

Problems with unsightly veins are very common and their incidence increases significantly after the age of 40. The causes of varicose veins are widespread although heredity is the most common factor. Hormonal changes play a large part and this probably explains why more women suffer from varicose veins than men. Other contributory factors include obesity and prolonged standing.

Varicose veins occur when veins do not properly return blood from the lower leg to the heart. When the valves in the veins fail to function properly, blood leaks back through the valves and flows in the wrong direction. The blood overfills and distends the superficial veins under the skin, resulting in the bulging seen in varicose veins.

The walls and valves of veins are thin and elastic, and can stretch due to a variety of conditions including pregnancy, heredity and age. When varicose veins become severe, it is referred to as chronic venous insufficiency and the symptoms include aching pain, leg fatigue and heaviness, all of which worsen as the day progresses. Left untreated, chronic venous insufficiency can cause ulcerations, which can be very difficult to treat.



### Laser technology now offers a new, less invasive procedure to remove varicose veins.

Endovenous laser treatments work by thermally affecting and thus closing the vein. Laser energy is delivered to the desired location inside the vein through an optical fiber a catheter. Small incisions are made to create a catheter entry and exit hole through which the laser fiber is passed along. When the laser is fired, it causes the vein wall to shrink and seal shut. The healthy veins that surround the now closed vein can then restore the normal flow of blood to the treated area. The laser is repeatedly fired as the laser fiber is gradually withdrawn along the course of the vein until the entire vessel has been treated.



Ask your practitioner  
about endovenous laser treatments

Advantages of endovenous  
laser treatment:

less invasive



lower complication rate



well tolerated by patients



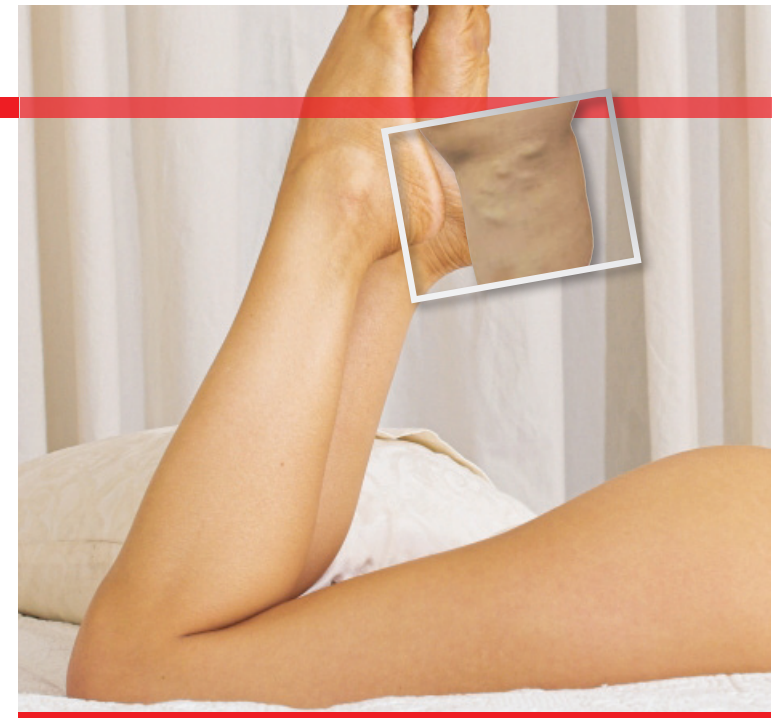
quick recovery time



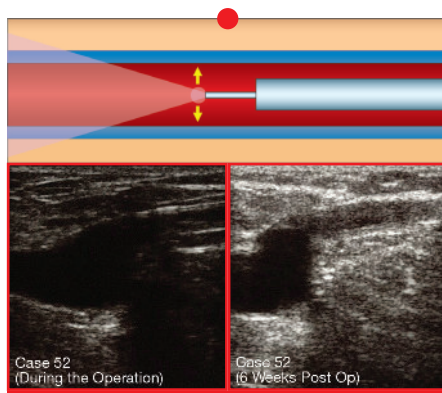
good cosmetic results, no scarring



effective on large truncal veins in the legs



# Endovenous Laser Treatment



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