



## *The Fall Report* A Discussion of Health Issues



---

### **Varicose Veins – An Old Problem, a New Solution**

Varicose veins is an age-old problem affecting approximately 15% of adults, predominantly, but not exclusively, women.

Patients affected with varicose veins frequently experience symptoms and complications of this malady. These include aching and heaviness of the involved extremity, inflammation (phlebitis), ulceration of the skin, thickened and discoloration of the skin and obvious cosmetic consequences of venous insufficiency. Although rare, massive bleeding from a varicose vein may be life threatening.

History of surgical approaches to this problem can be dated to 86 BC. Until recently, nothing has substantially changed with multiple incision phlebectomy (removal of varicose veins), with the exception of modern anaesthesia and antisepsis. Traditionally, surgery was tedious, time consuming, required multiple incisions and under varying circumstances, had an un-acceptable recurrence rate.

Recently, an innovative new technique has emerged, revolutionizing the treatment of this complicated and debilitating disease. Using more sophisticated diagnostic studies, the cause of varicose veins can be much more clearly identified. With that information, and new instruments, varicose veins can be removed under direct vision. Instead of operative times of 3-4 hours, surgery time has typically been reduced to less than one hour. Rather than 20-40 incisions (cuts), this relatively new technique completes the surgery with only 6-8 incisions. Commonly, the patient goes home only a few hours after surgery, not 1-2 days, as was common in the past.

Recently, Dr. Fall has completed extensive post graduate training in this procedure and is pleased to offer this state of the art technique to suffering patients.

To schedule an appointment for evaluation, call 715-685-0656 or 877-244-2734.