



HEALTHCARE

Profiles

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Jeffrey L. Brooks

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Dr. Jeffrey Brooks is a surgeon who specializes in treating varicose veins. He works from Napa Vascular & Vein Center. He performs minimally invasive varicose vein procedures. Some patients need only one treatment, others a combination of treatments.

One form of treatment uses a radiofrequency catheter guided by ultrasound. The catheter tip heats the vein wall, shrinking the wall and closing the diseased vein so the body reroutes blood to healthy veins. Another treatment uses a microdissections phlebectomy hook inserted through a puncture to draw out superficial veins.

Technology has made a big difference in the treatment of varicose veins, Brooks says. What once entailed patients going to the hospital operating room and putting up with pain during the recovery period has become something that can be done at Napa Vascular & Vein Center, with patients returning to normal activity within days.

Brooks recalls that 30 years ago, treatments were textbook, one-size-fits-all procedures. Today, treatments are tailored to the patient's anatomy.

"Instead of it being a tract home or a manufactured home, it's a custom home," Brooks says.

He treats about 90 percent of his patients for health reasons associated with varicose veins — only 10 percent come for purely cosmetic reasons.

Brooks attended the University of California, Davis and University of Oklahoma in the 1970s, graduating from the latter with a doctor of medicine degree. He did his internship and residency at The Mason Clinic in Seattle and a fellowship at Vascular Surgery in Long Beach. He came to Napa in 2006. He also sees patients in Vacaville.

"The same thing happens in both locations," Brooks says, adding that it's easier for him to make the trips between both areas than it would be for his patients to go to one location.

He led a medical mission in Nicaragua earlier this year.