

Endovenous Thermal Ablation:

Consensus and Polemics



Lowell S. Kabnick, MD, FACS, FACPh
New York University Langone Medical Center
Division, Vascular Surgery
Director, NYU Vein Center

President, American Venous Forum

Disclosure

- Intellectual Property: AngioDynamics, Veniti

Consensus Definition

- a general agreement about something : an idea or opinion
 - Wide agreement
- www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/consensus
- dictionary.cambridge.org/us/

Consensus



Polemique (Polemic) Definition

- an often noisy or angry expression of differing opinions.
- a strong verbal or written attack on someone or something.



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT 2010 CONSENSUS?





In the USA

- No worries, the government will pay for any vein care you want



- Clinton: You are out of your mind! You will bankrupt the government.

ALTHOUGH THERE ARE ROAD BLOCKS FOR AGREEMENT



Medically Significant Venous Incompetence

Most patients seek treatment to **relieve symptoms** rather than cosmetic concerns.¹



Venous incompetence

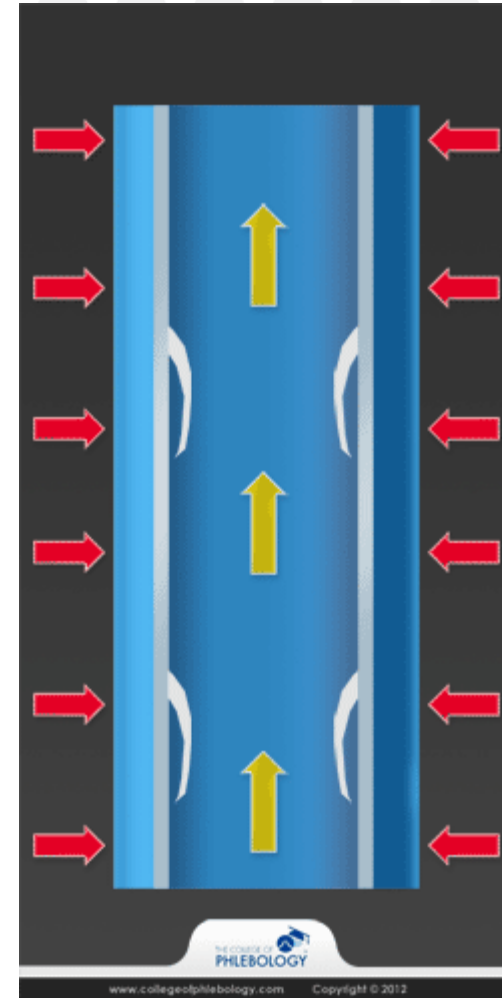
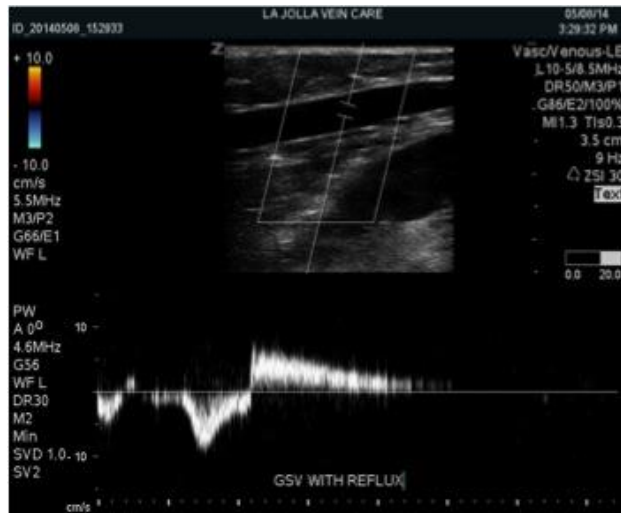
Definition

Deep veins

- CFV, FV & PopV > 1 sec
- Tibial veins > 0.5 sec
- Perforators > 0.5 sec

Superficial System

- GSV & SSV > 0.5 sec



Persistent incompetent truncal veins should not be treated immediately

P Pittaluga and S Chastanet

Abstract

Background: The traditional attitude for the treatment of chronic venous disorder is to systematically treat incompetent truncal veins. We wanted to evaluate the outcomes of not treating all incompetent truncal veins with regard to our experience of focusing the treatment to the varicose tributaries.

Methods: Retrospective study on all procedures of surgical treatment consecutively performed for varicose veins by single phlebectomy with preservation of a refluxing great saphenous vein (GSV), according to the principles of the ambulatory selective varices ablation under local anesthesia (ASVAL) during four years of practice. The clinical and hemodynamic outcomes have been evaluated at eight days, one year, and once a year.

