

SAVANNAH HEALTHCARE PROFILES

Vanquishing Vein Woes

Dr. Peter Wrobel has great news for people suffering from varicose veins and other venous diseases: Treatment is easier than you might think.

Dr. Peter Wrobel, clinic director and chief physician at Elite Vein Specialists, says he hears the same story over and over: "Patients go to their family doctor seeking help with varicose and spider veins—and the aching, throbbing sensations that often accompany them—and are told nothing can be done, that these conditions are just a natural part of aging," he says. "This is simply not true."

Since 2008, Dr. Wrobel and the vein care professionals at Elite Vein Specialists have performed more than 15,000 procedures, relieving painful, bulging varicose veins and spider veins and transforming the lives of thousands of patients.

"Our specialty is treating venous insufficiency; that is the umbrella term for veins that have trouble sending blood back up to the heart," explains Dr. Wrobel. The condition is often hereditary; other risk factors include old age, lack of exercise, and pregnancy. As valves in the veins fail, blood pools in the legs, causing varicosities—swollen, twisted veins that lie just under the skin—or spider veins.

"These are not just cosmetic concerns," Dr. Wrobel adds. "These conditions can be painful and can lead to more serious venous disease. Most importantly, these conditions are treatable."

FIRST STEP TO HEALTHIER LEGS

At a first visit to Elite Vein Specialists, patients meet with registered vascular technologist Stephanie Williams, RDMS, RVT, for a screening exam. "Using ultrasound technology, I obtain high-quality imaging of the veins and identify any underlying issues the patient might not be aware of," says Williams, who then meets with Dr. Wrobel to discuss a diagnosis and treatment plan.

The second visit includes an in-depth consultation with Dr. Wrobel and the start of targeted, leading-edge treatment. Further sonograms are performed to ensure that the problematic veins have been completely sealed, with blood flow rerouted to deeper veins in the leg.

Many patients are surprised to learn that they don't need a referral from their family physician and that treatments are covered by most major insurers. Best of all, says Dr. Wrobel, treatments at Elite Vein Specialists are outpatient and virtually pain-free. "Most of our patients are back at work the next day—sometimes the same day," he adds.

There's another story Dr. Wrobel hears over and over. "Patients tell us they had no idea how easy it would be to treat their venous disease and how thrilled they are with the results," he says. "That's why we are here: to help."



Dr. Wrobel uses minimally invasive, state-of-the-art technologies, including:

- **Radiofrequency Ablation:** Guided by ultrasound, a small catheter heats the vein wall, sealing it off; blood flow is soon rerouted.
- **Varithena®:** This prescription medicine improves symptoms caused by varicose veins and reduces the appearance of spider veins.
- **VenaSeal™:** The first FDA-approved, medical-grade glue treatment to permanently treat venous insufficiency.
- **Phlebectomy:** A procedure is typically used to remove superficial varicose veins through microincisions.
- **Sclerotherapy:** This is the gold standard for treatment of uncomplicated spider veins.

ELITE
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