

Sclerotherapy could replace vein stripping

- ALL varicose veins can be treated by ultrasound-guided sclerotherapy, said Gold Coast phlebologist Dr Paul Varcoe.

Surgical vein stripping is virtually no longer necessary, Dr Varcoe told *Medical Observer* at the conference.

"Most people who go through a surgical procedure find it a very traumatic experience. They have time off work and there are significant risks and costs involved. Unfortunately, most of the postsurgical follow-up studies show an unacceptable recurrence rate," Dr Varcoe said.

Ultrasound-guided sclerotherapy was developed 10 years ago and is increasing in popularity. .

"It keeps people out of hospital and can be done as a 'walk-in, walk-out' procedure with significantly less risk, cost and morbidity than surgery. The studies done so far show the recurrence rate is comparable to the best surgical techniques," he said.

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