

What causes varicose and spider veins?

Varicose veins are enlarged, swollen veins that rise above the surface of the skin. Spider veins are smaller, red, purple or blue in color and generally do not bulge above the skin. Both are caused by a condition called venous insufficiency, which means that valves within the vein that prevent blood from flowing backwards become weak and allow blood to pool in the vein.

The underlying causes include heredity, age, prolonged standing, exposure to the sun, hormone changes or weight gain. In addition to the unsightly appearance of varicose veins, the condition can be quite painful. Delaying treatment can lead to more serious complications, including inflammation, blood clots, skin ulcers, bleeding and deep vein thrombosis.



CU Medicine Interventional Radiology

An interventional radiologist is a doctor who undergoes an average of 13 years of education and training. In addition to being a diagnostic radiologist, they have had subspecialized (fellowship) training in vascular & interventional radiology, where they perform minimally invasive procedures using imaging guidance. CU Medicine interventional radiologists have a wealth of clinical experience, and our multidisciplinary approach ensures that patients receive the right care for their unique condition.

Learn more at CUMedicineIR.com



Interventional Radiology

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **MEDICINE**



CUMedicineIR.com

Phone: (720) 516-0637

Fax: (303) 648-4128

9135 S Ridgeline Blvd
Suite 150
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129



Non-surgical treatment for varicose veins

A safe and minimally invasive way to eliminate painful and unsightly veins



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Varicose vein treatment at CU Medicine Interventional Radiology

We offer several different treatment options depending on your specific type of varicose veins:

VenaSeal™ is a state-of-the-art treatment that uses a special adhesive to seal the vein. It is an excellent option for smaller veins and protects the skin and surrounding nerves from heat damage.

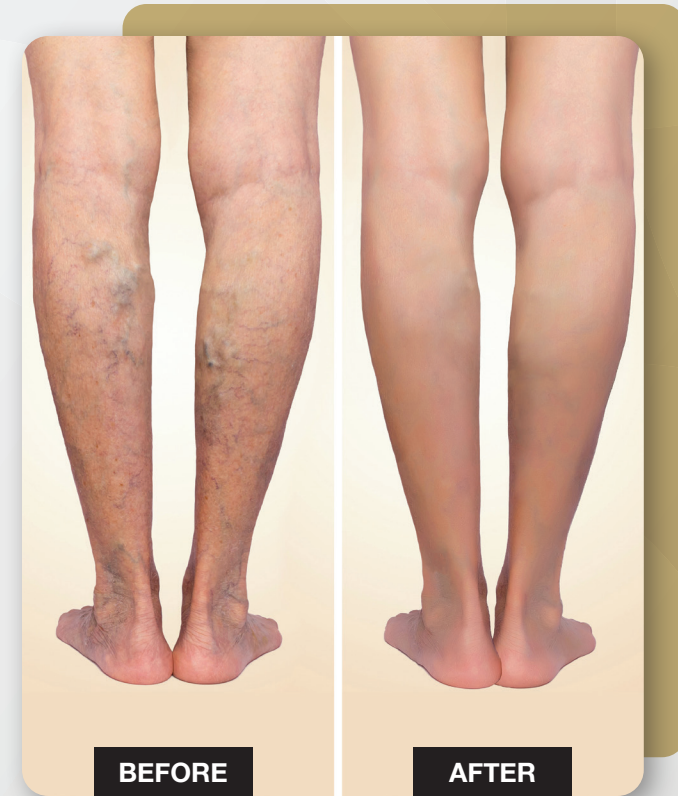
Varithena™ uses an injectable foam sclerosing agent that collapses and closes off the vein. It may be a better option for patients with larger or more tortuous varicose veins.

Radiofrequency Ablation (RFA) uses radiofrequency energy to seal the faulty vein shut. It has advantages over other forms of treatment in that it may result in a faster recovery with less discomfort and bruising.

Microphlebectomy removes large, bulging or painful varicose veins through tiny incisions in the skin. It doesn't require stitches and is often used in combination with other vein therapies.

Sclerotherapy is an effective treatment for spider veins. It is performed by injecting a chemical substance called a sclerosant directly into the affected veins. The chemical causes the veins to close and are reabsorbed by your body over a few weeks. The cost of sclerotherapy is not covered by most health insurance plans, but the procedure is very affordable. Please call us for pricing details.

Varicose vein treatment with these procedures requires only tiny nicks in the skin to access the vein, so there is almost no scarring, and you can immediately resume normal activities after the procedure. Within a few weeks, the vein shrinks and is absorbed by the body naturally. All procedures are FDA- approved and covered by most insurance plans and Medicare.



Take the first step

We invite you to visit our conveniently located outpatient center for a screening where we will help you understand the underlying cause of your condition, discuss treatment options and show you how you may be able to prevent recurrences.

**Please call us at
(720) 516-0637 to
schedule a consultation.**