Phlebology

2015, Vol. 30(1S) 98–106

! The Author(s) 2015

Reprints and permissions:

sagepub.co.uk/journalsPermissions.nav

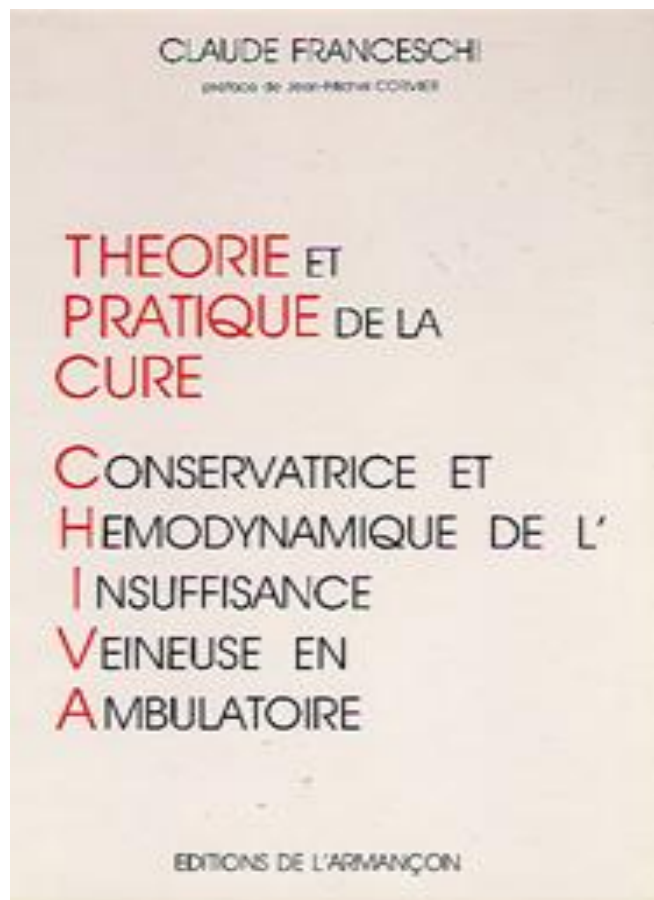
DOI: 10.1177/0268355515569141

phl.sagepub.com



2015

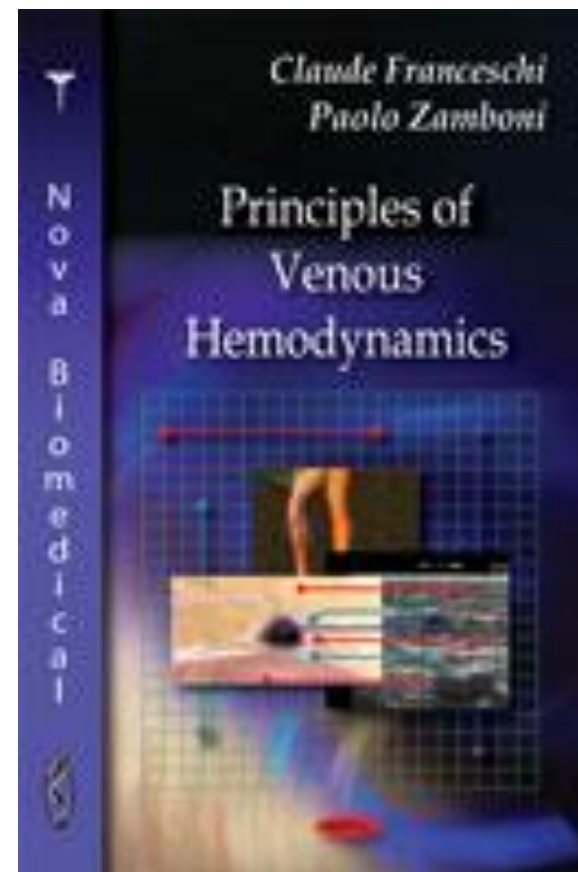




1988



Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery



2009

Classification of Venous Disease:



C₁: Telangiectasia



C₂: Varicose veins



C₃: Edema



C₄: Lipodermatosclerosis or hyperpigmentation



C₅: Healed ulcer



C₆: Active ulcer

CEAP Classification¹

- Chronic venous disease is progressive and even modest disease may translate into functional limitations and limitations in daily activities^{2,3}
- Approximately one-third of patients will experience clinical worsening within 6 months.²
- 66% of patients have episodes of ulceration lasting more than five years⁴

CEAP = clinical, etiologic, anatomy, pathophysiologic classification of venous disorders



- In response to the need for a disease severity measurement, the **AVF** committee on outcomes assessment developed the **Venous Severity Scoring System** in 2000.



JVS 2000

- Generates a **dynamic score** and can be used previous to treatment and post-intervention.



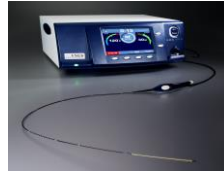
- Rutherford RB, Padberg FT, Comerota AJ, Kistner RL, Meissner MH, Moneta GL. Venous severity scoring: An adjunct to venous outcome assessment. *J Vasc Surg* 2000;31:1307-12.

