



Endovenous Laser Ablation



Overview

This therapy uses laser light to treat a varicose vein from within. It seals the enlarged vein and causes it to shrink. And it may ease things like the aching, burning and cramping caused by a varicose vein.

Preparation

To begin, you may be given medicine to make you feel relaxed. You lie comfortably on a table, and we inject medicine to numb your vein. Then, we make a small opening in your skin. We insert a tube called a "catheter" into your vein. With the help of ultrasound, we guide the catheter through your vein and into the proper position.

Treating your vein

Now it's time to treat your vein. We do this with a flexible laser device that goes through the catheter. We activate the laser and carefully pull it back through your vein. It heats the vein's walls, causing the walls to close up. When the vein closes, blood that would normally flow through it diverts to other, healthier veins. As you heal, your vein will shrink.

Conclusion

When it's done, we bandage the opening in your skin. We watch you as you become alert. We may encourage you to get up and walk around before you go home. You may need to wear bandages or compression stockings as you heal. Follow your care plan for a safe recovery.