

FORT LAUDERDALE VARICOSE AND SPIDER VEIN CLINIC

What are varicose veins?

While arteries bring blood from the heart to the extremities, veins, by virtue of one-way valves, channel blood back to the heart. If these valves don't function well, the blood doesn't flow efficiently. The veins become enlarged because they are congested with blood. These enlarged veins are commonly called spider veins or varicose veins. Varicose veins are larger.

Pain in the legs is frequently related to these abnormal leg veins. Severe varicose veins can compromise the nutrition of the skin and lead to eczema, inflammation or even ulceration of the lower leg. Vein disorders are not always visible, therefore diagnostic techniques are important tools in determining the cause and the severity of the problem.

WHAT CAUSES VARICOSE VEINS?

Heredity is the number one contributing factor causing varicose and spider veins. Up to 50% of women in America may be affected. Hormonal factors including puberty, pregnancy, menopause and the use of birth control pills or estrogen and progesterone may be a causative factor. Other predisposing factors include aging, standing occupations and leg injury.

HOW CAN PHLEBOLOGY HELP?

Phlebology is the field of medicine that deals with vein diseases. Its members are physicians and other health care professionals.

WHAT IS SCLEROTHERAPY?

Sclerotherapy can be used to treat both varicose and spider veins. A tiny needle is used to inject the veins with a medication that irritates the lining of the vein. Sclerotherapy relieves symptom in most patients suffering from leg vein problems. One to several sclerotherapy sessions may be needed to treat any particular vein region. Depending on the type and number of veins being treated there may be many tiny injections per session. Medically prescribed support hose and/or bandage may be used for several days to a week during the healing period to assist in the resolution of the veins.

Sclerotherapy, performed in the doctor's office, usually causes only minimal discomfort. Bruising, if any, typically disappears within 1 week. Although pigmentation almost always fades it can last for several weeks. Staining and other complications are rare.

WHAT RESULTS CAN YOU EXPECT?

With the evaluation and treatment methods available today, spider and varicose veins can be treated at a great level of effectiveness and safety. If you suffer from problems related to varicose and spider veins you need not feel alone. While some seek treatment for cosmetic improvement, many are looking for medical relief from pain or other symptoms. Whichever category you may be in, there is help available.

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