

Melinda “Mindy” Garcia was frustrated. “I’d been having problems with my leg veins for many, many years,” she relates. “My insurance company required my primary doctor’s referral before I could see a vein surgeon, but when I approached my doctor for a referral, he told me my problem was purely cosmetic, and refused.”

Mindy coped with her bulging, unsightly veins, and tried to ignore her leg pain.

It wasn’t easy.

“I used to travel a lot in my work, and the change in air pressure on airplanes always made the pain a lot worse,” she reports. “But I got lucky: I changed insurance plans, and asked a good friend, a respected doctor herself, if she knew of a good vascular surgeon. She told me Dr. Thomas Kerr has a reputation as one of the best. I took her advice and scheduled an appointment.”

Thomas M. Kerr, MD, FACS, of the Vein & Vascular Institute of Tampa Bay, is a board-certified and fellowship-trained vascular surgeon. 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.

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.

Mindy was happy to be referred to a vein surgeon with such exceptional credentials.

“Unfortunately, just before my appointment, I developed a bad case of the ‘flu and was in bed for over a week. That inactivity made my varicose veins even worse, and I developed clots in the calf of my right leg.

Safe, Effective Radiofrequency Ablation

Varicose veins are unhealthy. RF ablation can treat problem veins gently and effectively.



After

EXCEPTIONAL RESULT. Mindy’s right leg was badly discolored because of her diseased veins. Dr. Kerr treated her leg veins with radiofrequency ablation, effectively closing off her varicose veins, eliminating her pain, and restoring the healthy look of her skin.



Before



Vein & Vascular Institute of Tampa Bay

Thomas M. Kerr, MD, FACS
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By the time of my appointment with Dr. Kerr, the pain was so bad I could barely walk.”

“Mindy’s situation was serious,” confirms Dr. Kerr. “The acute clotting in her lower leg needed to be addressed before I could treat her underlying varicosities, so I prescribed medications to break up her blood clots and reduce the swelling and inflammation in her legs. I also prescribed the use of compression stockings to help improve circulation.”

Mindy followed Dr. Kerr’s instructions faithfully, and was able to schedule her surgery within eight weeks.

“The whole inside of my right calf was black because of my poorly-functioning veins,” describes Mindy. “Dr. Kerr treated my right leg with radio frequency ablation, and the procedure was very easy on me. Dr. Kerr and everyone on his staff were just phenomenal, too, doing everything they could to ensure a comfortable, successful procedure.

“I have to admit that I did feel a little something during treatment because my leg veins were so bad,” she adds, “but I’ve spoken to friends whom I’ve referred to Dr. Kerr, and they all say they didn’t feel a thing.”

Mindy says Dr. Kerr provided her with the solution she was looking for.

“It worked!” she proclaims. “It was such a relief to have this surgery done, and I was very careful to follow Dr. Kerr’s post-operative instructions about using compression stockings to support my healing.

“Once my underlying vein problem was solved and my skin began to look better, I realized that I had a number of spider veins that still made me feel self-conscious,” Mindy continues. “Those have been treated with sclerotherapy, and my leg looks and feels normal again!

“I can’t thank Dr. Kerr enough, and I’m looking forward to having my left leg treated soon, too.” **FHCN**—Billie S. Noakes



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.

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL. Everyone on staff at the Vein & Vascular Institute of Tampa Bay is bi-lingual, speaking both English and Spanish.

Focus on Varicose Veins

“Many patients are unaware that the large, bulging veins that disturb the appearance of their legs are more than a cosmetic concern,” observes Dr. Kerr. “It’s so important that they understand: varicose veins 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 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 Mindy, 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.”

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.

SE HABLA ESPAÑOL

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