



What is microphlebectomy?

Microphlebectomy is an outpatient medical procedure that is used to treat painful, unattractive varicose veins that are located close to the skin's surface. The procedure is ideal for treating veins that are too large to treat with sclerotherapy and too small to safely and successfully treat with laser procedures.

How does microphlebectomy work?

Microphlebectomy uses a series of tiny incisions – each one about the size of the tip of a ballpoint pen – to remove portions of the vein which is malfunctioning, causing pain and unsightly bulging. By removing certain sections of the vein, the areas of the vein which are not removed will “clot off,” eliminating the bulging, purplish areas for good.

What are the advantages of microphlebectomy over other similar procedures?

Microphlebectomy offers several benefits over other procedures. Generally speaking, microphlebectomy:

- Is minimally invasive
- Requires only local anesthesia
- Requires little-to-no downtime, allowing most men and women to resume normal activities right after their procedure

Who is a candidate for microphlebectomy?

Any man or woman who has unsightly varicose veins which are close to the skin's surface is a potential candidate for the microphlebectomy procedure.

How is the procedure performed?

Your specialist will mark the area to be treated to determine where the tiny openings should be made. Then the area will be given a local anesthetic. Once the area of the vein is numb, your specialist will make a few tiny incisions along the length of the vein to be removed, inserting a tiny hook to "grab" the vein so that it may be removed. Once the procedure is completed, a dressing will be placed on the site. Most procedures take about 30-45 minutes to perform.

What is the recovery like?

Most individuals are able to return to their normal routines immediately following the procedure. Daily walking is recommended, although strenuous activities should be avoided for 5 to 7 days. Compression stockings or dressings are usually worn for a week after microphlebectomy.

What will my results be like?

Initials results will be visible soon after your procedure, and will become more evident once the initial bruising resolves. Because only tiny incisions are made, there is virtually no scarring.

What are the risks?

There may be some temporary and mild discomfort or bruising for a day or two at the treatment site. A very few individuals may experience minor injury to the tiny nerves just beneath the surface of the skin which are located near the area where the vein was removed. These injured nerves usually heal with time. Most individuals take Tylenol or Motrin to relieve any discomfort.