VCSS

Descriptor	Absent (0)	Mild (1)	Moderate (2)	Severe (3)
Pain	None	Occasional	Daily	Daily limiting
Varicose veins	None	Few	Calf or thigh	Calf and thigh
Venous edema	None	Foot and ankle	Above ankle, below knee	To knee or above
Skin Pigmentation	None	Perimalleolar	Diffuse, lower 1/3 calf	Wider, above lower 1/3 calf
Inflammation	None	Perimalleolar	Diffuse, lower 1/3 calf	Wider, above lower 1/3 calf
Induration	None	Perimalleolar	Diffuse, lower 1/3 calf	Wider, above lower 1/3 calf
No. active ulcers	None	1	2	≥ 3
Active ulcer size	None	< 2 cm	2 – 6 cm	> 6 cm
Ulcer duration	None	< 3 mo	3 – 12 mo	> 1 yr
Compression Therapy	None	Intermittent	Most days	Fully comply

Venous Procedures

- RADIOFREQUENCY



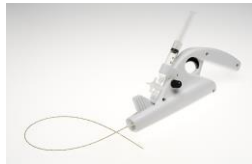
- LASER



- FOAM



- MOCA



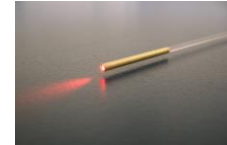
- ADHESIVE



- PHLEBECTOMY



STRIPPER



VESSEL OCCLUDER

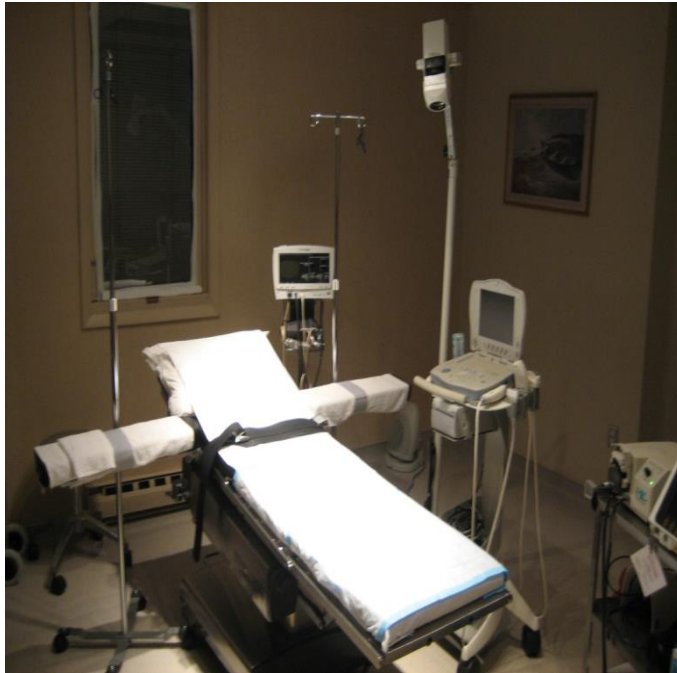
LASER AND RFA



Consensus? Where to Perform Thermal Ablation?



Office



But Wait... Why is the OR Better



Where is the Comparative Data



Endovenous laser procedure in a clinic room: feasibility and side effects study of 1700 cases C Hamel-Desnos, JL Gerard, and P Desnos

Conclusions: This large retrospective study of laser procedures performed outside the operating theatre did not reveal any significant specific complications as regards the environment required. The efficacy results were equivalent to those found in the literature. Regarding cost and constraints induced by operating theatre environment,

the clinic room SHOULD BE ABLE to offer an easier and economic alternative option for venous treatment



June 2009



Consensus: Cheaper in office

- Room Charge
- Staff Charge
- Materials Charge
- Extra Staff Cost
- ??????

