



INFORMED CONSENT FOR EVLT ENDO VENOUS LASER THERAPY

Note: Varicose Veins and Spider Veins are chronic and recurrent conditions. The variety of treatments available will not offer a cure, but rather a control of the condition. Surgically removed veins cannot come back; veins that are sclerosed will not return. However, your tendency towards developing new veins will not be relieved by this or any other form of treatment.

What is EVLT?

EVLT is a system that uses a laser to close off the affected vein. After a local anesthetic is injected into your leg, a laser fiber is inserted into the vein under ultrasound guidance and advanced to the end of the vein. Additional local anesthetic is then injected surrounding the whole area of vein to be treated. Once the anesthetic is placed, and adequate position of the laser is demonstrated by ultrasound, the laser is turned and pulled back through the vein and out. Following the procedure, a small Band-Aid is placed of the laser entry site and a compression stocking is placed on your leg.

Risks and Possible Side Effects

Side effects that may occur with Endo Venous Laser Therapy include:

Allergic reaction: Very rarely, a patient may have an allergic reaction to the anesthetic agent. The risk of this is greater in patients who have a history of allergies.

Pain: Patients may experience mild to moderate pain following the procedure. The leg may be tender to the touch after treatment. This pain is usually well controlled by Ibuprofen or Tylenol.

Ankle Swelling: This may occur after treating veins in the leg. It usually resolves in a few days but may last a few weeks, especially after treatment of large varicose veins. Wearing the prescribed compression hose lessens ankle swelling.

Skin Burns: Utilizing laser therapy carries a rare risk of skin burns, which may require further treatment.

Damage to the eyes: Laser therapy carries a risk of damage to the unprotected eye. You will be provided with safety goggles to protect your eyes.

Deep Vein Thrombosis is a blood clot in a deep vein and is a rare complication. The dangers include the possibility of pulmonary embolus (a blood clot carried to the lungs) and post phlebitic syndrome, resulting in a permanent swelling of the leg.

Infection: Any invasive medical procedure carries a risk of infection.

Transient bruising: Patients who have had Endo Venous Laser Therapy may notice some discoloration after treatment. This discoloration is almost always transient and will resolve in about three months. In rare cases this darkening of the skin may persist up to a year.

Alternative Treatments

Because varicose veins and spider veins are not life-threatening conditions, treatment is not mandatory in every patient. Some patients get adequate relief of symptoms from wearing compression hose. Surgical stripping may also be used to treat large varicose veins. This usually is performed as an outpatient in the hospital. Surgical stripping is more invasive and can have a longer recovery period up to 6 weeks longer than treatment with EVLT. The other option is to receive no treatment at all.

Informed Consent

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the above information and understand the risks, possible side effects, alternative methods of treatment, and consent to treatment with EVLT.

I consent to the local anesthesia to be administered. I am aware that risks are involved with the administration of local anesthesia such as allergic or toxic reactions to the anesthetic and cardiac arrest.

I am aware that in addition to the minor risks, there are other risks that may accompany any surgical procedure, such as loss of blood, infection, and inflammation in the venous system with formation of a thrombus (clot), postoperative bleeding, and nerve trauma that may lead to temporary or permanent numbness.

PROPOSED TREATMENT RESULTS

The practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science, and therefore, reputable practitioners cannot guarantee results. While the overwhelming numbers of patients have noted gratifying symptomatic and cosmetic improvement, we cannot promise or guarantee any specific result.

Patient Signature _____ Date _____

Physician Signature _____ Date _____

Witness Signature _____ Date _____