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QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR VEIN DOCTOR



VEINDOCTORS
GROUP



At Vein Doctors Group, we realise that some patients can feel overwhelmed by having to choose a suitable Doctor for their vein treatments, without fully understanding the criteria to be able to make this decision. We developed this list of questions to educate and empower you to confidently choose the best vein Doctor to suit you. We encourage you to do your research and don't assume your specialist is an expert in the field of veins and lymphatics, which falls under the specialisation of Phlebology. The Australasian College of Phlebology provides specialised vein training through Fellowship programs, which is the most comprehensive in Australia and endorsed by the International Union of Phlebology. Ensuring your Doctor is a specialist in veins and lymphatics is the first step, and the questions below provide a guide to making the very best decision for your vein treatments.



1 What types of vein treatments does your Doctor offer?

- At Vein Doctors Group we have the most comprehensive suite of modern treatments for varicose veins in the legs and pelvis. You are guaranteed the most suitable modality of treatment for your individual needs; as opposed to just getting the treatment that your doctor may be most comfortable in offering.
- Our treatments consist of ultrasound guided, foam, sclerotherapy, endovenous ablation, radio frequency ablation, medical adhesives, as well as pelvic vein coiling using fluoroscopy for pelvic vein congestion syndrome.



Is your Doctor just quoting you for one procedure or a full comprehensive treatment including follow up sessions that are required to eliminate all related surface pathology and optimize outcomes?

- Follow up is as important, if not more important, than the one initial procedure that your Doctor may quote you for.
- An expert vein Doctor will offer you treatments that go beyond just a laser or radio frequency treatment with some stripping. The most complex part of the treatments are the follow up with precise injection sessions to manage all the branching veins and the spider veins. Failure to do this follow up treatment expertly, results in complications such as blotchy veins (telangiectatic matting) and pigmentation that detracts from the cosmetic results that women, in particular, are seeking and why they originally decided to have treatment.
- If you have had previous treatments and you have been told that pigmentation and blotchy telangiectatic or "matty" veins that detract from visual and symptomatic improvement cannot be improved, then see Vein Doctors Group for a second opinion. It is common in our practice (over 50% of cases) that patients have had previous treatments performed with other specialists and are not happy with the results, yet in most of those patients we can significantly improve their outcomes.
- If lower pricing quoted by other Doctors appeals to you, please ensure the prices you are comparing include full comprehensive treatments including carefully administered follow up sessions. If you have concerns or questions about our pricing and inclusions, please speak to our team.

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Is your Doctor knowledgeable and are they able to manage the full scope of vein and lymphatic conditions?

- An expert in the field is capable of managing not only leg veins, but also pelvic veins, venous malformations, and lymphatic conditions.

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Is your Doctor comprehensively trained in the modern techniques?

- The Australasian College of Phlebology is multidisciplinary and a fellowship with this College assures at least 4 years of specialisation in these modern modalities. Training through the College includes face-to-face, hands on training with a supervising Doctor as well as filing log books and completing primary and advanced practical and written exams. Ask your Doctor how comprehensive their training is and how much hands-on, practical, supervised training and examinations were involved.
- Furthermore, did your Doctor do advanced training or a fellowship specifically for vein treatments including hands-on ultrasound use? Or have they just completed training via external or distance education with little supervision or practical, supervised training or exams? Or in a specialised field where very little modern venous work is part of the curriculum?

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Does your Doctor understand the science behind injection techniques?

- Modern injection techniques involve small aliquots of solution to optimally seal off diseased veins including the whole system of deeper (non-visual) and surface diseased veins. A very methodical approach to injections means multiple, smaller dosed injections with high accuracy using the ultrasound rather than just a few nominal injections into the obvious visible veins.
- Traditional injections are usually on surface veins and 5-6 nominal injection points where the solution is deactivated and ineffectual throughout the whole vein system, which in actual fact causes complications including blood clots, pigmentation and matting.

