

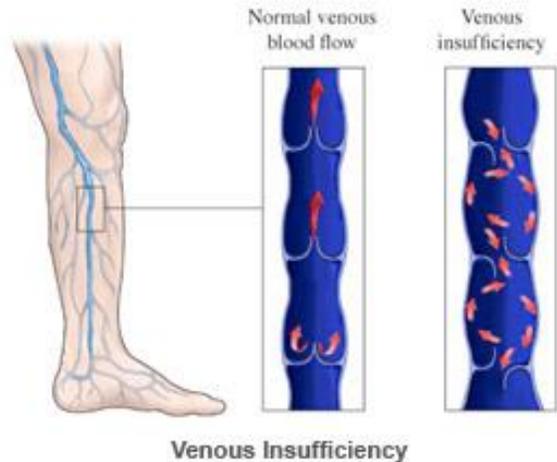


COMMONWEALTH VASCULAR INSTITUTE
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ENDOVENOUS RADIO FREQUENCY ABLATION AKA VEIN CLOSURES

DIAGNOSIS: Superficial venous reflux

Superficial venous reflux is a condition that develops when the valves that usually keep blood flowing out of your legs become damaged or diseased. Common symptoms of superficial venous reflux include pain, swelling, leg heaviness and fatigue, as well as varicose veins in your legs. This can happen because of genetics, lifestyle or other various contributing factors.



I have venous reflux/varicose veins, NOW WHAT?

Your doctor has determined that Endovenous Ablation (aka vein closure) is the most appropriate treatment for you. This is a minimally invasive treatment/procedure for venous reflux disease, using radiofrequency to heat and seal diseased greater saphenous and perforator veins and address the underlying cause of severe varicose veins.

Veins that may be effected are:

RIGHT Greater Saphenous vein	LEFT Greater Saphenous vein
RIGHT Anterior Saphenous vein	LEFT Anterior Saphenous vein
RIGHT Smaller Saphenous vein	LEFT Smaller Saphenous vein

Scheduling: You will be scheduled for your closures one vein at a time, depending upon how many veins that need treatment, and a follow up ultrasound 2-3 days after each procedure. (i.e. If you procedure is scheduled on Friday, then the following Mon. OR Tues. you will have an ultrasound). These procedures are done downstairs in our procedure suite. To help ensure the success of your closure you will be required to wear compression stockings for up to 6 weeks after. You will be given pre-procedure instructions upon scheduling-PLEASE READ THEM CAREFULLY.

Insurance information: If authorization is required by your insurance for your procedure, we will obtain authorization and a cost analysis (patient's out of pocket financial responsibility depending on your particular insurance plan), then contact you with this information. We will then set up your closure schedule. If you have a deductible, co-insurance, or co-payment, you will be responsible for that amount prior to any procedure(s) taking place.

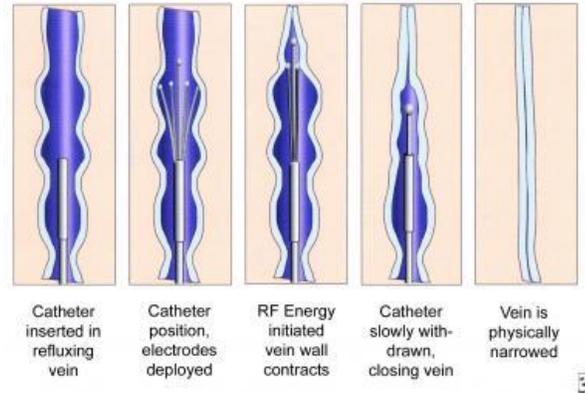
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a vein closure procedure?

The vein closure procedure (AKA Endovenous Ablation) is a minimally invasive treatment for superficial venous reflux. A thin catheter is inserted into the vein. As the catheter is being withdrawn it delivers radiofrequency or thermal energy to the vein wall, causing it to heat, collapse, and seal shut.

How does it work to treat superficial venous reflux?

Since valves can't be repaired, the only alternative is to re-route blood flow through healthy veins. Traditionally, this has been done by surgically removing (Stripping) the troublesome vein from your leg. The vein closure procedure provides a less invasive alternative to vein stripping by simply closing the problem vein instead. Once the disease vein is closed, other healthy veins take over and empty blood from your legs.



Is the procedure painful?

Most patients report feeling little, if any, pain during vein closures. Your physician will give you a local anesthetic to numb the treatment area along with IV sedation. After your procedure you may take over the counter Tylenol and Motrin to help ease any discomfort you may have.

How quickly after treatment can I return to normal activities? Can I work after?

Yes, you can work. Many patients can resume normal activities within 1-2 days. Walking is encouraged. No standing for long periods of time, strenuous activity or lifting over 20 lbs for 2 weeks following your closure.

How soon after treatment will my symptoms improve?

Most patients report noticeable improvement in their symptoms within 1-2 weeks following the procedure.

Is there any scarring, bruising, or swelling after the procedure?

Most patients report minimal scarring, bruising, or swelling following the procedure.

What happens to the treated vein left behind in the leg?

The vein becomes fibrous tissue after treatment. Over time, the vein will gradually incorporate into surrounding tissue. One study reported that 89% of treated veins are indistinguishable from other body tissue one year after vein closure was performed.

Where does the blood go if the vein is closed?

The blood is re-routed to the surrounding veins.

What do I do now?

Continue to wear your compression stockings. If appropriate, you can take over the counter anti-inflammatories (Motrin, Aleve, etc.) for swelling and pain. Elevate your legs when you can. Modify your activities if possible. If we are waiting on authorization/cost analysis from your insurance, please be patient, and we will call you as soon as we receive the authorization/information from your health insurance.

Thank you for allowing us to participate in your healthcare needs.