Use a multidisciplinary approach and re-examine how you resolve the problem based on:**

- \* Best patient care**
- \* Value based outcome analysis**

**Case: 69 YOM with a newly created radial->cephalic AVF with distal RA, arterial anastomosis and arterial inflow stenosis**

**Question is how many times and in what time period should the same treatment be done on the same pathology?**

**DOQI guidelines exist but what would you do in your own ASC?**

LT

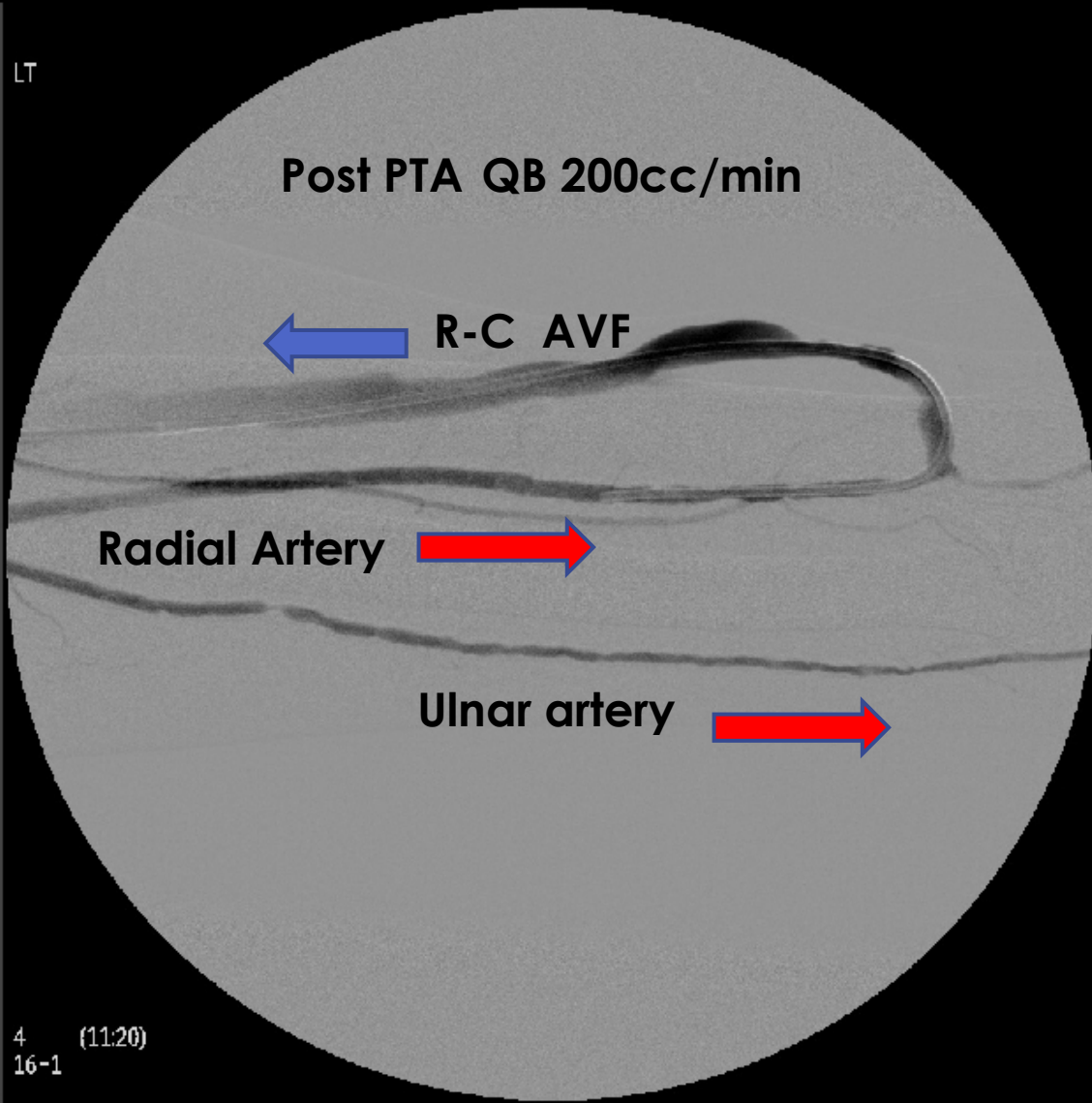
Post PTA QB 200cc/min

← R-C AVF

Radial Artery →

Ulnar artery →

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# Considerations for operating as an ASC

