



## THE VENOUS SYSTEM

The venous system is made up of a network of veins, including:

- Deep Veins – larger veins located deep in the leg (main source of blood return).
- Superficial Veins – veins located closer to the surface of the skin (treated with catheter).
- Perforator Veins – veins that connect the superficial veins to the deep veins.
- Varicose Veins – large “rope like” veins protruding under skin.
- Spider Veins – small bluish to red veins on the surface of the skin.

The ClosureFAST™ procedure treats venous reflux disease in the superficial venous system, often the underlying cause of painful varicose and spider veins.

## UNDERSTANDING VENOUS REFLUX DISEASE

Healthy leg veins contain valves that open and close to assist the return of blood back to the heart. Venous reflux disease develops when the valves that keep blood flowing out of the legs and back to the heart become damaged or diseased. As a result, vein valves are spread further apart and they will not close properly, leading to symptoms of:

• Painful/aching legs	• Skin changes
• Heaviness and fatigue	• Varicose and/or Spider Veins
• Cramping or Restless legs	• Leg ulcers
• Leg and/or ankle swelling	

## WHAT IS THE VNUS CLOSURE PROCEDURE/ VENOUS ABLATION?

- The closure procedure is performed on an outpatient basis. Using ultrasound, the physician team will position the ClosureFAST™ catheter into the diseased vein through a small opening in the skin. The tiny catheter powered by radiofrequency (RF) energy delivers heat to the vein wall. As the thermal energy is delivered, the vein wall shrinks and the vein is sealed. Once the diseased vein is closed, blood is re-routed to other healthy veins.
- Following the procedure, a simple bandage is placed over the insertion site (no sutures are needed), and additional compression bandages will be applied to assist healing. You are encouraged to walk, however refrain from extended standing and strenuous activities for a week. Most patients who undergo the ClosureFAST™ procedure typically resume normal activities that day.
- Compression stockings will be required for you to wear during day time for only 2 weeks.

## **WHAT IS THE PHLEBECTOMY PROCEDURE?**

- Varicose veins are sometimes still prominent after your VNUS Ablation procedure. In this case they will need to be removed in the second stage of your procedures. Small 1-2 millimeter micro punctures will be made along the vein path. The vein will be gently removed from the leg. The vein will no longer be bulging from your skin.
- Small steri-strips will be placed over each opening and a compression bandage will be applied. To minimize bleeding risk, only light activity for the next 24 hours. Just short of bed rest.
- Compression stockings will be required for you to wear during day time only for up to 1 week.

## **WHAT IS SCLEROTHERAPY?**

- Sclerotherapy is the chemical treatment of spider veins on the surface of the skin. A very small needle will be inserted into the veins and a sclerosing (medication) agent will be injected eliminate these veins from the inside.
- These veins can take a few weeks to several months to completely resolve. Patients can usually expect 50 – 80% improvement.
- Compression bandages will be applied to assist healing for first 24 hours.
- Compression stockings will be required for you to wear during day time only for 1 week.

## **AFTER YOUR TREATMENT**

After your procedure you will need to wear compression stockings during the day only for a period of up to two weeks depending on your treatment. You will also be given a list with your post-operative instructions. If you have any further questions regarding your procedure and post-operative care, please contact our office at 941-744-1200.