

Welcome

CharlotteRadiology

Vein Centers



WELCOME TO CHARLOTTE RADIOLOGY VEIN CENTERS

While we know you're excited to get started on your vein treatments, we understand that you likely have some questions. We are committed to patient care, and our team will be by your side throughout your entire patient journey.

Charlotte Radiology has been treating varicose and spider veins since 2001.

OUR DOCTORS ARE SUBSPECIALIZED IN VEIN AND VASCULAR DIAGNOSES AND TREATMENTS, WHICH MEANS THEY HAVE THE ADVANCED TRAINING AND EXPERTISE NECESSARY TO TREAT YOUR VEIN DISEASE AT ITS SOURCE.

So, you can rest easy knowing you're in the very best hands.

In this folder we'll provide you with a wealth of information about your upcoming treatments, how to prepare and what to expect. And our team is always available to answer any additional questions you may have.

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING CHARLOTTE RADIOLOGY FOR YOUR VEIN HEALTH NEEDS.

*In good health,
Your dedicated Vein Center team*



"The staff is absolutely AMAZING! Everyone that worked with me, in any way, provided empathy, compassion, care, AND EXCELLENT outstanding skilled treatment."

– JULIE K. CHARLOTTE RADIOLOGY VEIN CENTER PATIENT

ONLINE PATIENT PORTAL LOG-IN



Username: _____



Password: _____

Patient Story: Meet Catherine

CharlotteRadiology

Vein Centers



CATHERINE'S STORY

Catherine has suffered with vein disease since the 7th grade. She had visible spider veins on both legs that she disliked and was searching for a quick fix. She tried laser and sclerotherapy solutions at several specialist offices over the years, but to no avail. When she came to Charlotte Radiology, she quickly learned that her spider veins were caused by a deeper vein issue and, to visually improve the look of her legs, she needed to treat the deeper vein issue.

Through consultation and ultrasound, it was determined that Catherine needed 5 veins treated (3 in one leg, 2 in the other) to appropriately dull her symptoms and reduce the appearance of her spider veins. She completed EVLT (endovenous laser treatment)-a quick, minimally invasive laser therapy-followed by medical sclerotherapy.

"IT WAS AWESOME. THEIR LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE GOES BEYOND EXPECTATION, AND THEY ARE SO COMPASSIONATE AND NURTURING. IT MADE ME WANT TO JOIN THEIR TEAM!"

She walked for exercise and resumed regular workouts after being cleared two weeks later. A few months later, she completed her medical sclerotherapy, where a strong liquid agent is injected into the spider vein, causing the vein walls to seal shut. Only one leg was performed at a time, scheduled about three weeks apart, with compression stockings worn for 7 days after each treatment. She also completed decompression post-sclerotherapy, which releases any pooled blood from the treated veins, decreasing pressure build up.

The most valuable part of the experience, in Catherine's eyes, was the education she gained from the team about the treatment process, how to treat appropriately and why you should treat your veins at the source.

You can read Catherine's personal vein journey on her blog at catherineorgan.com/blog.



CATHERINE'S TREATMENT PROCESS INCLUDED:

-  EVLT: 3 veins one leg/2 veins one leg
-  Medical Sclerotherapy both legs
-  Decompression
-  Cosmetic Sclerotherapy

"NOW THAT I AM ALMOST 8 WEEKS OUT FROM THE TREATMENTS, I CAN REALLY SEE A DIFFERENCE IN THE APPEARANCE OF MY LEGS."

Note: This testimonial is singular to this patient only. Other patient experiences, treatment plans and outcomes may vary.

