

Varicose Veins?



Finally a solution
for your legs!

Richmond Vein Center

Richmond Vein Center Offers Painless Solutions for Troublesome Varicose Veins.

If you experience discomfort, swelling, heaviness, fatigue or **varicose veins** in your legs, you may be suffering from superficial venous reflux, also known as superficial venous insufficiency. Approximately 25 million people in the United States suffer from this condition. Traditionally, patients who were diagnosed with venous reflux had few options other than painful vein stripping. Now Dr. Charles Gould and Dr. Jeffrey Chen of Richmond Vein Center provide the most current and least invasive office treatments of varicose veins that involves little or no pain.

What Causes Varicose Veins?

The network of veins in your legs serves to return blood back to the heart. Each vein contains small valves that help return the blood to your heart. Varicose veins occur when these valves become damaged or diseased, causing the backward flow of blood in the legs. This condition, known as venous reflux, leads to pain, swelling and varicose veins. Serious cases of venous reflux can result in skin discoloration and ulceration, which may require more complex treatments.

Superficial venous reflux disease is progressive – symptoms will worsen over time if left untreated.



Healthy Vein Valves
& Correct Blood Flow

Damaged Vein Valve
& Incorrect Blood Flow

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 valves that keep blood flowing out of the legs and back to the heart become damaged or diseased. As a result, vein valves will not close properly, leading to symptoms of:



- *Varicose veins*
- *Leg heaviness and fatigue*
- *Pain*
- *Skin changes and skin ulcers*
- *Swollen limbs*
- *Spider veins*

Walk Away from Leg Pain and Varicose Veins.

Diagnosis Is Key

Each case begins with a complete review of the patient's history and symptoms. After a thorough physical examination of the legs, the patient is given a Doppler ultrasound examination to identify the specific areas of venous reflux. Now the physician is able to determine exactly how the venous reflux developed and select the most effective method of treatment.

Once the diseased vein is closed, blood flow is redirected to healthy veins, reestablishing a normal flow of blood in the legs. When the physician removes the catheter, he places a bandage over the insertion site. Patients are then instructed to walk regularly, wear compression stockings and avoid long periods of standing for several days after the procedure to speed their recovery. Since scarring, bruising and swelling are minimal, most patients are able to resume their everyday activities – either at home or at work – typically in 1-2 days.

Clinical studies show that the Closure Procedure significantly improves patients' symptoms of leg discomfort, swelling and pain in just 1-2 weeks after the procedure, with 90% of patients reporting durable relief from these symptoms. In fact, 98% of patients who have undergone the Closure Procedure are willing to recommend it to a friend or family member.

Ambulatory Phlebectomy

This minimally invasive surgical technique treats mid-size varicose veins, which are too small for the Closure Procedure. Using a special set of instruments, the physician removes the abnormal vein through a tiny incision. The procedure takes place under local anesthesia, usually lasting less than an hour. Patients recover very quickly with no interruption of their regular activities.

Injection Sclerotherapy

This technique treats the very smallest veins, including spider veins. An extremely fine needle is used to inject a special solution into the vein, destroying the vein wall. Several sessions may be necessary to treat all of the areas of concern.

Three Treatment Plans. One Is Right for You.

After diagnosis, each patient receives a customized treatment plan designed for his/her specific pattern of abnormality.

The physician may choose to incorporate one or more of the following treatments in the plan:

- *VNUS Closure Procedure*
- *Ambulatory Phlebectomy*
- *Injection Sclerotherapy*

The Closure Procedure, State-of-the-Art Technology for an Age-Old Disease

The VNUS Closure Procedure provides a less invasive alternative to traditional methods by closing the diseased vein instead of stripping it out of the leg. The Closure Procedure is performed on an outpatient basis, using local anesthesia to numb the treatment area. The physician inserts a thin catheter (slightly thicker than a spaghetti strand) into the vein through a small opening. Radiofrequency (RF) energy is transmitted through the catheter to the vein wall, which causes it to collapse and seal shut.



Disposable catheter
inserted into vein



Vein heats
and collapses



Catheter withdrawn,
closing vein

Appointments

All patients with surgical emergencies can expect to be seen the same day. Appointments for elective problems will be scheduled within one week. Every effort will be made to accommodate your schedule because we understand that your time is just as valuable as ours.

Insurance

We accept all major insurances including: Aetna, Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield, CIGNA, First Health Network, MAMSI, Medicare, Medicaid, One Health Plan, PHCS, Sentara Health System, Southern Health Services, TRICARE, Unicare, United Healthcare, VA Premier Health Plan and Virginia Health Network.

Your insurance company determines coverage on a per case basis, depending on medical necessity. Our business manager will be happy to discuss your coverage with you after your consultation. To schedule an appointment, please call **(804) 249-VEIN (8346)**.



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