



Endovenous Laser Ablation Patient Kit

Thank you for choosing Advanced Vein Center for your care. We look forward to participating in the treatment of your veins. The following is a list of commonly asked questions with answers. If you would like to discuss any of the following or have any unanswered questions, please feel free to contact our office.

For billing and payment questions, please contact Lisa at 719.955.9128 (ext. 212).

VARICOSE VEIN

What are Varicose Veins?

Varicose veins are dysfunctional/incompetent veins in the lower extremities. Vein wall injury allows the vein to elongate and dilate, leading to an increase in vein diameter, valve dysfunction, reflux, and the visual manifestations of varicose veins.

What causes Varicose Veins?

It is currently believed that a dysfunctional venous system can result from injury to vein walls and venous valves. This type of injury entails acquired severe inflammation exacerbated by factors such as heredity, obesity, female gender, pregnancy and a standing occupation.

What is Endovenous Laser Ablation (EVLA)?

This is a well-tested procedure that replaces vein stripping. Under duplex ultrasound guidance, a laser fiber is inserted into the dysfunctional vein and positioned at the base of the terminal valve. Laser energy is then delivered to the tip of the fiber while it is slowly withdrawn. This process enables shrinkage and ultimately closure of the vein wall.

If you would like to watch a video of Dr. Hoyle performing an EVLA, please visit our website: www.ocveinmd.com and click on the "Video of Vein Laser" tap on the left. Your browser will be directed to our video page where you'll find two video screens. Simply click on the bottom screen to view "*Closure Procedure for Varicose Veins of the Thigh by Dr. Hoyle*".

What should I expect on the day of EVLA?

The EVLA is done in our office with local anesthesia. The procedure usually takes an hour and is well tolerated by most patients. You can drive yourself to and from our office. However, if you're anxious and have a driver, we can dispense a sedative that will help relax you and make the procedure more pleasant.

What is the success ratio of EVLA?

Generally, EVLA is only required once in any single vein. According to statistics compiled by the American College of Phlebology, long-term results in patients treated with EVLT demonstrate a recurrence rate of less than 7% at 2-year follow up.

What is compression therapy?

Compression therapy such as compression stockings is a fundamental strategy in the treatment of venous dysfunction. Despite recent therapeutic advancements in leg vein treatment, compression remains a simple, effective, and inexpensive modality. It is used as a primary treatment as well as an adjunct when other treatments are employed.

Classes of compression stockings		
Compression Class	Pressure (mmHg)	Common Indications
0	10-20	Mild functional venous insufficiency
I	20-30	Chronic venous insufficiency, symptomatic varicose veins, DVT
II	30-40	Symptomatic varicose veins, DVT, venous ulcers
III	40-50	Venous ulcers

How long do I need to wear the compression stocking after EVLA?

One week - the appropriate compression stocking will be put on for you at the end of your EVLA. It must stay on continuously for 48 hours and be kept dry. After that, for 5 days, it will need to be put on each morning but can be removed at bedtime. Please see After Care instructions for a more detailed summary of post-operative care.

Possible complications of treatment

- Brown discoloration of skin – some patients may develop brown spots or streaks after EVLA. In most cases, this resolves 6-12 months after treatment. In rare cases, this discoloration may be permanent.
- Phlebitis, inflammation and clot within a vein may occur after EVLT. Generally this will resolve with anti-inflammatory medication and compression of the area. It is possible for a clot in a deep vein to develop after treatment, although this is extremely unlikely.
- Injection of the local anesthetic (lidocaine with epinephrine) may result in an allergic reaction if you are sensitive to this medication.
- New spider veins may form in a treated area. Most of these will resolve within a year. Occasionally, treatment of these new veins will be required.
- The bandage or compression stocking may cause a rash, blisters, or skin irritation.

Duration and nature of recovery phase.

- **Pain, bruising and swelling** are common after surgical procedures and will range from a minor annoyance for a few days to a major problem for weeks depending the area to be treated and your body's reaction to surgical trauma.

SINECCH is a homeopathic medicine that can reduce pain, bruising and swelling in patients recovering from surgery. Enclosed you will find a tri-fold of SINECCH. Please speak with our staff if you have any questions in relation to this product which we dispense for \$30.

- **Pain** along the course of the treated vein is common and usually responds to walking, wearing compression hose or NSAIDS (such as Ibuprofen, Aleve and Aspirin).
- **Numbness** along the course of the treated vein may occur immediately following treatment. This usually resolves completely over several months.
- **Tender lumps** may indicate the presence of trapped, broken-down blood within a treated vein. Please contact our office if you notice lumps around the treated area. This blood may need to be removed during an office visit.
- **After Care instructions** are attached. Please review them and contact our office if you have any questions.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- **Cash Patients** – Full payment will be collected on the day of procedure. We accept Cash, Checks (up to \$500), American Express, Master Card, Visa & Discover.
- **Insurance Patients** – Whilst we verify insurance eligibility and benefit coverage on your behalf, we do not have access to your insurance's database. To that end, our verifications are done on a best effort basis. Patients are encouraged to independently verify their insurance coverage and co-pay for more expensive procedures such as the EVLA. When contacting your insurance, ask them what your co-payment will be for CPT 36478 (billing code for EVLA) when done in a doctor's office.