



## **Radiofrequency (RF) Thermal Ablation**

### ***Preparation Needed:***

Please read all instructions carefully and follow them exactly as outlined below. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of your test.

No restriction of food, liquid or medications prior to the test.

### ***Brief Description of Test:***

Radiofrequency thermal ablation is a procedure that uses a laser or high-frequency radio waves to create just the right amount of heat to shrink the vein. After the vein shrinks, the body automatically routes the blood through other, healthy veins. This procedure is generally performed on large varicose veins. Your leg is sterilized and local anesthesia is applied to the treatment area. A catheter is inserted into the vein through a small incision generally below the knee. The device is then inserted into the catheter. When the device is turned on, the heat it generates closes the vein and the catheter is slowly pulled down the length of the vein, closing it permanently. Radiofrequency thermal ablation is an in-office procedure that lasts approximately one hour. After the procedure, prescription strength compression stockings must be worn for a short time. However, you'll be able to resume most normal activities almost immediately. There is virtually no scarring from the procedure because the incision to insert the catheter is only a few millimeters in length. Radiofrequency thermal ablation is FDA approved and has a success rate of over 95%. As with all surgical procedures, there is a small chance of complication and risks with radiofrequency thermal ablation

### ***Why Am I Taking This Test?***

Your doctor has ordered this test to treat large varicose veins with abnormal blood flow.

*Please call our office with additional questions.*