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QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR VEIN DOCTOR



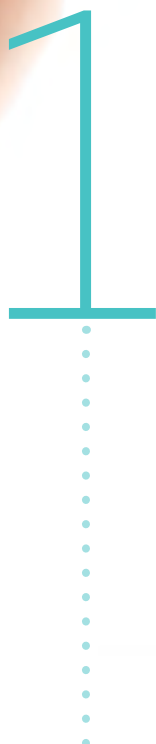
VEINDOCTORS
GROUP



At Vein Doctors Group, we understand that choosing the right doctor for your vein treatments can be overwhelming. To help you make an informed decision, we've created this list of essential questions. Our goal is to educate and empower you to confidently select the best vein doctor for your needs.

When researching potential doctors, remember not to assume they are experts in veins, swollen legs and lymphatics, which are covered under the field of Phlebology. The Australasian College of Phlebology offers specialized vein training through its Fellowship programs, the most comprehensive in Australia and endorsed by the International Union of Phlebology.

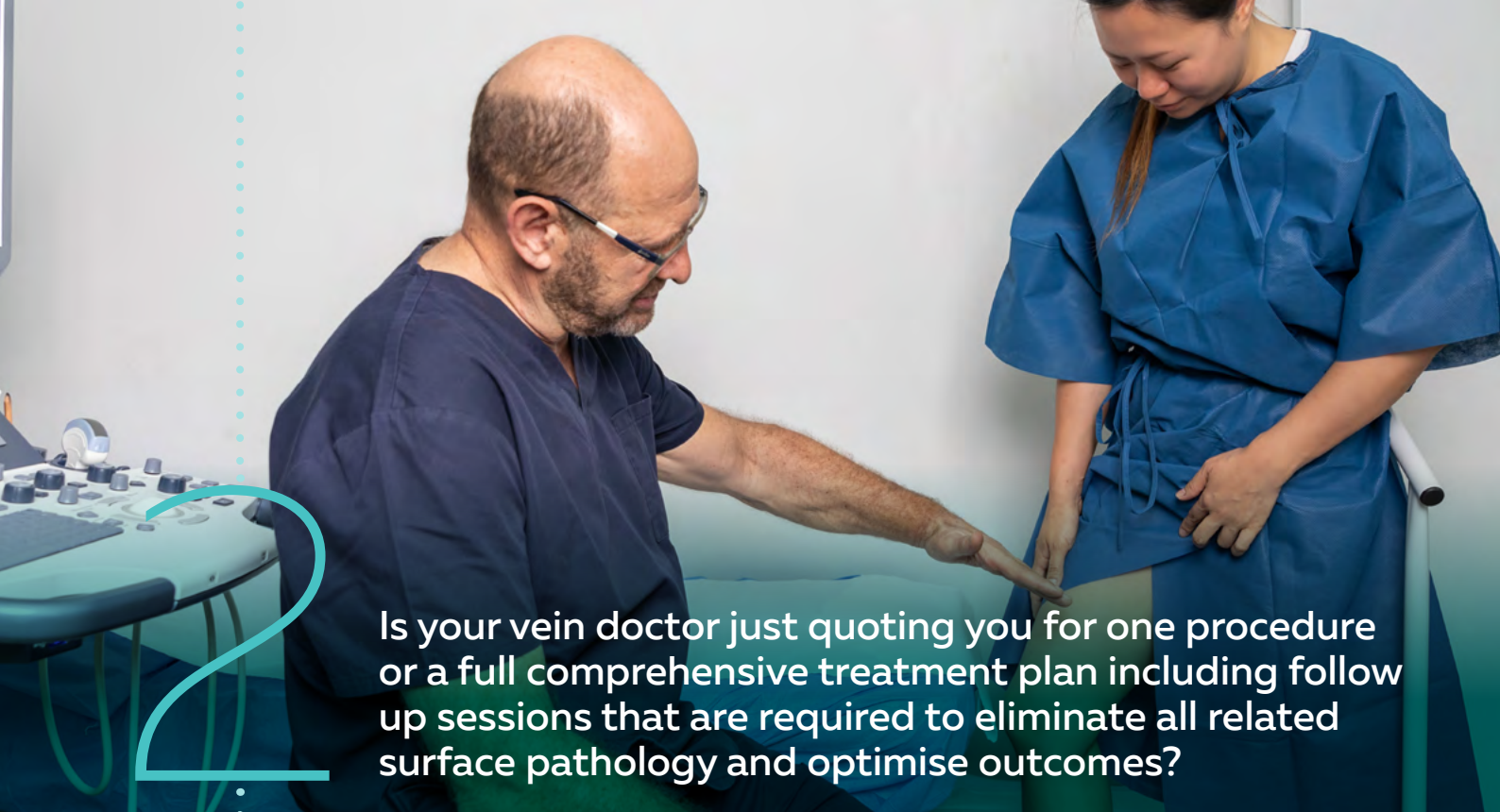
Ensuring your doctor is an expert in veins, swollen legs and lymphatics is the first crucial step. The following questions will guide you in making the best choice for your vein treatments.



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, pelvis, forehead, face, arms and hands. 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 microsclerotherapy/direct vision sclerotherapy (DVS) ultrasound guided sclerotherapy (UGS), endovenous laser ablation (EVLA), radio frequency ablation (RF), medical adhesives, as well as pelvic vein coiling for pelvic vein congestion syndrome.





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

- Follow-up care is as important, if not more so, than the initial procedure your doctor may quote you for.
- An expert vein doctor will offer you treatments that extend beyond just a single laser or radio frequency session with some vein stripping. The most complex part of the treatment process involves precise follow-up injection sessions to manage all the branching veins and spider veins. Without expert follow-up care, complications like blotchy veins (telangiectatic matting) and pigmentation issues can occur, detracting from the cosmetic results many patients, particularly women, seek when they decide to undergo treatment.
- If you have previously undergone treatment and were told that pigmentation and blotchy telangiectatic (or “matty”) veins cannot be improved, consider seeking a second opinion from Vein Doctors Group. We are often able to significantly enhance outcomes.
- When comparing lower pricing from other doctors, ensure that these quotes include comprehensive treatments with meticulously administered follow-up sessions. If you have any concerns or questions about our pricing and what it includes, please speak to our team. We’re here to help you understand the full scope of your treatment and ensure you receive the best care possible.

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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, trained in phlebology, can manage not only leg veins but also pelvic veins, facial and arm veins together with venous malformations and swollen legs, including conditions such as lipodema and lymphoedema.

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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.



THE AUSTRALASIAN
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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 optimise 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 advanced techniques are offered, all in the safest environment with specialist anaesthetists 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.



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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. 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 actively involved with continuing medical education and is a past Vice President of the College Board.



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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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