INITIAL PATIENT VISIT

- Initial ultrasound for vein mapping
- Consult with subspecialized doctor
- Diagnosis and treatment plan

Timing: Typically within one month of initial call



VENOUS DOPPLER ULTRASOUND

- Detailed ultrasound to check the deeper veins
- Insurance requirement to rule out Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)
- Measures reflux time (blood flow reversal) on the veins that were recommended for treatment

Timing: Within a conservative therapy timeframe; exact timing varies with insurance

RE-CONSULT WITH DOCTOR (PHONE CALL)

- Assesses progress with compression stockings and documents completion of conservative therapy
- Answer any additional questions patient may have prior to treatment

Timing: 0-12 weeks from consult after conservative therapy timeframe has been completed (depends on insurance policy requirements)

ENDOVENOUS LASER TREATMENT (EVLT) WITH DOCTOR

- Treatment of the deeper, or saphenous, veins using laser heat to reroute blood flow
- Number of treatments varies per patient
- Sedation medication available but optional* (if sedation is taken, patient will need a driver present)
- Compression stockings must be worn for one week post treatment
- No strenuous exercise or heavy lifting for two weeks
- Airline travel is at doctor discretion based on individual patient assessment for two weeks post-procedure

Timing: Varies based on insurance but averages, 2-4 months from date of consult. Performed approximately once per month



*typically Valium® or Xanax® based on patient

EVLT FOLLOW-UP ULTRASOUND

- Meet with ultrasound tech to confirm treatment was successful with no complications
- Note residual varicose veins
- Appointment takes about 30 minutes

Timing: 1-2 weeks after each EVLT treatment

MEDICAL SCLEROTHERAPY WITH DOCTOR OR ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDER

- Treats veins branching off of deeper veins
- Number of treatments varies per patient
- One leg treated at a time
- Sedation medication available but optional
- Compression stockings must be worn for one week post treatment
- No strenuous exercise or heavy lifting for 3 days
- Airline travel is at doctor discretion on a per patient basis for two weeks post-procedure
- Avoid sun exposure for 2-3 months on average to prevent staining into the skin

Timing: Treatment begins after EVLT. It is performed 1-2 times/month. Most patients need 1-2 sessions per leg. Most insurance companies allow up to 3 sessions per leg



DECOMPRESSIONS (OPTIONAL)

- After sclerotherapy, some veins may feel enlarged, painful and/or firm due to compressed blood in the treated vein, which is normal
- Pressure is relieved by inserting a needle in the vein and relieving the trapped blood
- Can also help with staining, or discoloration

Timing: varies by patient after medical sclerotherapy appointment

COSMETIC SCLEROTHERAPY FOR SPIDER VEINS

- Targets cosmetic concerns for surface spider veins
- Performed by nurse trained in cosmetic injections by using small needle or external laser (GentleMax Pro) for smaller veins
- Self-pay treatment option for spider veins

Timing: 6-12 weeks post medical sclerotherapy procedures



WHAT ARE VARICOSE VEINS AND WHAT CAUSES THEM?

Varicose veins are the result of weak or damaged valves in the veins. They can:

- Appear “**ropy**” and **thick**, twisting and turning beneath the surface of the skin
- Be quite **painful**
- Indicate more serious **health problems**



VARICOSE VEIN



NORMAL VEIN



WHAT PROCEDURES ARE AVAILABLE FOR VARICOSE VEINS?

EVLT: Endovenous laser therapy (EVLT) is a minimally invasive non-surgical procedure to treat varicose veins.



Significantly decreases recurrence of varicose veins



An outpatient procedure that takes about an hour



98% of patients report significant pain relief with permanent results

Using ultrasound guidance, one of our subspecialized physicians will close off the varicose vein and the surrounding varicose veins begin to shrink and fade over time. Patients typically experience immediate relief of symptoms and healthier looking legs.



WHAT ARE SPIDER VEINS AND WHAT CAUSES THEM?

Spider veins are typically harmless. They can:

- Appear as **bluish or purple lines** beneath the skin's surface
- Resemble **spider webs or tree branches**



WHAT PROCEDURES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SPIDER VEINS?

SCLEROTHERAPY: Sclerotherapy is the most common cosmetic treatment for non-painful varicose veins and spider veins.



