

About Laser

The third generation Laser devices are now offering acceptable safety and effectiveness equivalent to surgery. Therefore, a greater proportion of people with varicose veins can be treated by this non-surgical technique, thus avoiding a hospital stay and shorter post-operative discomfort period.

Not all veins can be treated with laser technology. Suitability for Laser treatment is determined by ultrasound scanning.

There have been four recent controlled studies comparing Endovenous Laser Ablation with standard ligation and stripping/avulsions (conventional varicose vein surgery).

The major findings were:

- Hospital stays were shorter or not needed.
- Post procedure discomfort was much less with Laser than with Surgery.
- Disability post procedure was dramatically reduced with Laser.

However no significant difference was detected between the two procedures at 3 months in regards to the following scores:

- Improvements in quality of life scores
- Disease specific quality of life scores
- Symptoms (venous clinical severity score).

In studies with relatively longer follow-up, no difference was detected at 26 months between Laser or varicose veins surgery in terms of aesthetic results, patient satisfaction and pain.

Therefore the major difference is less discomfort and disability with Laser post procedure.



Information on Laser Vs. Surgery for Varicose Veins

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LASER AS AN OUTPATIENT: -

Insured & Uninsured:

Medicare provides rebates on item numbers (excludes all consumables)

Day Procedure Facility Fee applies

TREATMENT AS AN INPATIENT AT A PRIVATE HOSPITAL: - LASER

Insured:

Bill sent to patient for claiming from health fund and Medicare. Patient GAP will apply (see table below)

Uninsured:

Day Case Stay & Hospital Bed fees apply

Hospital Theatre Fees – Approximately \$4400 (no rebate from Medicare)

Medicare provides partial rebate on item number

SURGERY

Insured:

Bill will be sent directly to health fund in most cases. A patient GAP will apply. * see below table for approximate out of pocket costs

Uninsured:

Day Case Stay & Hospital Bed fees Apply
Hospital Theatre Fees – Approximately \$3600 (no rebate from Medicare)

Medicare provides partial rebate on item number (detailed quote will be provided at time of booking) Prices marked with * depend on hospital quotes.

Laser or Surgery?

	LASER	SURGERY
RETURN TO NORMAL ACTIVITY **	2 Days Range 2hrs to 4 days	7 Days Range 3-14 days
RETURN TO WORK**	1-4 Days	3-17 Days
POST-OP DISABILITY (sick leave days)**	8.6 Days	22.4 Days
ANAESTHETIC	Local Anaesthetic or Sedation plus Local Anaesthetic or General Anaesthetic	General Anaesthetic or Regional (Spinal or Epidural)
PROCEDURE TIME	20-40 mins	1-2 hours
HOSPITAL TIME	Can be done in or out of hospital. Procedure/Office time 1 hour Hospital Time 2-4 hrs.	Day surgery Or Overnight Stay

**Median results

Approximate Out of Pocket Cost Comparison

Location	Insurance	Laser	Surgery
Hospital - One Limb	Insured	\$1500 - \$2500	\$1500 - \$2500
Hospital - Two Limbs	Insured	\$1900 - \$3800	\$1900 - \$3800
Hospital - One Limb	Uninsured	\$6200 *	\$5200 *
Hospital - Two Limbs	Uninsured	\$6750 *	\$5650 *
Outpatient - One Limb	Insured & Uninsured	\$2800 - \$ 3700	N/A
Outpatient - Two Limbs	Insured & Uninsured	\$3900 - 4500	N/A

QUOTES ARE PROVIDED AFTER ULTRASOUND IS PERFORMED AND AN ACCURATE DIAGNOSIS IS MADE.

