

What types of leg veins can be treated?

Varicose veins, usually deeper blue veins, need different treatment from discoloured clusters (known as spider veins) that are near the skin surface. For this reason, we use two different light technologies. Your doctor may use either one or both, depending on your veins. Fortunately, there is now an effective and non-invasive treatment for most cases.

What technology is used for deeper blue veins?

We use Nd-Yag laser for larger, deeper veins. These veins respond to the precise energy levels and wavelength of light that is used. A small spot of laser light travels through the skin and is absorbed by the blood within the veins, on the basis of its colour. The resulting heat coagulates or clots the blood and destroys the function of the vein. This process does not affect any of the surrounding tissue. Over time, the veins will be absorbed by the body and will disappear from sight.

Are surface veins and spider veins treated the same way?

These smaller, superficial structures require a different technology for successful treatment, not technically a laser at all. Smaller surface veins are treated using light energy. The light energy is absorbed by the blood, changed to heat, and the vein is destroyed. With both technologies your doctor has the ability to use exactly what is needed for the best result.

How many treatments are needed?

Many leg veins need multiple treatments, often over a few months before the effect is complete. Even small vessels often required time to resolve. Sometimes a bit of matting or staining surrounds the treated vessels. By using both technologies, your doctor can treat the vein and these minor temporary discolouration and offer a complete, excellent outcome.

What is a treatment like? Is a painful?

A pulse of laser or intense pulsed light energy may feel like a pinch similar to a snapped rubber band. Chilled gel on the skin and other techniques prevent discomfort. The entire procedure is brief and non-invasive. No needles are used at any time.

What preparations must I make?

You do not have to make changes to your normal activities, before or after treatment. Prior to and following any type of laser and IPL treatment, you must limit your exposure to the sun. Treatment should not be performed on tanned skin.