

New Solutions for an Aging Problem

For almost a century, developments in vein treatments have been generally stagnant. The basic process for treating varicose veins and other similar diagnoses involved tying veins off and stripping them out – a procedure that Dr. Nick Morrison describes as “barbaric.” The recovery time was no better, entailing three to six weeks, including a whole week in the hospital. Approximately 10 years ago, research brought about new, less invasive alternatives to the traditional vein treatment.

Using high-energy radio frequencies or lasers, and chemical ablation along with the precision of an ultrasound machine, allows a more comfortable procedure for patients as well as minimal recovery time. Dr. Morrison says, “Patients are able to walk out of the office and go back to work comfortably.” The new methods are known as VNUS Closure and Endovenous Laser Ablation, and Dr. Morrison was the first to use these procedures in the Southwest at his Morrison Vein Institute.

Before focusing his career on vein disorders, Dr. Morrison was a general surgeon for 20 years. He has specialized in the area, helping to conduct and participate in research studies to further the field, and opening his clinic 10 years ago in Tempe. He opened a second office in the Airpark area in 1998, and he and his partners Charles Rogers, M.D., James McEown, M.D. and a team of registered nurse specialists recently moved that office to its current location at Princess and the 101 in 2004. He decided to focus on vein disorders because he wanted a better lifestyle for himself and his fam-

ily, getting out of the 24/7 on-call life of a general surgeon. He also enjoyed the opportunity to participate in research and actually help advance a field of medicine. Now, he is a recognized expert. He speaks at events around the

world, sometimes twice a month. This summer, for instance, he will travel to Sedona, Miami, Italy, Africa, Ecuador, Australia, Germany, Washington, D.C. and the United Kingdom.

Morrison notes that vein disorders



Nick Morrison, M.D.



Charles Rogers, M.D.



James McEown, M.D.



Terri Morrison, RN

are inherited, and there are no permanent cures, but he says, "We are able to control the problem." Patti Acridge, a patient of the Morrison Vein Institute, explains her benefits, "My legs used to get really sore, but with this treatment, I feel much better." The benefits include helping people to be more comfortable, both physically and mentally, as the procedures also provide aesthetically pleasing results. Beyond that, they can help improve a patient's health, since the types of veins being treated create poor circulation and minimized blood oxygenation. This can lead to discolorations, ulcerations and ruptured veins.

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All Morrison Vein Institute patients are treated to the utmost in customer service. Morrison says, "My wife describes it as taking the Four Seasons approach." In fact, the entire staff is treated to a stay at the Scottsdale Four Seasons resort, to observe and learn about customer care as well as for the team-building benefits. Patients at the clinic seem to know the entire staff and are almost like old friends to Dr. Morrison. This is important to him because he wants his patients to be as comfortable as possible.

In addition to the Vein Institutes, Dr. Morrison and his wife and colleague Terri, a registered nurse, who helped found the Institute, travel with a group of doctors to South America once to twice a year. There, they donate their time and skills to help families who need medical care, but don't have the means to pay for it. Morrison's dedication to medicine and people is apparent in all of his undertakings, most of all in his clinic and through the superior level of service and procedures it offers. **SAW**

– Sarah Laidlaw