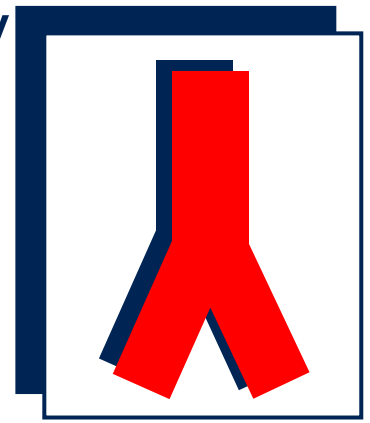


Will Butcher – Vascular Surgery

General practitioner – Frequent Questions

More information available at: www.willbutchervascular.com

Do all patients with varicose veins need treatment?



Varicose veins are a very common problem and range from the classical appearing “bunches of grapes” on the legs if severe right down to tiny thread or spider veins.

In general terms, varicose veins cause very little harm, but the symptoms they cause can be irksome for the sufferer. That being said, it is unusual for varicose veins to interfere terribly with activities of daily life. Common symptoms are:

- Discomfort in the veins
- Leg discomfort especially at the end of a day on your feet
- Burning or itching
- Cosmetic embarrassment

More uncommon symptoms which might represent a stronger indication for treatment: Eczema, Bleeding, Thrombophlebitis or Ulcers. Fortunately these complications are uncommon. Although there has been a lot of publicity about DVT or thrombosis in the deep veins (especially while flying) and ulceration in association with varicose veins, there is very little evidence that mild to moderate varicose veins cause either of these. More importantly there is no evidence that varicose treatment will prevent either DVT or later ulceration. In truth, there is often no strong medical need to have varicose veins treated.

People who seek treatment of their veins do so usually because the veins are uncomfortable (even painful) or because they are concerned about the vein’s appearance. Both of these are entirely valid reasons to seek care. Most public providers around the world no longer provide care for uncomplicated varicose veins, pain and some swelling are almost inevitable and thus do not constitute complications.

What treatments are available?

We treat veins one of several ways:

- Injection sclerotherapy
- Traditional Surgery
- Endovenous therapy
- Glue