Hospital

- \$\$\$\$
- \$\$\$\$
- \$\$\$\$
- \$\$\$\$
- \$\$\$\$

Office

\$
\$
\$
0



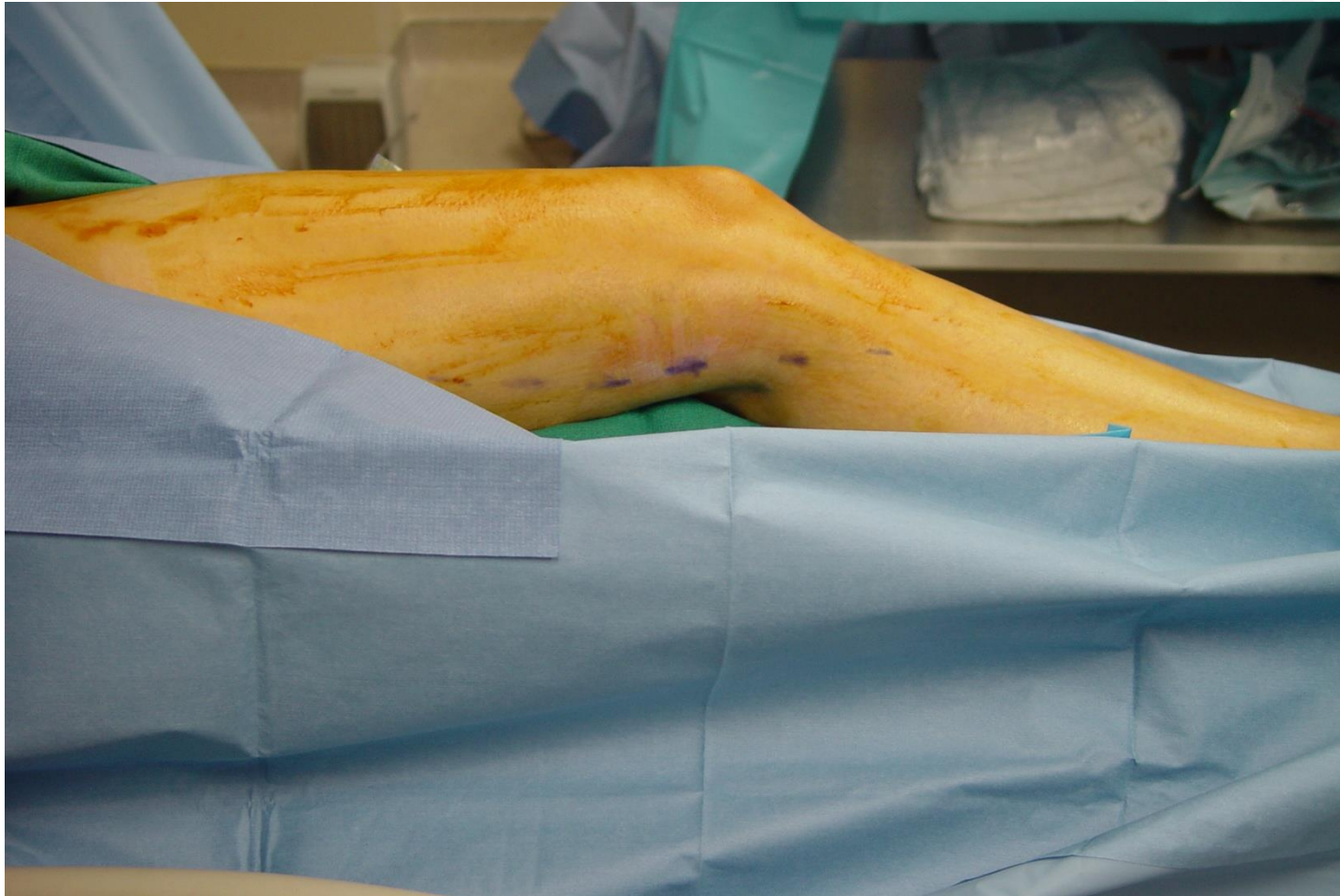
Consensus

- **NO Level 1 Evidence that Hospital Surgery is safer**
- **There is evidence that outpatient surgery is less costly**
- **There is evidence that patients are happier in an office setting.**