Treats diseased superficial veins that are usually the sign of deeper vein disease



Medical sclerotherapy: usually follows EVLT and is covered by insurance



Cosmetic sclerotherapy: self-pay treatment option for spider veins

One of our providers will use a needle to inject a medication into the spider vein, which causes the vein walls to swell, stick together and seal shut. Blood is rerouted to other surrounding veins, and within a few weeks, the spider veins will begin to fade.

ARE THESE PROCEDURES MEDICALLY NECESSARY?

While varicose and spider veins aren't life threatening, most are symptoms of vein disease, which can be diagnosed through ultrasound vein mapping and doctor examination.






When vein disease is present, EVLT and medical sclerotherapy can provide permanent relief from pain and other symptoms like throbbing, burning and itching.



WHAT IS THE TYPICAL TREATMENT PROCESS FOR VEIN PROCEDURES?

Since every patient is different, procedural needs vary for vein disease treatment. Our dedicated team of doctors, nurses, technologists and coordinators will work with you to customize a treatment plan and ensure maximum potential for insurance coverage.


Our top-level process includes:

-  New Patient Visit (includes initial ultrasound for vein mapping)
-  Venous Doppler Ultrasound (detailed ultrasound to view deeper veins; required by insurance)
-  Re-consultation Doctor Phone Call
-  EVLT with Doctor (number of treatments varies by patient)
-  Follow-up ultrasound visit (1-2 weeks after each EVLT)
-  Medical Sclerotherapy with doctor or PA/NP (number of treatments varies by patient)
-  Optional decompression w/ RN (varies by patient after medical sclerotherapy)
-  Cosmetic Sclerotherapy with RN (number of treatments varies by patient; self-pay)

For more information see detailed treatment plan sheet

DOES INSURANCE COVER THE COST OF VEIN PROCEDURES?

Most insurance companies recognize vein disease as a valid medical condition and will cover the cost of the treatment after a period of conservative therapy.

 At Charlotte Radiology Vein Centers, we have dedicated coordinators onsite to help patients obtain insurance approvals as needed.

HOW SOON AFTER THE PROCEDURES SHOULD I EXPECT MY LEGS TO START LOOKING BETTER?

It varies depending on the severity of your vein disease but most patients report positive results by the time they come in for their final follow-up appointment.

HOW WILL EVLT AND SCLEROTHERAPY AFFECT MY CIRCULATION?

Both procedures close off the unhealthy vein, which naturally reroutes the blood to veins that are healthy. Therefore your circulation is not compromised, instead it should improve.

HOW WILL PREGNANCY AFFECT MY VARICOSE VEINS?

A pregnant woman's blood volume increases by about 20%, which can overwork the venous system. Pregnancy can signal the arrival of varicose veins, or make existing varicose veins worse due to the growth of the uterus putting pressure on venous blood flow which sometimes leads to enlarged and weakened veins.

WHAT TYPE OF DOCTOR WILL I SEE AT CHARLOTTE RADIOLOGY VEIN CENTERS?

All of Charlotte Radiology's vein experts are **subspecialized doctors**, which means they have the advanced training and experience necessary to treat vein disease at its source.

WILL MY VARICOSE OR SPIDER VEINS COME BACK?

Recurrence of varicose and spider veins is not often seen once the unhealthy veins have been treated; however, it is possible for other veins to become unhealthy over time and require treatment.



VARICOSE VEINS: ENDOVENOUS LASER THERAPY (EVLT)

- ⊗ A minimally invasive non-surgical treatment
- ⊗ Significantly decreases recurrence of varicose veins
- ⌚ An outpatient procedure that takes about an hour
- 🏆 98% of patients report significant pain relief with permanent results

HOW IT WORKS:

Under ultrasound guidance, one of our subspecialized physicians will make a small incision (the size of a pencil tip) and insert a very thin laser fiber into the diseased vein. With this fiber, laser heat will be applied to close the veins. These veins are known as saphenous veins, and they handle less than 5% of a person's blood flow. This blood is automatically rerouted to surrounding healthy veins, and the surrounding varicose veins begin to shrink and fade over time.

