ARE YOUR VEINS BOTHERING YOU? YOU’RE NOT ALONE.

Do you have swollen, bulging veins that make your legs ache? Are you embarrassed to wear shorts or a bathing suit because of your varicose or spider veins? Millions of Americans – most of them women – are suffering from these common conditions just like you.

VARICOSE VEINS. Varicose veins occur when veins stop functioning properly. Healthy, strong valves in veins have a one-way function, with blood flowing toward the heart from the body. Weak valves, such as those in varicose veins, prevent normal, upward blood flow, causing blood to pool in the vein below the weak valve. This accumulation of blood creates excessive pressure, causing the veins to enlarge and distend, often producing pressure, swelling and pain.

SPIDER VEINS. Spider veins are similar to varicose veins, but are much smaller and closer to the surface of the skin. They are usually red or blue/purple in color and resemble a spider web pattern. These veins can cause discomfort, but unlike varicose veins, usually do not become a serious medical condition.

Treatment can help relieve symptoms, improve appearance and possibly prevent a more complex medical condition. If left untreated, advanced cases of varicose veins can lead to blood clots, inflammation of veins (phlebitis), bleeding and ulcers.

MUSCLE CRAMPING. SWELLING. TENDERNESS. ITCHING. ACHING. SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS.

These uncomfortable and often embarrassing conditions don’t have to slow you down. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms in your legs, or you are simply tired of the appearance of your veins, it’s time to see your doctor.
**TREATMENTS TO HELP YOU LOOK AND FEEL BETTER.**

**ENDOVENOUS LASER TREATMENT (EVLT):** A minimally invasive procedure to treat varicose veins, EVLT can be done in an office setting by your vein specialist. It causes minimal disruption to the vein and then guides a thin laser fiber through a tiny entry point, usually near the knee. Advantages include shorter recovery times compared to traditional vein surgeries, minimal scarring and a rapid return to normal activities. The procedure takes less than an hour to perform, and most patients experience immediate relief from their symptoms. Anesthesia is used.

**SCLEROTHERAPY:** This minimally invasive approach involves the injection of a solution into the vein, causing it to shrivel and then to scar tissue, which the body then absorbs. Three to six treatments are usually necessary, depending on the size and number of the veins. Compression bandages or stockings may need to be wrapped around the legs for two to three weeks. Depending on the size and number of the veins, compression bandages or stockings may need to be wrapped around the legs for two to three weeks. Sedation is not necessary.

**MICRO-INCISIONAL PHLEBECTOMY:** Physicians make tiny incisions to take a vein out using specially designed instruments. Parts of the veins are removed with each small incision until no varicose veins remain. Anesthesia is used.

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**COOLING VEINS:** Varicose veins occur when veins stop functioning properly. Healthy, strong veins in the legs have a one-way function, with blood flowing toward the heart from the body. Weak valves, such as those in varicose veins, prevent normal, upward blood flow, causing blood to pool in the vein below the weak valve. This accumulation of blood creates excessive pressure, causing the veins to enlarge and expand, often producing pressure, swelling and pain.

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The treatments for varicose and spider veins are safe and effective. The dedicated vascular specialists at Greenville Hospital System (GHS) University Medical Group offer non-invasive evaluations and the latest treatments for vein problems. They can help you improve your overall well-being by reducing health and cosmetic problems associated with varicose and spider veins. A comprehensive Wound Care Center also is located at the institute. Its dedicated staff offers the newest technologies and treatments for management of difficult-to-heal wounds and ulcers.

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**COMPREHENSIVE CARE IN A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT.**

Our Institute is affiliated with the Vascular Health Alliance, a not-for-profit organization created to standardize patient care around evidence-based protocols for treatment. No matter which physician you see from this collaborative team of top vascular surgeons and vascular medicine specialists, you’ll receive a consistent, standardized level of treatment deemed the best practice in the vascular world. Our goal is to provide every vein patient an experience that addresses their issues in the most comfortable way possible while ultimately building their confidence and improving their quality of life.

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INSTITUTE FOR VASCULAR HEALTH’S VEIN CENTER.

The Vein Center is located at GHS’ Institute for Vascular Health at the Patewood Medical Campus, which houses the largest accredited vascular laboratory in the Southeast. The center offers the latest ultrasound technology for diagnosis and treatment of venous disease.

To make a Vein Center appointment with the Institute for Vascular Health simply call (864) 454-VEIN (8346).