Statement On Use Of ‘Superficial Femoral Vein’ Term
ASUM Standards of Practice Board, May 2014

ASUM has been made aware of recent cases of highly adverse patient outcomes, including death, resulting from the use of the term “superficial femoral vein”, which was misinterpreted as being a superficial vein (rather than deep) in the setting of thrombosis.

ASUM would remind all practitioners that the term “superficial femoral vein” is not anatomically or medically correct\(^1\), and has long been associated with medical errors\(^2,3\). The internationally agreed nomenclature for veins of the lower limbs should be used (reproduced below from reference 1).

The common femoral vein (\textit{vena femoralis communis}) runs from the confluence of the femoral vein and the deep femoral vein to the external iliac vein at the inguinal ligament. The femoral vein originates from the popliteal vein at the upper margin of the popliteal fossa and courses in the femoral canal. The unauthorized term “superficial femoral vein” should not be used for this vein because it is a deep vein and is not in the official Terminologia Anatomica\(^1\).

References: