

IQ_2012_06_venus - Patient Story

Varicose Vein Treatment



The IR Way

The Patient

Ms. feraye kılıç, a patient of Prof. Levent Oguzkurt, explains how undergoing interventional radiology (IR) treatment for varicose veins made a real difference to her life:

“After my second pregnancy, unsightly varicose veins appeared on my left leg and got larger and larger over the last three years. The appearance was only one part of the problem. In my right leg, there was mild pain and heaviness. My left leg became heavier with walking and I had pain and got easily tired after walking for 10-15 minutes. I also started to experience cramps in my calf muscles which usually occurred during the night. At times, the numbness and pain extended to my left foot.

“I wanted to have my legs treated. The vascular surgeon that I visited recommended surgical removal of the varicose veins and the vein that caused it, but I had doubts over surgery as I had heard that the recurrence of varicose veins was high.

“I heard about the laser procedure and was examined. My doctor, an interventional radiologist, performed the ultrasound examination himself and told me that I had insufficiency of the left great saphenous vein and both small saphenous veins. He suggested laser ablation of the incompetent saphenous veins and sclerotherapy for varicose veins.

“The procedure was done using intravenous pain medication with a nerve blockade and lasted about an hour. It was very comfortable and I did not feel any pain or discomfort during the procedure. I could walk about 30 minutes after the operation and went about my usual daily routine. The area of laser ablation caused some mild pain for the next week but I was comfortable after using some pain medication.

“One year after the operation, I have been relieved of all my pains and heaviness and I can walk freely and I feel ‘light’ again. Before the treatment, I could not keep up with my friends while walking together – now they can’t keep up with me! I work in the fields and in the past I could only manage to walk around less than an acre before getting tired and needing to stop and rest; now I can manage five acres at a time. My legs look completely normal which also makes me feel better.

“My life really changed after the laser procedure. Now I am pain-free and I feel happier and much more energetic!”

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