



New treatment for Varicose Veins

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the care of your patients. I take great pride in addressing your patients' chronic venous insufficiency and restoring their legs to normal function and appearance.

I am pleased to announce that my practice now offers **Endovenous Laser Treatment (ELT)** for your patients with varicose veins. FDA approved in 2002, ELT is safe, effective and covered by most insurance companies. This allows many patients who might have been unable to afford treatment before, to seek relief now.

ELT is a quick, minimally invasive procedure that requires no surgery or hospitalization. It is performed under ultrasound guidance and involves the insertion of a catheter in the distal portion of the Greater Saphenous Vein. A laser fiber is then threaded through the catheter to the Saphenofemoral Junction. The laser is activated as it is slowly withdrawn, injuring the endothelial lining of the vein and causing the lumen of the vein to close. The procedure generally takes less than sixty minutes and your patient can resume essentially all normal activity, except vigorous exercise, later that day.

Within a few weeks of treatment, the patient returns for a full ultrasound evaluation of the lower extremity venous system. During this visit, any remaining refluxing collateral venous segments that remain will be treated with duplex ultrasound guided foam Sclerotherapy. It is the combination of these two procedures that provides a complete and satisfactory outcome for the patient.

Offering both ELT and the COMPASSSM protocol of sequential ultrasound-guided foam Sclerotherapy allows us to meet the specific needs of each patient. If you would like to learn more about ELT, please call me at 800-660-8346. I would be happy to visit your office or, if you'd like to observe this new technology, we can arrange that as well.

It's a pleasure to share this exciting news with you.