GETTING STARTED

🔍 At your New Patient Visit

Our expert team will map your veins through ultrasound, revealing the shape and size of the veins in your legs, allowing our doctors to accurately locate the unhealthy veins for treatment.

Documentation from your visit, including diagnosis of vein disease, will be sent to your insurance provider, and Charlotte Radiology will request maximum coverage for your outlined treatment plan.

You will leave your New Patient Visit with a customized treatment plan, including the estimated number of treatments you will require.



WHAT TO EXPECT

🎯 Sedation

EVLT is performed in one of our outpatient vein centers. Patients remain awake, but legs are numbed with a local anesthetic. Those who prefer a sedative may request medication at the time of the procedure. For your safety, a driver must be physically present at check-in and check-out.

🛡️ Post-Procedure Instructions

Patients will be required to wear prescription grade compression stockings for one week post-procedure. Walking immediately following treatment is recommended to encourage blood flow.





⊕ Side Effects

Many patients report a tightening or pulling sensation, bruising and tenderness/soreness for about 24 hours after EVLT. Mild soreness could be present 7-10 days.

🚫 Limitations

Patients can immediately resume normal daily activities. No heavy lifting (>40 lbs), strenuous exercise, running, etc. for two weeks. No soaking in hot baths/hot tubs for two weeks.

SPIDER VEINS: SCLEROTHERAPY

-  The most common form of treatment for non-painful varicose and spider veins
-  Treats diseased superficial veins that are usually the sign of deeper vein disease
-  Medical sclerotherapy: usually follows EVLT and is covered by insurance
-  Cosmetic sclerotherapy: self-pay cosmetic treatment option for spider veins

HOW IT WORKS:

Medical Sclerotherapy: After EVLT of the deeper veins, one of our providers will inject medication (sclerosant) directly into the branch veins that are left behind, causing them to swell, harden and seal off. The saphenous veins are deeper and are only visible with ultrasound guidance. In most cases, the veins will shrink and fade.

Cosmetic Sclerotherapy: One of our nurses will inject a medication (sclerosant) directly into the spider veins, causing them to swell, harden and seal off. These are the superficial, or surface, veins closer to the surface of the skin, which are smaller and easier to treat by injection or laser. In most cases, the veins will shrink and fade.

GETTING STARTED

At your New Patient Visit

Our expert team will map your veins through ultrasound, revealing the shape and size of the veins in your legs and allowing our physicians to accurately locate the unhealthy veins for treatment.

If vein disease is present, proof will be sent to your insurance provider, and Charlotte Radiology will request maximum coverage for your upcoming procedures. EVLT is generally performed first, and is usually covered by insurance, including follow-up medical sclerotherapy.

If your ultrasound reveals no vein disease, you may still opt to move forward with cosmetic sclerotherapy to treat your spider veins.



WHAT TO EXPECT

Sedation

Sclerotherapy is performed in one of our outpatient vein centers. Patients remain awake, and no anesthetic is necessary. There is minimal discomfort during the procedure.

Post-Procedure Instructions

Prescription grade compression stockings will be applied post-procedure and must be worn for one week. Patients are encouraged to walk immediately following the treatment to encourage blood flow.





Side Effects

Side effects include hard, knotty areas, along with tenderness, bruising and swelling.

Limitations

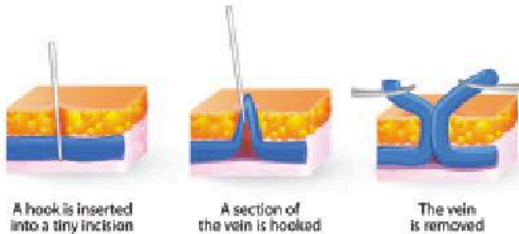
Patients can immediately resume normal daily activities. No heavy lifting (>40 lbs) or strenuous exercise for 3 days. Airline travel is at doctor discretion on a per patient basis for two weeks post-procedure. Avoid sun exposure for 2-3 months on average.

