

TUMESCENT ANESTHESIA

During treatment of your venous insufficiency problem, whether it is with endovenous laser ablation (EVLT) of your great or small saphenous vein or for PIN stripping removal of a segment of a vein, we utilize a special anesthetic technique that provides anesthesia to the region around the vein to be closed or removed providing analgesia during the procedure. This is called tumescent anesthesia. Other options, of course, for anesthesia are with hospitalization, general or spinal region block administration along with IV sedation, where one is given intravenous medications for mild sedation.

The benefits of tumescent anesthesia are numerous as one does not have the sedating effects of medication to make one groggy and sleepy. Because of this, one is able to walk immediately promoting and improving venous blood circulation and lessening potential risks and complications.

During the administration of tumescent anesthesia the duplex ultrasound equipment is used (reference "*duplex venous ultrasound*" section) to identify the course and path of the vein to be treated. A much diluted local anesthetic solution is injected through a tiny needle along the course of the vein allowing the vein to be compressed and to allow a circumferential application of this medication to provide anesthesia to the vein and surrounding area. I frequently refer to this as seen on the ultrasound image where we see your vein appear as a black dot (like a donut hole) and we create a donut around the donut hole in a circular fashion. During the procedure, you may be able to see this and follow along during its application.

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