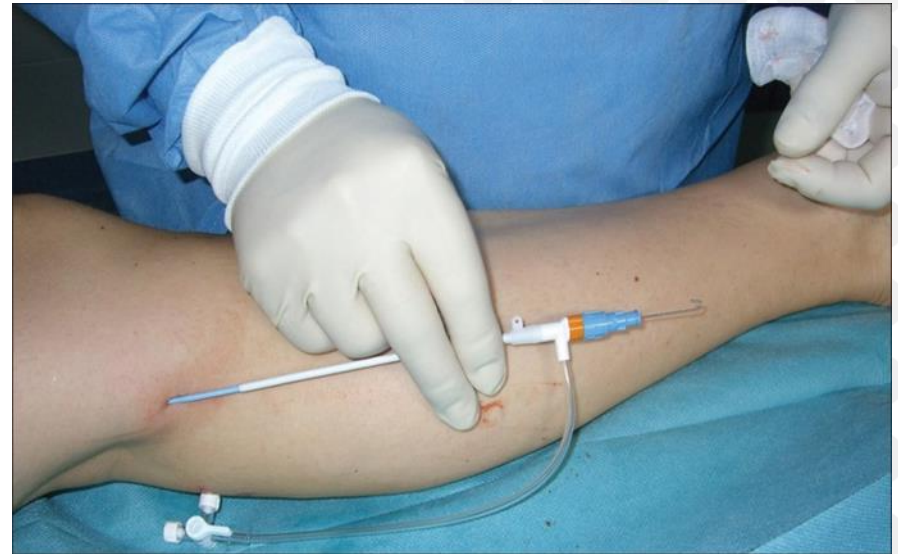
Procedure



Preparation of the Patient



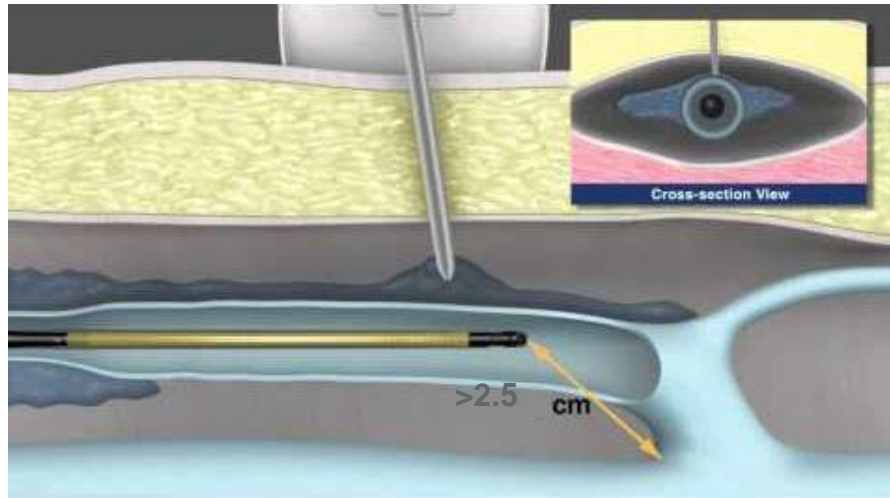
ACCESS



Direct/Radial



Fiber or Catheter Positioning



Increasing ablation distance peripheral to the saphenofemoral junction may result in a diminished rate of endothermal heat-induced thrombosis.

Sadek M¹, Kabnick LS², Rockman CB¹, Berland TL¹, Zhou D¹, Chasin C¹, Jacobowitz GR¹, Adelman MA¹.

+ Author information

Abstr
OBJE

may re
to asse
reduct

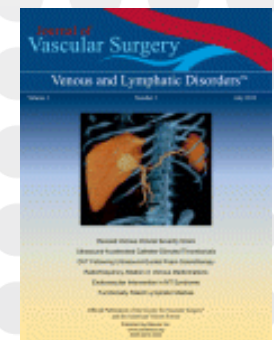
METH

Decen
ablatio
sapher
greater
was th
less th
thromb
tests v

This study suggests that by changing the distance from the deep venous junction from 2.0 to 2.5 cms may diminish the rate of EHIT 2



2013

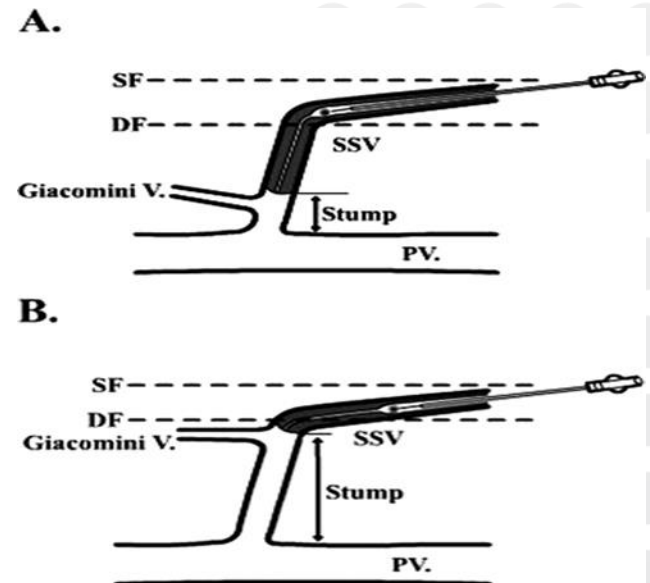


Placement of Sheath and Fiber

Fiber or catheter placement:

