



KEEPING YOU IN CIRCULATION

Geelong Vascular Service 2014

MARCH 2014



GEE LONG VASCULAR SERVICE IS MOVING TO THE WATERFRONT

We are excited to announce that from April 24 we will be making the move to new rooms on the Western Beach Waterfront: 15A The Esplanade. The Vascular Surgicentre is purpose built for us to combine consulting sessions, dedicated vascular ultrasound assessment and ambulatory outpatient vein treatment. Our laser vein clinic is available to all patients with lower limb vein disease - surgery in hospital is no longer required. Arterial patients; with aortic aneurysms, carotid disease, lower limb ischaemia; remain to be treated by angio-intervention or open surgery at St John of God. We look forward to welcoming your patients to our new surgery.

Modern treatment of Varicose Veins

New to the frontier of Vascular Surgery is minimally invasive treatment of varicose veins. The practice of open vein surgery in hospital, performed under general anaesthetic and usually including deep groin dissection, has been abandoned in our service as it has in most modern phlebology practices in the Western World. It has been replaced with ambulatory outpatient treatment, comprising endovenous laser ablation of incompetent main-stem veins, ultra-sound guided sclerotherapy, microphlebectomies, and visual microsclerotherapy. Treatments are performed under local anaesthetic, with ultrasound guidance. This provides patients with walk-in walk-out therapy, less perioperative discomfort, less invasive and inherently safer therapy, and early return to normal activity. Each procedure attracts a generous Medicare rebate when patients have reached the extended Medicare safety net threshold; making it affordable for most. Private health insurance cover is not necessary.

The National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines of the UK; published in July 2013; recommend ambulatory treatment of lower limb vein disease by laser or radiofrequency ablation ahead of any consideration for open surgery. Coincident with that announcement is the decision of Barwon Health to confine all public funded treatment to adult patients with venous disease only if it is complicated by oedema, bleeding, thrombosis or ulceration. All other patients need to seek treatment in private. Laser therapy is not available at Barwon Health.

Over the past 5 years we have treated over 1500 legs with varicose veins by endovenous laser ablation, achieving primary closure rates of >99% and durable outcomes on medium term ultrasound follow-up. Our evaluation of this treatment is ongoing, but its found wide acceptance in the community of patients wanting treatment out of hospital, with no groin scar, and little disruption to their work / life balance. Recent election as Executive Board Member of The Australasian College of Phlebology has provided me a wonderful opportunity to be involved in shaping the future of vein treatment in this country, and to ensure we are kept up to date with what the best practices have on offer. At Geelong Vascular Service we are happy to provide our best for your patients.

Geelong Vascular Ultrasound

Geelong Vascular Ultrasound is our dedicated Vascular Laboratory for accurate non-invasive vascular assessment. It is staffed by specialist Vascular Ultrasonographers, and most patients will need the clinic for study of their arteries or veins prior to their first consultation. The clinic is open to outside referrals which can be received by referral-net, or by fax to 03 52292819. Pensioners, health-card holders and those patients who are included in one of our surveillance programs are bulk billed for all studies.

A/PROF DAVID NEALE McCLURE

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Appointments and all enquiries can be made by contacting **GEE LONG VASCULAR SERVICE** on 03 52290024. Further information is available on our website: www.geelongvascular.com.au