



Treating Venous Pump Failure: Preliminary Appraisal of 20 years Clinical Experience

The following is an abstract of our latest research regarding the treatment of **venous stasis ulcers** presented at the *British Royal Society of Medicine's Venous Forum Meeting*. We hope this will be beneficial to you when assisting patients with this condition.

Objective:

Venous stasis ulcer is a major public health problem in the U.S. Subcutaneous endoscopic perforator surgery, tissue graft, hyperbaric oxygen and granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor therapy have remained experimental. There is a need for minimally invasive effective therapies. Ambulatory below knee (BK) compression aggressively counters the impact of reflux on venous pump failure and is complemented by sequential ultrasound-guided sclerotherapy.

Methods:

Eighteen U.S. centers were studied retrospectively. 1,142 leg ulcer cases from 1984 to 2004 were available.

Inclusion: CEAP class 6, evidence of chronic venous insufficiency, photograph, treated with ambulatory compression and sclerotherapy.

Exclusion: Arterial disease, DM and varicose surgery.

Outcomes: CEAP classification, sustained healing (> 6 months), DVT and amputation incidence.

Comprehensive objective mapping (Phlebology 2003; 4:173-185) was used to quantify reflux.

Results:

To date, data from 123 patients are available (62M: 61F). The sexes were of comparable age and the mean duration of ulcer was 4.98 months. Most ulcers, 101 (82%) were in the gaiter area. Ambulatory compression was applied every 2.7 days for 4.7 months.

In a majority of active ulcers, 75/103 (73%) showed evidence of healing after compression. After 5 sclerotherapy treatments 86/103 (83%) had sustained healing. None had DVT or required amputation at the last follow up but 23/103 (22%) had recurrent reflux, which required sequential sclerotherapy.

Conclusion:

Non-elastic BK ambulatory compression with ultrasound-guided sclerotherapy appears to be a highly efficacious in venous stasis ulcer management. Detailed survey planned to estimate long-term outcomes.