just before the SSV
“dives” to the popliteal vein

2-3cms from the
Junction



Tumescent Anesthesia



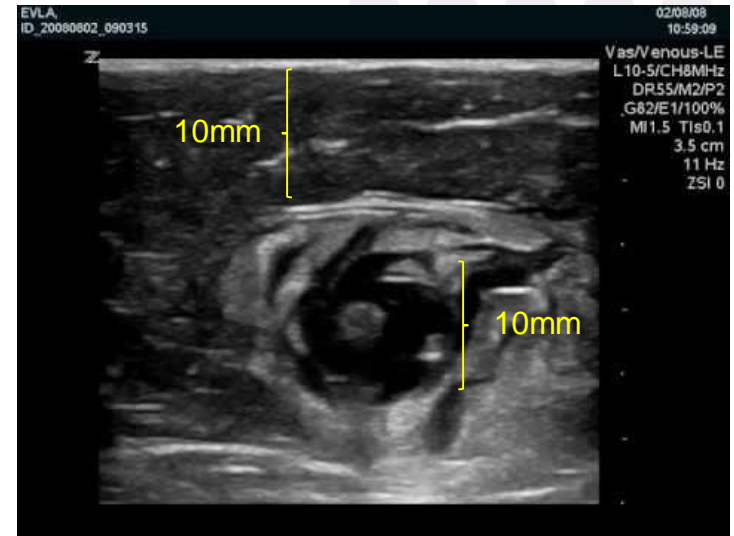
Ednothermal Ablation Anesthesia

Preparation of Tumescant Anesthetic Solution: 0.1% Lidocaine

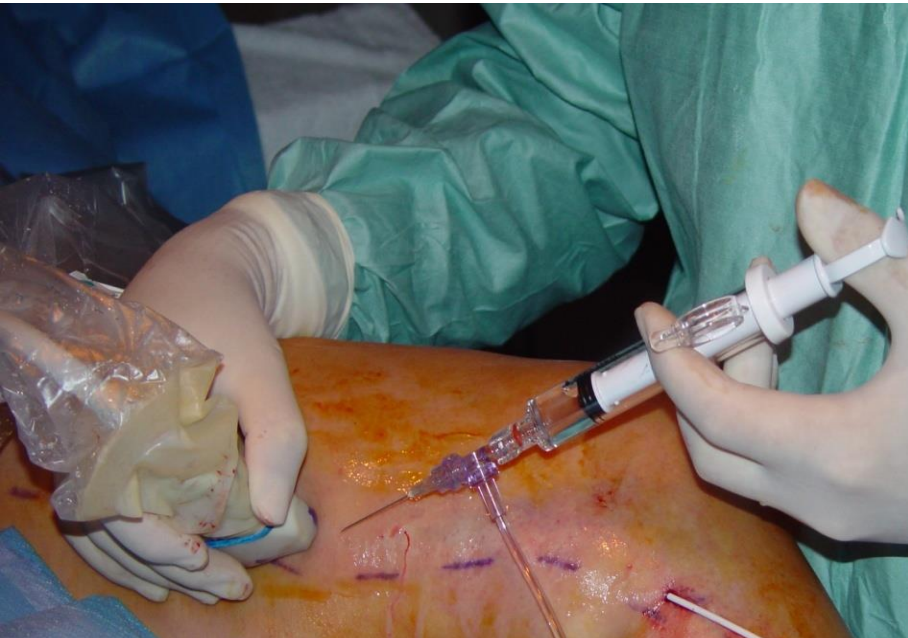
0.9% Normal saline	950 mL
2% Lidocaine	50 mL
Epinephrine	1 mL (1 mg, 1:1,000,000 final concentration)
Sodium bicarbonate 8.45%	12.5 mL (final solution pH 7.4)

Tumescant Halo

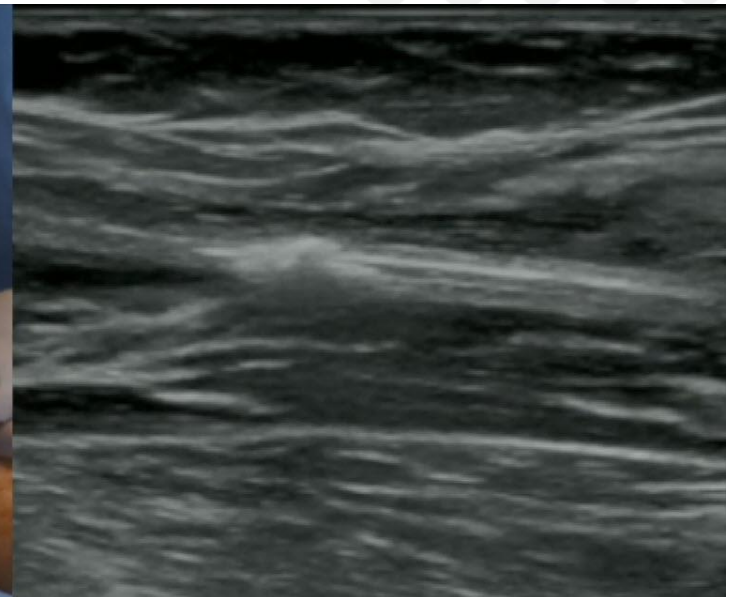
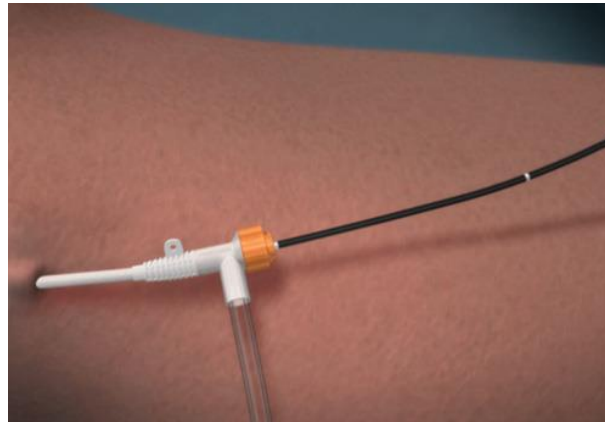
- 10 mm diameter around vein
- 10 mm between target vein & skin



Tumescent Anesthesia



Pull Back

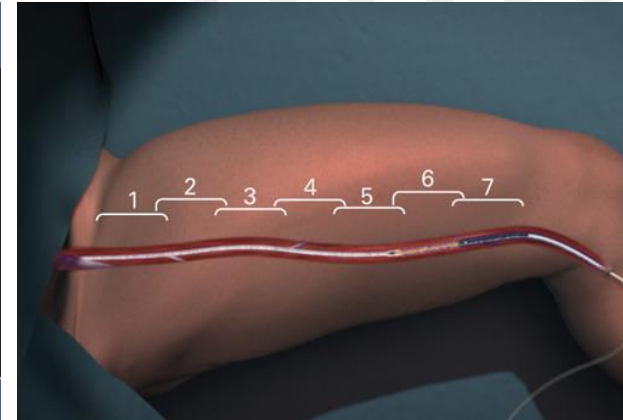


Endovenous Laser Ablation Procedure – Pull Back Continuous

- 1470nm in USA 5-7W 30-50J/cm
- 1470nm OUS higher power and \uparrow J/cm
- Different powers for different wavelengths as well
- Fibers ie bare, covered - NeverTouch or Radial

Radiofrequency Ablation Ablation Procedure

- Compression
- Each 7-cm segment is treated = 20-second treatment interval
- Except for initial
- Controversy 1-2-3 cycle Rx the entire length



Compression Hose? What Pressure?



