

the CLOSURE procedure



incision is made at the upper calf. The stripping device is then tied to the vein, which is then pulled out through the second incision. This typically causes significant bruising and can create post-operative pain, nerve damage and poor short-term cosmetic outcomes.

a minimally invasive treatment for the
underlying cause of varicose veins

BY THOMAS ESKEW, MD

The Closure® procedure is an outpatient (day surgery) treatment now offered at Wilmington Surgical Associates by Doctors Ellis Tinsley Jr. and Thomas Eskew.

Historically, patients have had several choices for treating varicose veins, depending on the severity. They could make lifestyle changes, such as eating less, exercising more and wearing support hose. This regimen has proven helpful in somewhat reducing leg pain and further deterioration of the vein, particularly in mild cases. But sooner or later most patients return to their previous lifestyles, and thus their previous symptoms typically re-occur.

Patients could also have the visible, varicose veins removed in a procedure called "phlebectomy." This surgical technique was developed in the 1950s. A specially trained physician removes diseased veins through a series of very small punctures or incisions with a variety of specialized hooks. However, phlebectomy alone does not address the incompetent valves in the saphenous vein that created the problem and can cause varicose veins to recur.

Some physicians thus advocate the removal, or stripping, of the saphenous vein. By removing the saphenous vein, blood is diverted to other veins with competent valves. In many cases, stripping eliminates the pain associated with varicose veins and greatly reduces their potential for recurrence without the need for further intervention. Stripping involves making an incision in the groin region and surgically tying off the top of the saphenous vein. An instrument resembling a thin rod with a bulbous end is then inserted into the saphenous vein and passed through to the upper calf. Another

WHAT IS VNUS CLOSURE:

The Closure® System was developed over a four year period to treat superficial venous reflux. This patented technology uses a very small catheter and radiofrequency energy to occlude, or seal shut, the saphenous vein. The physician typically makes a single, small incision near the knee and inserts the slender Closure catheter into the saphenous vein. The catheter is then positioned near the groin, energized and slowly withdrawn, sealing the vein shut. There are no stitches and most patients return to normal activity within a day or two. Recent published studies found that at 12 and 24 months following the Closure procedure, 90% of treated veins remained reflux free and a significant reduction of limb pain, fatigue and edema was observed. In one study, which also assessed patient satisfaction at 6 months, 98% of patients indicated they would recommend Closure to a friend with similar leg vein problems.

Like other venous procedures, the Closure procedure involves risks and potential complications. Each patient should consult their doctor to determine whether or not they are a candidate for this procedure, and if their condition presents any special risks. Complications reported in medical literature include numbness or tingling (paresthesia), skin burns, blood clots and temporary tenderness in the treated limb.

For more information on the Closure procedure, or to find out if you are a candidate for the procedure, contact Dr. Thomas Eskew at 910-763-7363 or log on to www.vnus.com. Dr. Eskew is board certified in both General Surgery and Vascular Surgery by the American Board of Surgery.



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