

RADIOFREQUENCY VENOUS CLOSURE PROCEDURE

General Information

Radiofrequency venous closure is a procedure to treat venous insufficiency. Healthy veins have valves that open and close to help carry blood back to your heart. When the valves in your leg veins are damaged, blood begins to pool in your lower legs. As a result, your veins have trouble carrying blood from your legs back to your heart. In time, this causes venous insufficiency. You may have pain, swelling and/or have developed varicose veins in your legs. Varicose veins are enlarged veins that can be dark purple to blue. They look twisted and are raised above the surface of the skin (bulging). Some of the veins can also be bluish-green and look marbled. Varicose veins are commonly found on the inside of the leg or on the back of the calves.

Before the Procedure

- Arrange to have someone drive you home after the procedure. You will have a medicine that will make you sleepy and you will not be able to drive. **If you do not have someone to drive you home, your procedure will be canceled.**
- Take your medicines as usual the day of your procedure.
- Your health care provider will tell you if you can eat or drink before the procedure. Do not drink alcohol.
- Wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothing.
- You will need to sign a consent form.

During the Procedure

- You will be given a medicine to help you relax. The medicine will not put you to sleep.
- You will lie on an exam table.
- You will be given a local anesthetic (medicine) to numb the area.
- A catheter (thin, flexible tube) is inserted into the damaged vein.
- Heat energy (either radiofrequency or laser) passes through the catheter to the vein wall.
- The heat will cause the vein to close. When the damaged vein is closed, the healthy veins will empty the blood from your legs.

After the Procedure

- The catheter will be removed, and a dressing (tape and gauze bandage) will be placed on the treatment area.
- You may feel mild pain or tightness in your inner thigh. You will be given a prescription for mild pain medicine. Take it as directed.
- You will need to elevate (raise) your treated leg after your procedure for the rest of the day. Put your leg on pillows until your foot is at a level higher than your heart. You will need to be in this position so the swelling stays down and your wounds can heal.
- It is important to get up each hour and walk around for a few minutes, you do not have to walk in the middle of the night.