



VEIN & VASCULAR INSTITUTE OF TAMPA BAY

THOMAS M. KERR, MD, FACS
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Tom Maloney travels extensively in his career, sometimes logging as many as thirty hours in-flight in a single stretch.

“It’s not the best of environments for someone with varicose veins,” he acknowledges. “I never developed deep vein thrombosis [DVT], but in the past seven or eight years the throbbing, achiness, and pain in my legs has grown increasingly uncomfortable, and my discomfort was especially bad on longer flights.

“My veins bulged out, too,” Tom confides. “I’m in my thirties, but those veins made my legs look like they belonged to someone in his sixties.”

With a family history that includes both varicose veins and aneurysms, Tom realized how devastating it would be if his own varicose veins were allowed to progress. He embarked on a campaign to find a physician with strong credentials in vascular care.

His search led him to board-certified and fellowship-trained vascular surgeon Thomas M. Kerr, MD, FACS, of the Vein & Vascular Institute of Tampa Bay. Dr. Kerr’s advanced training, both in the United States and abroad, allows him to bring an exceptional level of expertise to the treatment of venous disease.



Tom Maloney

Exceptional focus

Dr. Kerr is one of only a handful of vascular surgeons in Florida to have been accepted into the prestigious American Venous Forum. His research into venous disease garnered one of the first awards presented by the American Venous Research Foundation, and his list of peer-reviewed publications encompasses both venous and arterial disease and treatment.

“Tom was right to seek treatment for his varicose veins,” Dr. Kerr confirms. “Many patients are unaware that the large, bulging veins that disturb the appearance of their legs are more than a cosmetic concern. They are a health risk.”

Varicose veins develop when the tiny one-way valves inside the veins that help move blood back to the heart fail to close properly. This allows blood to flow backward (reflux) in the veins. The blood forms pools, following the pull of gravity, which is why patients suffering from varicose veins often complain of an aching, heavy feeling in the legs. Left untreated, the condition can lead to much more

FEELING FINE.

Tom says all the painful symptoms caused by his varicose veins have been resolved, thanks to Dr. Kerr’s exceptional skill and knowledge.



FHCN PHOTOS BY BRIAN GLENN

RFA Resolves Varicosities

After living with the pain of varicose veins for years, this patient finds a vascular specialist who uses radio frequency ablation to restore health, comfort, and a cosmetic appearance to his legs.

serious difficulties, including blood clots, leg ulcers, infection, and a breakdown of the skin. The reflux also causes spider veins, a cosmetic problem, also treated by Dr. Kerr.

Because accurate evaluation of a patient’s incompetent veins is so important, Dr. Kerr’s practice includes an in-house, nationally-accredited vascular lab. Three registered vascular technologists work to ensure that ultrasound evaluations are

performed and processed in-house in a timely manner so Dr. Kerr and his associate, Marlene D. Valentin, MD, can determine the most appropriate treatment.

“Patients sometimes hesitate to seek help for their problem veins because they worry that the treatment may be expensive,” notes Dr. Kerr. “I remind them that varicose veins are a *medical*, not a cosmetic, problem, and that our office provides all the documentation about this medical

necessity so a patient’s health insurance covers the treatment.”

Advanced treatment

Dr. Kerr has an impressive array of treatment options at his disposal, and the one he selected for Tom, radiofrequency ablation (RFA), is at the forefront of those options for several reasons.

“We have progressed far from the days of vein stripping, a surgical procedure that removed the problem vein but left a large, unsightly scar on the leg and required a prolonged recovery period,” assures Dr. Kerr.

“Today, we can address problem veins with a minimally invasive procedure that uses radiofrequency energy to gently heat and collapse a problem vein endovenously — from the inside — without perforating the vessel and causing small areas of thermal damage such as is common with laser ablation.

“Radiofrequency ablation has been shown to be the next level of safety beyond laser ablation in the treatment of varicose veins, and it is now the standard of care at the Vein & Vascular Institute of Tampa Bay. We have found it to be a safer, more efficient way to treat varicose veins, and one that provides our patients with a quicker return to their normal activities.”

Excellent experience

“I was impressed,” says Tom.

“First, while doing my research I found a lot of positive feedback about Dr. Kerr. Not being a big fan of hospitals or surgeries, I appreciated being able to go to his office to be treated in the same comfortable environment where Dr. Kerr had originally provided me with such thorough explanations about my problem veins and his plans to treat them.

“Dr. Kerr has a calm, confident manner, and when he speaks, what he says is accurate. I know,” says Tom, “because I checked up on everything.”

Tom’s more problematic left leg was treated in May, 2007, and his right leg was treated in January, 2008.

“I appreciated Dr. Kerr’s recognition of the value of my time,” says Tom. “He got me in and out of my appointments as quickly as possible, and with virtually no down time — I was walking around feeling fine with only a little achiness where the treatment catheter was inserted, but in less than a month I felt like I had a new leg.

“My legs used to get sore and tired,” he reminds, “but I don’t have any of those negative symptoms anymore. My air flight problems have lessened, too.

“If anyone is even thinking about whether they should have their varicose veins treated, I suggest they do it, and they should have Dr. Kerr as their vein surgeon. Thanks to him, I feel a hundred percent!” **FHCN**



Thomas M. Kerr, MD, FACS, is a board-certified vascular surgeon with a certificate of added qualification in critical care medicine. He completed his undergraduate studies at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, and earned his medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine, then served his internship and general surgery residency at Temple University Hospital. Dr. Kerr is a Kachelmacher Memorial Research Fellow, and studied under Dr. John J. Cranley. He completed a fellowship in vascular surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, OH, and furthered

his training abroad with a traveling fellowship sponsored by the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery. Dr. Kerr was one of the first recipients of the prestigious American Venous Forum Research Foundation Award for Studies in Venous Diseases. He is also a recipient of the Taylor-Caswell Teaching Award from Temple University, and has multiple peer-reviewed papers on venous disease to his credit. Dr. Kerr is a Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of South Florida and a member of the exclusive American Venous Forum, the International Society of Endovascular Specialists, and the Society of Clinical Vascular Surgeons.



Marlene D. Valentin, MD, is a fellowship trained vascular surgeon with certification in advanced life support and critical care medicine. She completed her undergraduate studies at the College of Mount St. Vincent, Riverdale, NY, and earned her medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Newark. She served her internship and her

residency at Morristown Memorial Hospital, gaining experience on over 1300 cases in vascular, laparoscopic, plastic, transplant, thoracic and general surgery and critical care. Dr. Valentin is fellowship trained in vascular surgery through Good Samaritan Hospital, where she trained with Dr. Richard Welling. She also completed an endovascular super fellowship through Southern Illinois University, Springfield, training in cerebral and peripheral endovascular techniques.

Got Veins? Got Questions? Get Answers!

Dr. Kerr offers free, informative consultations and seminars to help guide you to the solutions that are best for your problem veins. He invites you to call the office for details.

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