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## **VARICOSE VEIN SURGERY**

### **THE OPERATION**

#### *High Ligation and Short Segment Stripping of the Long Saphenous Vein*

Surgery is performed when the groin valve is leaking and the Long Saphenous Vein is swollen. This entails a 5cm cut in the groin, a .5cm cut below the knee and removing the vein between.

#### *Ligation of the Long Saphenous Vein*

On occasion, the top-most valve of the Long Saphenous Vein ceases to function effectively. In this case, a ligation is indicated, as the ligation will protect the Long Saphenous Vein from becoming varicose.

### **ANAESTHESIA**

Surgery can be done under femoral nerve block, spinal or general anaesthetic.

- Femoral nerve block – this is where a local anaesthetic is applied to the main nerve of the leg and light sedation.
- Spinal anaesthetic – injection to numb the legs completely
- General anaesthetic – you are put to sleep

### **PREPARATION**

Nothing to eat or drink after midnight

Arrange to have someone take you home afterwards

The hospital will call you one week beforehand with your admission time, if you do not receive a call five days before surgery please call the Hospital: 403 760 7243

## **AFTERWARDS**

In most cases you can go home several hours after surgery

Remove dressing on second day after surgery. Under the 'mepore' dressing are steristrip which should be left on for one week. Do NOT bath for one week, you may shower after two days.

The Internal and External sutures are dissolvable. A small piece of suture protruding through the skin may need trimmed a week to 10 days after surgery.

Mobilize gently as soon as possible. You are able to resume gentle activity immediately.

Support stockings should be worn for one week after surgery. They may be removed at night.

Minor discomfort and bruising will be experienced along the path of the Long Saphenous Vein for up to 3 weeks post surgery.

## **RISKS**

The risk of the operation is minimal. The surgery is away from the main artery and veins of the leg. Risks of anesthesia are minimal and discussed in detail by the aneashtetist.

## **QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS:**

Contact Dr. Ian MacDonald through his office at (403) 762-3155.

**THIS PROCEDURE TAKES PLACE AT THE BANFF MINERAL SPRINGS HOSPITAL**

**NOTE:** Please inform the office 1 week prior to your appointment if you need to cancel or you will be charged \$100.00 for a no-show.