

VenaSeal Varicose Vein Procedure Instructions

*If you have
any questions,
please ask your
physician or
nurse.*

The VenaSeal™ varicose vein procedure uses “medical superglue” to close varicose veins and direct blood flow to healthy veins. This brochure provides information and instructions about the procedure.

Before the procedure

Insurance approval

Insurance coverage for varicose vein procedures differs with each insurance company. Most insurance companies require that you try conservative treatment first. This includes:

- Wearing compression hose or stockings
- Exercising
- Using over-the-counter medication for pain
- Avoiding long periods of standing

After trying these options, you will be re-evaluated in the office. If your symptoms do not get better, we will send a letter to your insurance company asking for pre-approval for the procedure as medically necessary.

After we have received approval from your insurance company agreeing that you need the procedure for medical reasons, the Vein Center patient liaison will contact you to schedule your procedure.

If you have questions or concerns about insurance or procedure scheduling, you can contact the Vein Center patient liaison by phone at 312.695.4684, fax at 312.695.4620 or sending them a message through MyNM. You may access MyNM through the MyNM® app or log in at nm.org/mynm.

Medications

If you are taking anticoagulant (blood thinner) medication, such as aspirin, warfarin (Coumadin®), rivaroxaban (Xarelto®), apixaban (Eliquis®), enoxaparin sodium (Lovenox®) or clopidogrel (Plavix®), please tell the nurse or physician. These medications may need to be stopped before the procedure by the physician who prescribed them. You may take all your other regular medication as directed.

Alprazolam (Xanax®) will be used to help you relax during the procedure. Your physician will give you a prescription for 2 tablets. Fill this prescription before the procedure.

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) will be used to lessen pain and leg inflammation after the procedure. You will start this medication after the procedure. The anti-inflammatory effect is important for healing. Purchase a bottle of naproxen sodium (such as Aleve®) from any drugstore and bring it with you to the procedure.

Your physician may prescribe ibuprofen or celecoxib (Celebrex®) instead of naproxen sodium, as needed. If you are unable to take NSAIDs or already taking an anti-inflammatory medication, please tell the nurse or physician.

Day of the procedure

The procedure will be done at:

Northwestern Medicine Vein Center
675 North Saint Clair Street, 19-150
Chicago, Illinois 60611

You should arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled procedure time.

What to wear

Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing.

Medications

Take your regular medications as directed by your physician.

Take 1 tablet (0.5 mg) of Xanax 1 hour before your scheduled procedure time. Bring the second tablet with you.

Driving

The procedure will be done under local anesthesia (numbing medication), but you will also be given medication to help you relax. Please arrange for a ride to and from the hospital. **Do not drive after you take the Xanax and for the rest of the day after the procedure.**

Diet restrictions

Avoid caffeine until after the procedure. You may have a light breakfast or lunch before the procedure.

After the procedure

Activity

- **Do not drive for the rest of the day after the procedure.** The Xanax may make you drowsy.
- Walking and light activity are encouraged.
- Do not do strenuous activities and exercises for 2 weeks.
- Try to keep your legs elevated when you are sitting. This can help lessen leg swelling and discomfort.
- Do not lift, push or pull more than 15 pounds for 2 weeks.
- Taking a shower is OK after 24 hours. To prevent infection, do not bathe in a tub, swim or soak in water for 2 weeks after the procedure.

If you plan to travel by airplane after the procedure, discuss this with the nurse or physician. You will not be cleared to travel by air until you have seen the physician for your 1-week follow-up visit.

Medication

It is important to take the medication prescribed to you for lessening pain and leg inflammation after the procedure. Take this medication even if you do not have pain. The anti-inflammatory effect is important for healing. If you are taking naproxen sodium or Aleve, take 1 tablet (220 mg) with food 2 times a day for 2 weeks. For other prescribed medications, follow the instructions given to you by your physician.

Compression stockings

Compression stockings are not required unless your physician tells you to wear them. However, you may wear compression stockings to help relieve leg swelling, inflammation, pain or discomfort.

Bandages

Leave all bandages in place for the first 24 hours after the procedure. After 24 hours, you can remove the bandages to shower. Do not remove the Steri-Strips™ (tape strips) if you have them on your incisions. The Steri-Strips will fall off on their own within 7 to 10 days.

What to expect

As your legs heal, you may notice discomfort such as tightness, a pulling sensation or hypersensitivity (being very sensitive to touch). You may develop hard or lumpy, cord-like areas on your legs. Bruising is also normal. You may apply a warm pack to areas of discomfort for 20 minutes, 2 to 3 times per day.

Follow-up visit

When you schedule the procedure, you will also schedule a 1-week follow-up visit. At the follow-up visit, the nurse will see how you are doing. You will have an ultrasound of your leg(s). If needed, you may be asked to return 4 to 6 weeks after the procedure to see the physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner.

When to call your physician

Please call your physician if you notice any of these symptoms:

- Redness beyond the leg incision
- Pain that is not relieved by the pain medication
- Swelling you can see in your leg
- A temperature greater than 100 degrees F or chills
- Nausea or vomiting
- Drainage or pus from incision sites

Contact information

If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Vein Center.

- During regular business hours (8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday), call 312.695.8346.
- After hours and on the weekends, call 312.926.2000 and ask for the Interventional Radiology fellow on call.

If you have questions about insurance or procedure scheduling, call 312.695.4684 (TTY: 711).