

TRA *Imaging News*

PRINTED FOR THE REFERRING PROVIDERS OF TRA MEDICAL IMAGING

New! Non-Surgical Treatment for Varicose Veins



G. Gordon Benjamin, M.D.
Interventional Radiologist

TRA Medical Imaging is pleased to announce a new clinic within our practice—the percutaneous treatment of varicose veins

secondary to venous insufficiency with an endovascular laser. Venous insufficiency is a widespread, often under treated, medical problem that affects one in five adults. Prevalence increases with age ultimately affecting 72 percent of women and 40 percent of men over 60. This condition can result in unsightly, often painful varicose veins, reticular veins and telangectasias (spider veins).

The underlying cause of many lower extremity varicosities is incompetence at the junction of the greater saphenous vein with the common femoral vein.

Traditional therapy for this condition is high ligation of the greater saphenous vein and stripping of the incompetent segment. This surgical procedure is performed under general anesthesia and often involves a prolonged recovery.

Recent technological advances have made it possible to replace this surgery with a minimally invasive

“ a minimally invasive percutaneous procedure that can be performed in the outpatient setting under local anesthesia.”

— G. Gordon Benjamin, M.D.

percutaneous procedure that can be performed in the outpatient setting under local anesthesia. This procedure typically is completed in less than an hour. Patients are discharged home following a brief 15-20 minute post-procedure observation period. A routine follow up visit, including an

ultrasound, will occur three to four days after the procedure.

Endovascular laser vein ablation, developed by Angiodynamics under the name Venacure™, now involves the

FOCUS ON: New Services

MR-Guided Breast Biopsy

TRA-Tacoma has MR-guided breast biopsy available upon request by breast surgeons. This procedure is appropriate for patients who have a positive Breast MRI and other more standard biopsy procedures are not possible.

Virtual Colonoscopy

TRA offers the CT procedure, virtual colonoscopy, at the Tacoma, Lakewood and Gig Harbor offices. This is a problem-solving exam and is currently not recommended for health screens. For more information, contact Dan Heller, M.D., at (253) 761-4200.

Private Pay Patients

TRA Medical Imaging, Tacoma Magnetic Imaging and Union Avenue Open MRI offer patients flexible payment options. Cash pay patients are offered a 20 percent discount when payment is received at the time of service. Payment plans are also available. For more information regarding TRA's payment options, call our Billing Office at (253) 383-0505.



Before and after Venacure™ non-surgical laser procedure.

...NON-SURGICAL TREATMENT FOR VARICOSE VEINS

continued

power of a laser, an evolutionary step forward from the initial endovascular use of radiofrequency energy. This system allows deployment of a laser catheter into the incompetent saphenous via a simple venous puncture near the knee. Once positioned and activated, the diode laser fiber emits high energy laser light at 980nm wavelength, which is at the peak of the water absorption energy curve. The energy is transferred to the blood within the vein and the vein wall, resulting in controlled permanent vein occlusion, thus safely and effectively treating the source of the varicose veins.

Initial data shows the procedure is equally effective as surgery with a lower recurrence rate and a faster recovery time, which is on the order of days instead of weeks. This allows the patient to return quickly to normal activities and to be free of the discomfort and embarrassment often associated with varicose veins.

Patients with varicose veins are welcome to schedule a free screening exam at

TRA Medical Imaging-Tacoma to see if they would benefit from this exciting procedure. If their exam and history suggest sapheno-femoral incompetence, they will be scheduled for a diagnostic lower extremity venous ultrasound followed by a consultation with a TRA board-certified, fellowship-trained interventional radiologist. If the patient is a candidate, the procedure can then be scheduled on an outpatient basis.

Due to the fact that Venasure™ laser vein ablation is quick and simple, it costs much less than traditional varicose vein surgery. In some cases, it is covered by the patient's health insurance.

TRA Medical Imaging is proud to add this leading edge technology to the wide array of procedures performed by our interventional radiologists.

For more information, please call (253) 761-4200, or visit the Venasure™ website at www.venasure.com.

TRANEWS

TRA Imaging News is produced bi-monthly for referring providers of TRA-Medical Imaging.

It is designed to aid in the understanding of TRA and its services. If you have any questions, please contact the following:

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