Postoperative Complication

- 68 year old female with symptomatic VV of the left thigh.
- GSV reflux within the fascial compartment to mid-thigh and then epifascial to below the knee
- RF performed, entry site below the knee
 - Extra tumescent anesthesia placed around the vein in the epifascial area (originally under the skin and post T 1cm below the skin)

Complications: skin

NYU
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE



- 75 yo F 1 wk postop LASER
 - Closed GSV
 - NO EHIT 2
 - Complaining of pain in around the epifascial GSV (superficial accessory saphenous vein)
 - Palpable cord
 - No erythema
- 3 months postoperative U/S closed GSV



35 year old female attorney

ablation, 3 months ago,
proximal thigh GSV
thigh and calf SAGSV
NOW complaining of brownish discoloration.

PMH: none

PSH: none

Allergies: none

Hyperpigmentation

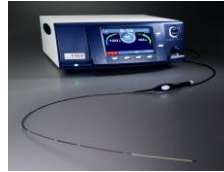


This is Why



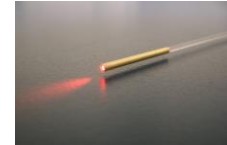
Which Endovenous Procedure is Better?

- RADIOFREQUENCY



STRIPPER

- LASER



- FOAM



- MOCA



- ADHESIVE



VESSEL OCCLUDER

- PHLEBECTOMY



Which endovenous ablation method does offer a better long-term technical success in the treatment of the incompetent great saphenous vein? Review

Renata Balint¹, Akos Farics², Krisztina Parti², Laszlo Vizsy², Jozsef Batorfi², Gabor Menyhei³ and Istvan B Balint²

Abstract
Objective
venous
Methods
to five
Results
Over
for ul
for ra
between

Both endovenous laser ablation and RFA are efficient in GSV occlusion-long term.

saphenous vein reopening ($p = 0.00$; OR: 0.11; 95% of CI: 0.06–0.20 for radiofrequency ablation vs. endovenous laser ablation; $p = 0.96$; OR: 0.11; 95% of CI: 0.06–0.20 for endovenous laser ablation vs. ultrasound guided foam sclerotherapy; $p = 0.93$; OR: 3.20; 95% of CI: 0.54–18.90 for ultrasound guided foam sclerotherapy vs. radiofrequency ablation).

Conclusion: Both endovenous laser ablation and radiofrequency ablation are efficient in great saphenous vein occlusion on the long term. Lacking long-conducted large trials, the efficacy and reliability of ultrasound guided foam sclerotherapy to treat great saphenous vein-reflux is not affirmed.

Randomized clinical trial comparing endovenous laser ablation, radiofrequency ablation, foam sclerotherapy and surgical stripping for great saphenous varicose veins

L. H. Rasmussen, M. Lawaetz, L. Bjoern, B. Vennits, A. Blemings and B. Eklof

Danish Vein Centres, Naestved, and Surgical Centre Roskilde, Roskilde, Denmark

Correspondence to: Dr L. H. Rasmussen, Danish Vein Centres, Eskadronsvej 4A, 4700 Naestved, Denmark (e-mail: lhr@varix.dk)



Br J Surg. 2011

Background: This randomized trial compared four treatments for varicose great saphenous veins (GSVs).

580 limbs, 500 patients

Inclusion criteria

- Symptomatic varicose veins with GSV reflux
- $C_2 - C_4$

Exclusion criteria

- Previous DVT
- Axial deep venous reflux

Conclusion: All treatments were efficacious. The technical failure rate was highest after foam sclerotherapy, but both radiofrequency ablation and foam were associated with a faster recovery and less postoperative pain than endovenous laser ablation and stripping.



