

alves in veins direct the flow of blood in one direction towards the heart. Vein disease occurs when valves in the veins malfunction and the blood begins to flow in the opposite direction, causing strain on the veins and a backup of blood in the veins.

The result can be both physical and visual symptoms.

Physical discomfort typically presents as aches, pain, swelling, heaviness, or restlessness of the legs. Visual warning signs may include varicose and spider veins on the legs.

"Many people think these symptoms are just something they have to live with," says Sean McWilliams, M.D., national

medical director of Vein Clinics of America (VCA), one of the most established vein centers in the country. "It takes upwards of five years for the average person experiencing this kind of discomfort to see a doctor. But vein disease is 100% treatable. With a procedure that takes an hour or less, you can get immediate relief."

## **A Treatable Condition**

Since VCA's founding in 1981, its physicians have treated over 300,000 patients in 60 locations across the country. Unlike many clinics that also offer cosmetic procedures, VCA exclusively treats vein disease. Its vein specialists have a vast collective knowledge of the condition, and every physician who joins VCA receives specialized training.

Once a patient enters the office, a

vein specialist will evaluate them with a thorough history, a physical exam, and an ultrasound. The risk factors are then identified: Pregnancy, weight gain, aging, and occupations that require extended periods of sitting or standing put patients more at risk for vein



disease—as do genetics.

Doctors will assess a patient's family medical history to see whether they had one or both parents with the condition. "If one parent has vein disease, some studies show up to a 33% chance of the patient having it as well," says Dr. McWilliams. "If both parents have vein disease, patients could have a 75% chance or higher of inheriting it."

VCA treats the unhealthy veins by closing them with a combination of

minimally invasive procedures, such as endovenous thermal ablation, adhesive ablation, or sclerotherapy, starting with the large veins deeper in the venous system and moving progressively towards the surface of the leg. This prompts the body to redirect blood to healthy veins

and helps patients regain the ability to participate in activities that were too painful before the treatment.

## **Treating the Whole Patient**

VCA is the oldest and most experienced vein treatment center in America, with one of the largest networks of doctors specializing in the treatment of varicose veins and spider veins. Most VCA doctors are certified by the American College of Venous and Lymphatic

Medicine and are passionately committed to addressing the root causes of vein disease and transforming lives.

"Our philosophy is treating the whole person by taking into consideration the underlying factors of their disease, lifestyle, motivation, and overall health," says Dr. McWilliams. "We partner with each patient every step of the way to improve their health and happiness. We treat the disease so we can give our patient their life back."



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