



By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

Dr. Rommie Hughes, who performs vascular surgeries at Perkins County Health Services, stays quite busy during the time he sets aside once a month to come to the hospital.

Good rapport he has had through the years with Dr. Cliff Colglazier and his clinic, and most recently with Dr. Kristi Kohl of Grant Medical Clinic, assures that patients receiving health care in the region who require some type of vascular surgery will end up on Dr. Hughes' schedule.

He travels a wide region to perform vein surgeries and injections for carotid arteries and varicose veins.

Thus far, Dr. Hughes has performed over 4,500 vein surgeries. Besides Grant, he travels to medical facilities in Ogallala, Grand Island, Kearney, Scottsbluff and the entire panhandle region, in addition to Torrington, Wyo.

When Dr. Hughes comes to Perkins County Hospital each month he performs between 10-15 procedures assisted by Peggy Meier, RVT. As a registered vascular technician Meier performs ultrasound studies, teaches and counsels patients, doing anywhere from 3,000-4,000 studies per year.

Vein surgeries are performed only in Grant and Scottsbluff, said Dr. Hughes, whereas the lab travels the whole panhandle to diagnose and assess patients.

Patients from the surrounding region have easy access to the hospital in Grant for surgery, said Dr. Hughes, and he enjoys the relationship he has with the doctors and staff at the facility.

"The people I work with are extremely pleasant and helpful," he said.

He said he has used a new varicose vein treatment at least 65 times that is currently awaiting FDA approval. The procedure is fast and pain free.

Screening is free for patients who might need vascular treatment due to symptoms of tiredness, heaviness, or unsightly veins.

Patients may call for an appointment and visit with Peggy Meier, director of the vascular lab, at 308-220-8714.

Dr. Hughes partners with Dr. Jeff Holloway, bariatric surgeon for weight loss, at Regional West Physicians Clinic in Scottsbluff.

The Crawford native who will turn 48 on Dec. 14 received his doctorate from the University of Nebraska Medical Center-Omaha in 1994, followed by internship and residency at the facility

prior to starting his professional career in Scottsbluff.

He serves as Chief of Surgery at Regional West Medical Center where he directs the diagnostic vascular lab, in addition to other administrative duties.

He serves on state committees and belongs to state, national and international societies in his field.

The work of Dr. Hughes has been published in medical and exercise science journals and he has been an invited speaker at several workshops or symposiums.

Dr. Hughes and his wife Cherey have three children.