

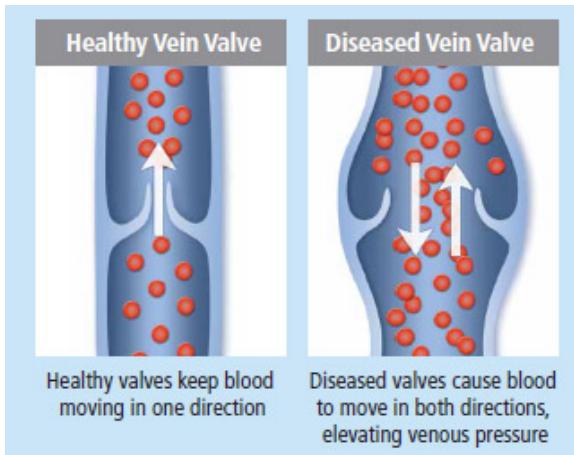
Ambulatory Phlebectomy

Treatment for Tortuous Varicose Veins

What Causes Tortuous Varicose Veins?

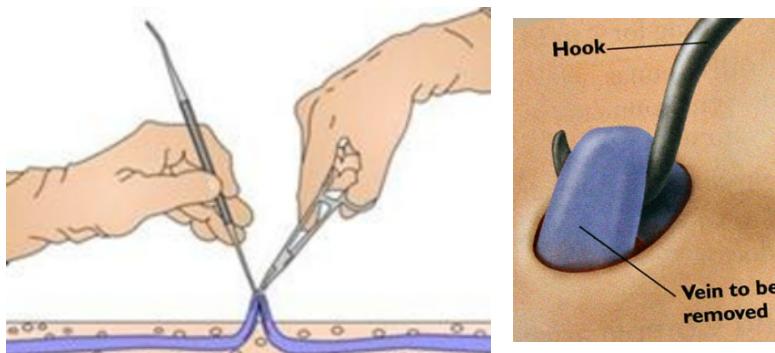
Abnormal Vein Valves

Blood in the legs normally flows towards the heart. The direction of flow is maintained by valves in the veins which prevent the blood from flowing backwards. If the valves do not close properly blood is allowed to flow backwards. The blood then "pools" in the veins causing added pressure that stretches the walls of the veins enlarging them. These veins are known as Varicose Veins.



What is Ambulatory Phlebectomy?

Ambulatory phlebectomy is a minimally invasive surgical technique used to treat varicose veins just under the skin. The abnormal vein is removed through a tiny incision or incisions, using a special set of tools. Often, the incisions are so small that at two months, they are hardly visible, and at six months, no signs of surgery can be found. In contrast to sclerotherapy of large varicose veins, ambulatory phlebectomy minimizes the risks of intra-arterial injection, skin necrosis, and residual hyperpigmentation.



A small incision is made overlying the vein to be treated and it is removed.

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Is Ambulatory Phlebectomy Painful?

Ambulatory phlebectomy is performed under local anesthesia or sedation patients should not feel any pain during the procedure. After surgery, discomfort should also be minimal to none, especially if compression stockings are worn as directed by your physician.

Is there down time associated with this procedure?

Temporary bruising and swelling of the treated area are typical side effects and is minimized with compression stockings. The small incisions heal well without sutures. You can walk immediately after surgery and carry on normal daily activities except for high impact exercise and heavy lifting. A list of any other restrictions will be given to you in your post-op paperwork.

Are there alternatives to the procedure?

Traditional venous ligation is a method used where the vein is interrupted rather than removed, leading to relatively high recurrence rates. With ambulatory phlebectomy, the small size of the skin incision or puncture usually results in little or no scarring. Due to the tortuous nature of varicose veins Radiofrequency are not always a viable alternative. Ultrasound guided Sclerotherapy can be used in some cases or in conjunction with Phlebectomy.