Hypothetical hemodialysis population 1,000 patients

**17% mortality/year driven primarily by aging population**

**At 70 3.8 yr life expectancy**

**At 80 2.6 yr life expectancy**

**3 % growth of the hemodialysis population**

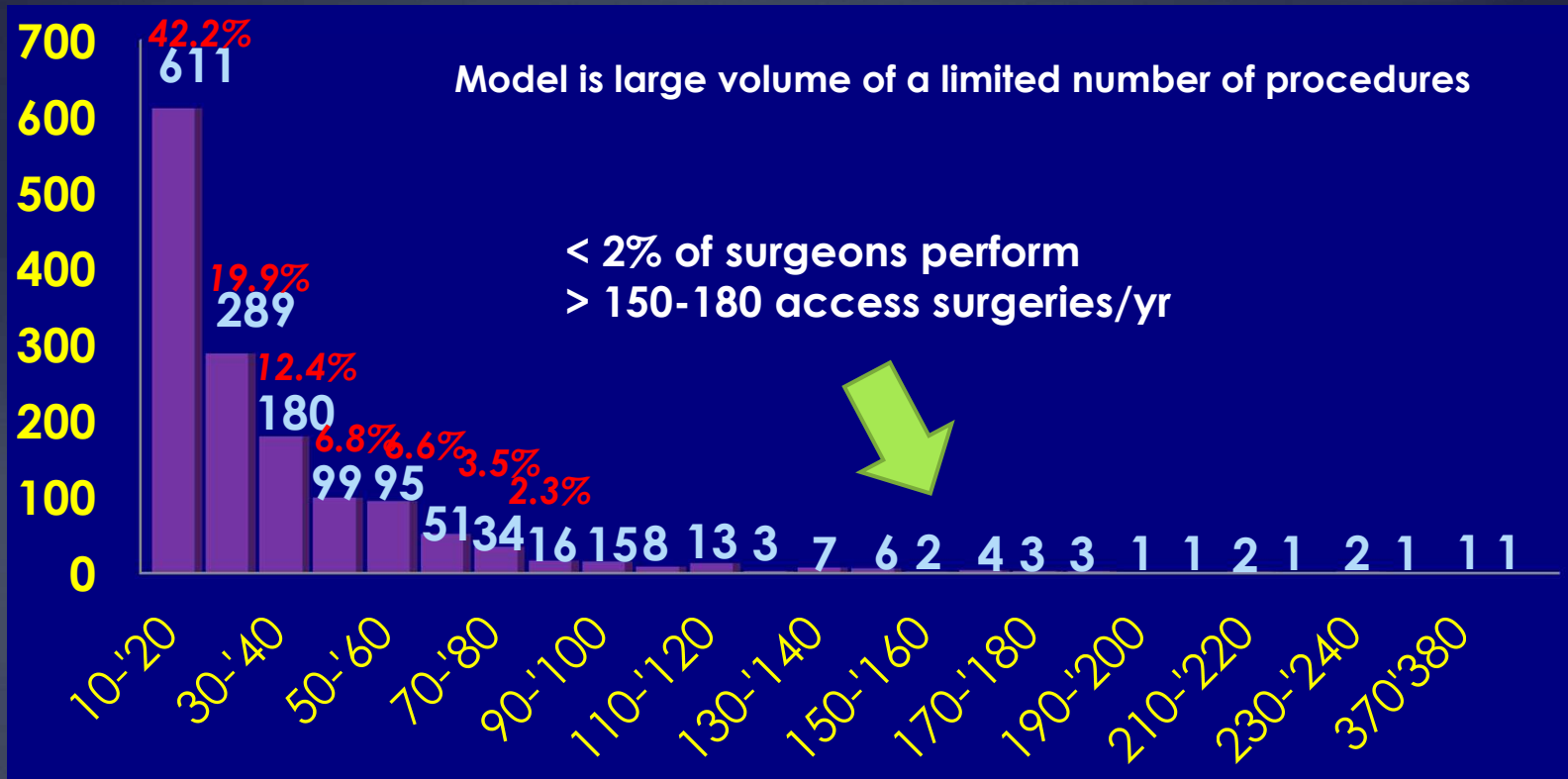
**A majority starting with TDC**

**The surgery piece is critical -> Goal > 70% AVF prevalence →**

**Factor in 30% AVF Sx failure rate -> >150 AVF/yr**



# Only small percentage of access creations are done by physicians who focus primarily on AV access surgery



2012 MC data  
 Gary A. Gelbfish, MD FACS  
 Medical Director, Advanced Vascular Care  
 Assistant Clinical Professor of Surgery, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine NYC  
 Data "underestimated total amount of surgeries": 49,089 cases access surgery by 1,449 Physicians

## 4. Designated vascular surgeon(s) for dialysis access surgery

- 7 Radial artery -> cephalic vein AVF
- 2 Brachial artery -> cephalic vein 1<sup>st</sup> stage AVF
- 6 Brachial artery -> basilic vein 1<sup>st</sup> stage AVF
- 2 Brachial artery -> brachial vein 1<sup>st</sup> stage AVF
- 3 Brachial artery -> brachial or basilic vein as a one stage procedure
- 2 Radial artery -> transposition forearm basilic vein
- 1 Preservation surgery PTFE jump graft from brachial artery
  - > distal forearm cephalic vein AVF
- 1 DRIL procedure
  
- 2 failures
- 1 upper arm AVF thrombosis - surgically declotted 1 wk p op
- 2 steal syndromes – 1 banded, 1 DRIL

**All done using moderate sedation and local anesthetics**

# New paradigm

Nephrologist take full ownership  
of dialysis access care

IN/IR performs  
endovascular  
therapies

Multidisciplinary staff:  
\* Vascular surgeon  
\* Can include IR

Change a paradigm of  
interventional nephrology  
started 20 years ago

ASC Environment  
\* Highly regulated  
\* Safe patient care

Market forces:  
High costs of access care mandate  
\* Integrated care  
\* Report outcomes

Result:  
\* More cases  
\* More complex cases  
\* Access surgery  
\* Improve outcomes  
\* Lower cost

