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Robert Attaran, MBBS, specializes in cardiovascular medicine and interventional cardiology.

Recognizing an educational deficiency in the fundamentals of VLM, Dr. Attaran took advantage of the opportunity to overcome the limitations that many physicians face by applying to sit for the ABVLM certification exam.

He noted that, **“most interventional cardiologists never received extensive education in the fundamentals,”** says Dr. Attaran. **“One important way I feel I can bridge that gap is to study for and take the ABVLM certification exam.”**

By pursuing ABVLM certification, Dr. Attaran not only seeks to elevate his own practice but contributes significantly to the broader medical community. **“As an interventional cardiologist involved in the area of venous disease, I have witnessed how easy it can be to practice in a bubble.”**

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**THE AMERICAN BOARD OF
VENOUS & LYMPHATIC MEDICINE**



To learn more about the ABVLM and to find out if your physician is a Diplomate, please visit our website: www.ABVLM.org



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**THE AMERICAN BOARD OF
VENOUS & LYMPHATIC MEDICINE**

**PATIENT
BROCHURE**

YOUR PHYSICIAN IS A DIPLOMATE OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF VENOUS AND LYMPHATIC MEDICINE

Diplomates are physicians who have passed the most comprehensive examination of knowledge in vein and lymphatic disease available today and met all other requirements of the American Board of Venous and Lymphatic Medicine (ABVLM).

Since the inception of the board, nearly 1000 physicians have been certified. Currently, there are over 600 active ABVLM diplomates.

Not all physicians who treat vein and lymphatic disorders are diplomates of the ABVLM. Becoming a diplomate is voluntary and helps to demonstrate your physician's commitment to staying abreast of current knowledge and quality care of the venous and lymphatic patient.

WHAT IS VENOUS AND LYMPHATIC MEDICINE?

Venous and lymphatic medicine is the clinical discipline that involves the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic venous disorders. Here are a few examples:

- Varicose veins and related chronic venous disease complications such as leg pain, edema (swelling), recurrent dermatitis (eczema), chronic lower extremity inflammatory skin changes and leg ulcers/wounds
- Chronic pelvic pain related to pelvic venous insufficiency
- Deep venous disease, i.e. post-thrombotic syndrome, May-Thurners, and other disease states related to abnormal venous flow of the extremities, pelvis, and chest

- Venous thromboembolism-including superficial and deep venous thrombophlebitis (venous blood clots)
- Primary lymphedema (congenital) and secondary lymphedema (often related to prior cancer/surgery/certain medications)
- Congenital venous malformations and other disorders of venous and lymphatic origin
- Cosmetic treatment of telangiectasias (spider veins)

WHAT IS THE ABVLM?

Initially established in 2007 as the American Board of Phlebology (ABPh) and to better reflect the multidisciplinary nature of specialty backgrounds that treat venous and lymphatic disease, the board was renamed ABVLM in 2013 to communicate the scope of this emerging specialty more clearly.

The leadership board is comprised of nominated directors reflective of the diverse backgrounds of practitioners in the field, including vascular medicine, dermatology, cardiology, general and vascular surgery, interventional radiology, and family medicine.

The ABVLM's mission is to advance the care of patients with venous and lymphatic disorders by improving the quality of practitioners treating them.

To accomplish this, the ABVLM supports the growth and national recognition of this specialty by the creation of a core curriculum in venous and lymphatic disease, development of training pathways and care standards, supporting a rigorous, competency-based examination process, and a commitment to lifelong learning and assessment.

HOW DOES A PHYSICIAN BECOME A DIPLOMATE OF THE ABVLM?

Physicians must first qualify for the examination along with a documented procedure log that demonstrates relevant clinical experiences. The ABVLM examination is open to licensed physicians in the U.S. or Canada who meet thorough prerequisite qualifications.

Candidates must pass a computer-based examination comprised of approximately 200 multiple-choice questions in the following categories: basic science, venous and lymphatic diseases and syndromes, diagnostic tools and screening, duplex ultrasound and other imaging modalities, treatment, and professional standards.

As a newer, growing specialty, most diplomates maintain their original primary specialty certification.

LIFELONG LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Once a physician becomes a Diplomate of the ABVLM, they must participate in maintenance of certification (MOC) — ongoing educational requirements to demonstrate their continued knowledge of and commitment to venous and lymphatic medicine.

The MOC program requires diplomates to complete an online learning and assessment quiz annually and to earn a minimum of 20 hours of continuing medical education every two years.