Paper accepted 15 March 2011

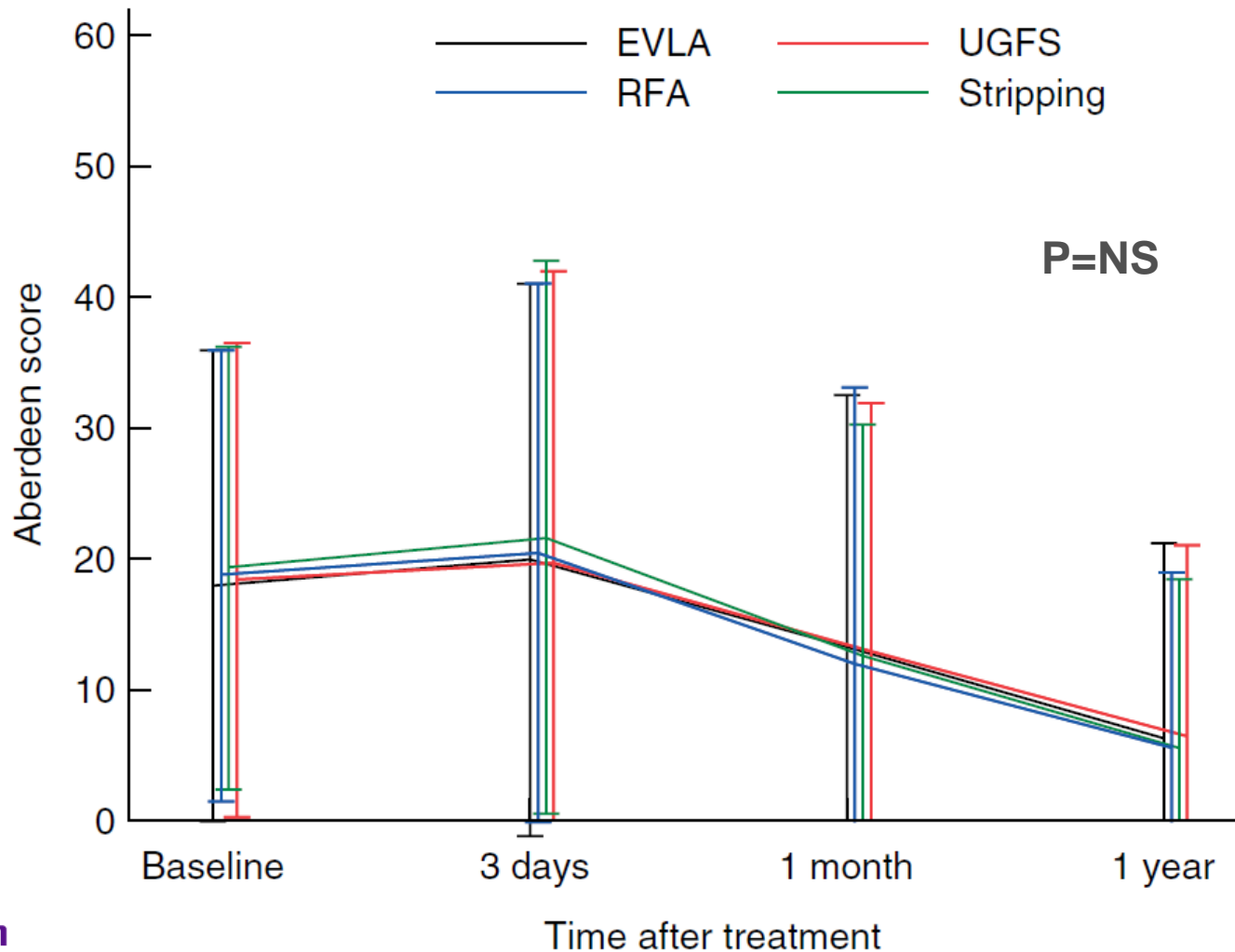
Published online in Wiley Online Library (www.bjs.co.uk). DOI: 10.1002/bjs.7555

Primary Endpoint GSV Closure

Patent GSV with Reflux

	EVLA N=144 n(%)	RFA N=148 n(%)	<i>P</i> value
3 days	0 (0)	0 (0)	.053
1 month	1 (0.7)	0 (0)	.20
1 year	7 (5.8)	6 (4.8)	<.001

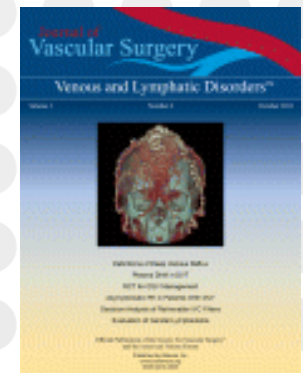
Disease Specific Quality of Life (AVVSS)



Randomized clinical trial comparing endovenous laser ablation, radiofrequency ablation, foam sclerotherapy,veins with 3-year follow-up.



2013



Randomized clinical trial comparing endovenous laser ablation, foam sclerotherapy, radiofrequency ablation,veins with 3-year follow-up.

Rasmussen L

Author information

Abstract

INTRODUCTION

laser ablation
assessing re

METHODS

high ligation
examinations
below .05 we

RESULTS

(KM estimate
part of the tr
14.9%), 24 (1
recurrent var
different betw
37 (KM estim
stripping group
groups with no difference betw

CONCLUSIONS

All t

All RFA and LASER were efficacious and resulted in similar improvement.

.....veins with 3-year follow-up. All tveins were efficacious and resulted in a similar improvement in VCSS and QOL. Howeverveins and reoperations were seen after UGFS.

Concluding Remarks

- There is no significant difference between laser and RF in terms of
 - Efficacy
 - QOL
 - Safety profile
- **Clinical Equipoise**



Email: lowell.kabnick@nyumc.org