

Notes from Dr. Gould about VNUS® Closure®

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Charles F. Gould, MD, offers Closure® Option for Venous Reflux

I have been performing the minimally invasive Closure® procedure by VNUS® Medical Technologies, Inc., since November 2005, to provide quick relief of troublesome symptoms of venous reflux and varicose veins. We have performed over 500 cases.

How Closure Works

A tiny catheter is inserted into the vein through a small opening. Radiofrequency energy is transmitted through the catheter to the vein wall, which causes it to collapse and seal shut. Once the diseased vein is closed, other healthy veins take over and empty blood from the legs. As normal venous flow is re-established, symptoms including, pain, edema, cellulitis, leg ulcerations, and varicose veins improve dramatically.

CLOSURE® PROCEDURE OVERVIEW

The VNUS® Closure® procedure, an alternative to traditional vein stripping surgery, brings state-of-the-art technology to an age-old disease. It was first used clinically in 1999, and has been performed over 250,000 times worldwide. It is an outpatient procedure done in the office using local anesthesia.

The complete procedure takes 45 to 60 minutes. Following the treatment, patients are asked to wear compression stockings and refrain from long periods of standing for several days to help speed recovery. Most patients resume normal activities in 1 - 2 days.

Personalized Treatment

The Richmond Vein Center, a division of West End Surgical, is located on the Henrico Doctor's Hospital - Parham campus in Suite 102 of Medical Office Building III. The Richmond Vein Center exclusively treats patients with venous disorders, primarily of the legs, which include: varicose veins, painful aching leg syndromes, cellulitis and related venous skin ulcers, as well as spider veins.

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 specific areas of venous reflux or valve failure. That information enables the physician to determine exactly how the venous reflux developed and to select the most effective method of treatment.

After diagnosis, the patient receives a customized plan for his or her specific pattern of abnormality, which may incorporate one or more of the following treatments:

VNUS® Closure® procedure
Ambulatory Microphlebectomy
Injection Sclerotherapy

About Venous Reflux and Varicose Veins

Superficial venous reflux, experienced by approximately 2.5 million people in the U.S., often results in painful symptoms such as aching leg pain, fatigue, edema, and varicose veins. As we age, the veins in our legs begin to stretch and lose their elasticity.

Damaged or diseased venous valves allow the retrograde flow of unoxygenated blood to pool in overstretched veins. The resulting twisted, lumpy masses of blue veins bulging just beneath the skin surface are known as varicose veins. Following a Closure® procedure, the diseased segments of vein are sealed or closed off, re-routing blood to more normal drainage pathways to relieve symptoms and collapse the varicose veins.

Dr. Gould said, "The Closure® procedure has revolutionized the practice of venous therapy and brought the treatment of venous disease into the 21st century. This painless and simple 60-minute office procedure has become my treatment choice for venous reflux disease because it avoids incisions and results in immediate return to normal activities for most patients. Patient satisfaction has been overwhelmingly positive."