VARICOSE VEINS: PHLEBECTOMY

-  A minimally invasive procedure
-  Removes larger, bulging varicose veins at the surface of the skin
-  An outpatient procedure usually followed by sclerotherapy
-  Greater than 90% success rate in patients who are good candidates

HOW IT WORKS:

After numbing the area with a local anesthetic, one of our subspecialized physicians will make a series of needle holes, or small cuts, next to the enlarged vein and insert a vein hook. With this hook, the enlarged varicose veins will be removed through the incision. Once veins are removed, a small dressing will be applied over the incisions (no stitches are needed) and your leg will be wrapped with a compression wrap.



TIMING

In some cases, phlebectomy is performed during the same visit as EVLT treatment. In this case, the vein is sealed off through EVLT and then removed through phlebectomy.

For others, phlebectomy is an additional treatment option after EVLT for bulging veins, completed during your follow-up appointment for EVLT. Usually one session per leg is needed. Medical sclerotherapy is recommended to complete the treatment a few weeks after phlebectomy.



WHAT TO EXPECT

Sedation

Phlebectomy is performed at our outpatient vein center in Lake Norman. Patients remain awake, but legs are numbed with a local anesthetic. Those who prefer a sedative may request medication at the time of the procedure. For your safety, a driver must be physically present at check-in and check-out.

Post-Procedure Instructions

Patients will be required to wear prescription grade compression stockings for one week post-procedure.

Side Effects

Side effects include hard, knotty areas, along with bruising where veins are removed.

Limitations

Patients can immediately resume normal daily activities. No heavy lifting (>40 lbs.), strenuous exercise, running, etc. for one week. Airline travel is at physician discretion on a per patient basis for two weeks post-procedure.

RECOMMENDED LOCATIONS FOR Compression Stockings

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CHARLOTTE

Compression Works
2001 East 5th St.
Charlotte, NC 28205
704-376-5353

CMC-Rx Morrocroft Medical Plaza
4525 Cameron Valley Pkwy
Suite 1200
Charlotte, NC 28211
704-512-6040

FORT MILL

Tega Cay Pharmacy
729 Crossroads Plaza
Fort Mill, SC 29708
803-547-6100

HUNTERSVILLE

Lakeside Pharmacy
9615 Sherill Estates Road, Suite B
Huntersville, NC 28078
P: 980-441-8600 F: 980-441-8625

MOORESVILLE

Wellness Source
125 Commerce Park Road, #105
 Mooresville, NC 28117
704-799-2873

ROCK HILL

South End Pharmacy
1401 Albright Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730
803-366-3784

FAQ

WHY DO I HAVE TO WEAR PRESCRIPTION-GRADE COMPRESSION STOCKINGS BEFORE BEGINNING PROCEDURES AND AFTER EACH PROCEDURE?

Most insurance companies require a conservative therapy period prior to approving vein procedures. Depending on your insurance provider, compression stockings may have to be worn for a period varying from 0-12 weeks to see if they improve blood flow; after documenting compliance, procedures are typically approved. Compression stockings are worn after procedures to prevent bruising, swelling and blood clots. To receive symptom relief and insurance approval for your vein treatment sooner, it is important to purchase and begin wearing your prescription-grade compression stockings immediately after your initial consult.

QUICK TIP

Please be sure you are filling your prescription for 20-30mmHg, thigh-high stockings for insurance documentation and approval purposes.

WHAT QUALIFIES AS PRESCRIPTION-GRADE COMPRESSION STOCKINGS?

Compression stockings can come in different sizes and strengths. Prescription-grade means they were purchased through a pharmacy with a prescription or documentation from a doctor noting the size and strength recommended based on your diagnosis and insurance policy requirements. This also ensures they are fitted to your body for better accuracy and symptom relief than an off-the-shelf pair you would buy from a regular retailer or online.