

What Can Happen If I Don't Treat My Varicose Veins?

As a reader of this publication, you may already know more about varicose veins than you would like, because half of the population over 50 (and two thirds of women over 60) suffer from the pain and swelling associated with those big, ropey leg veins.

There are many adverse consequences of untreated varicose veins, and their severity will vary from person to person depending on the circumstances. Most people who don't treat their varicose veins will experience continued symptoms of pain, fatigue and swelling

of the legs. More advanced conditions may include pigmentation, induration, venous leg

ulcers, spontaneous bleeding, Superficial Thrombophlebitis (STP), and a potentially life-threatening condition called Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT).

Another possible consequence of untreated varicose veins is spontaneous bleeding from the varicose veins or from smaller spider veins.

As the skin over the vein becomes thin, eventually the blood vessel can be exposed to the outside world and be easily injured by clothing, bedding, etc. The blood loss can be quite significant since it is usually painless.

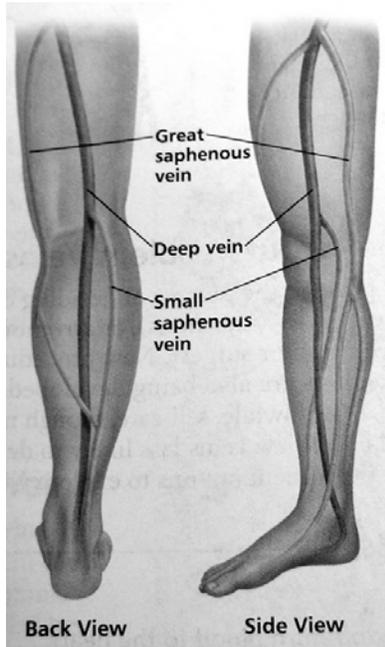
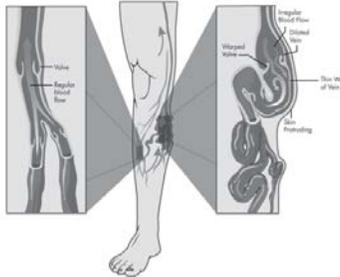
started. Anticoagulation prevents progression of the blood clot, breaks up the clot and prevents the clot from traveling to the lungs. If a clot travels to the lungs it is called a pulmonary embolus (PE) and the outcome can be fatal.

Back in the "old days" - the 20th century - the only option for patients with severe varicose veins was a gruesome and painful procedure called Vein Stripping that left the patients scarred and laid up for weeks. Today, however, we have the next generation medical technology to treat the problem - minimally invasive devices that close the diseased veins from within, using either radiofrequency (RF) energy or laser energy to heat the vein walls and cause them to collapse inward on themselves. Once the diseased veins are sealed, the body re-routes blood flow through healthier vessels and normal circulation is restored. The body eventually absorbs the sealed veins.

Clinical studies have found these new procedures to be more than 97 percent effective, and because they are considered a medical necessity, rather than cosmetic surgery, they are covered by Medicare and private health insurance.

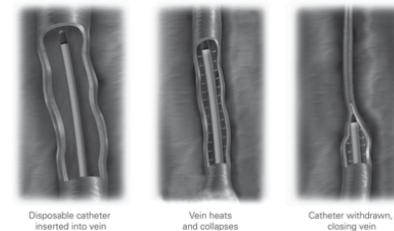


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way blood flow from the periphery toward the heart. If these valves fail, the flow becomes irregular or backward, resulting in increased pressure within the veins. The medical term for this condition is Chronic Venous Insufficiency (CVI).

Veins do not tolerate well the high pressure caused by the backward flow and begin to allow red blood cells and fluid to leak into the surrounding tissues of the leg. The fluid leak causes swelling. The red blood cells leak causes chronic inflammation and the skin becomes dark. The medical term for the dark discoloration is hyperpigmentation. When the skin and the fat under the skin are inflamed for years, the tissues become woody and firm. The



Visit our booth at the 9th Annual SCMS Health Fair on Saturday, March 23, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Horizons Conference Center where we will offer free varicose vein screening.

NOTICE

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