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Is your Doctor part of an expert peer-reviewed group such as the Australasian College of Phlebology, as well as an accredited group of peers internal to their own organization, such as the Medical Advisory Committee that exists at Miami Private Hospital & Specialist Centre (for Vein Doctors Group)?

- If your Doctor is not part of an internationally recognized peer-based group, please research the credibility and founders of their Institute or Academy, to ensure it is not a self-established Institute or self-appointed membership. Please ask your Doctor if their College membership is nominal (i.e. membership through payment of a fee) or if it is a result of a full comprehensive training and admission to the College as a respected Fellow.





Does your Doctor use ultrasound guidance for consults and treatments?

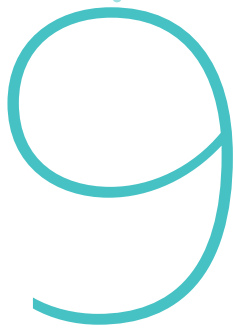
- Ultrasound is the mainstay for modern venous treatments (non-stripping) although these are considered recent advances, our Doctors have been using these techniques for over 25 years, making our team the most experienced.
- Ultrasound provides a full real-time picture to enable safe and targeted treatment of the underlying causes whilst avoiding damage to nerves, arteries and skin. Unlike superficial treatments, which treat only the visible veins, and inevitably fail.
- The cause of your vein disease is fully investigated by ultrasound during consult, as well as during procedures, to ensure complete treatment to maximise results, minimise recurrences and avoid complications.
- By documenting the medical causes of venous disease, the treatment using Medicare and Health Funds is justified. Further intricate deep vein and arterial pathology in the leg is assessed, when required.
- You are ensured optimal safety with an independent, qualified sonographer supporting the treating doctor during your treatment.



Does your Doctor operate within a Purpose Built or Licensed Facility offering a range of rebate opportunities including Medicare and Private Health?

- Miami Private Hospital & Specialist Centre is licensed by Queensland Health and has the highest level of accreditation underpinned by a full medical advisory committee to scrutinize the credentialing of every Doctor that works in the facility. As opposed to non-accredited outpatient facilities and clinics with no criteria for Doctor credentialing. The Hospital is also certified by council as a class 9 building that conforms to all safety requirements. Miami Private Hospital & Specialist Centre offers a full suite of equipment and ensures the most advance techniques are offered, all in the safest environment with specialist anesthetists monitoring and administering twilight sedation especially for complex veins, medical conditions and anxious patients; in a licensed hospital with access to Private Health rebates.
- Inpatient services within Miami Private Hospital & Specialist Centre are suitable even for those patients without private health insurance, where Medicare rebates apply.
- If you are having a consult or treatment in any of our clinics and you would prefer to be treated in Miami Private Hospital & Specialist Centre, please speak with our team about scheduling your treatments within this purpose-built facility, which is available to all patients.





Does your Doctor have a team of Vein Experts on-hand to support your treatment, if required?

- Our doctors are experts in managing swollen legs & veins, supported by specialised ultrasound that enables full insight and mapping of conditions for reports that substantiate access to Medicare and Private Health Fund Rebates.
- Miami Private Hospital & Specialist Centre is an accredited training facility, where delegates from all over Australia have participated in live surgery demonstrations, direct from the operating theatre to the onsite conference room via video link; hosted by Vein Doctors Group. This has been considered amongst peers as a 'Centre of Excellence'.
- Our team of Doctors teach Doctors from all around Australia and overseas, and act as supervisors and mentors for trainees specialising in Phlebology.
- Dr Chris Lekich is a board member of the Australasian College of Phlebology and is actively involved with continuing medical education and the code of conduct committee. Dr. Chris Lekich is a past Vice President of the College Board.
- Dr. Chris Lekich is part of the committee involved in organising and demonstrating live workshops at Phlebology conferences, with delegates from all over the world.



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Is your Doctor the expert who has to manage other Doctors' complications?

- It is not uncommon to be the third or fourth opinion in a long line of past treatments with numerous other Doctors involved, and patients being told nothing more can be done. This is rarely true and with a methodical and systematic approach, with the most accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date treatments, most patients will have favorable outcomes.

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