Varicose Vein Treatment Cost Melbourne - Me Clinic

Canonical: https://www.meclinic.com.au/body/vein-treatments/varicose-vein-treatment-costs/

Details:

At Me Clinic, varicose vein treatment starts from $470 .

A range of factors affects the final cost — the treatment method used, the number of veins being treated, the number of sessions required and the complexity of the procedure. A consultation is needed to obtain a personalised quote for your condition.

Varicose veins are a common condition, affecting a substantial proportion of the population and generally more prevalent among women. They occur when veins, usually in the legs and feet, become twisted and enlarged, and are commonly associated with pregnancy, genetics or prolonged standing. Treatment can reduce their visibility or remove them altogether.

Price guide

As at September 2024 and including GST:

Vein consultation with a doctor, which may include ultrasound — $230.

Sclerotherapy treatment session — from $470.

Ultrasound-guided sclerotherapy treatment session — from $740.

Endovenous laser treatment (EVLT) — from $4,200.

Varicose vein surgery — typically costs more than the less invasive options; quoted individually.

The number that actually matters is the programme, not the session

This is the single most useful thing on the page. Varicose veins are almost never treated in one appointment, and comparing per-session prices between clinics without knowing how many sessions are involved is comparing nothing at all.

A treatment plan usually has the same shape, whatever the clinic:

Consultation and duplex ultrasound — the assessment that determines everything else.

Closing the refluxing trunk vein , if there is one — EVLT, ultrasound-guided foam, or adhesive closure.

Dealing with the branches — usually one to several sclerotherapy sessions, sometimes phlebectomy.

Compression stockings.

Review appointments , including the one where trapped blood is released.

Occasional maintenance in later years, because new veins can develop regardless.

Someone with a few surface veins and no trunk reflux may have steps 1, 3 and 4 only. Someone with a refluxing saphenous vein and extensive branches will have all of them. Those are different purchases by an order of magnitude , and both start at the same headline figure.

So the question to ask at consultation, in these words: “What is the likely total for the whole plan, including stockings and reviews, and how many appointments is that?”

What makes up the cost

You should understand all the fees associated with vein treatment before committing to a procedure. Your physician should provide a complete breakdown of each cost; at Me Clinic these are set out at your initial consultation.

Consultation fee. Charged when you attend the initial consultation. This is the standard vein consultation fee and is disclosed at the time of booking. If you proceed with treatment on the day of the consultation, the consultation fee may be waived.

Procedure fee. The fee for performing the treatment itself, included in the price quoted at your consultation.

Number of treatment sessions. Some conditions require more than one session, which affects the total.

Type of treatment recommended. Methods vary considerably in complexity and cost.

Anaesthetic fee. Most varicose vein treatments do not require anaesthetic. The exceptions are EVLT and vein surgery. EVLT is usually performed in clinic under local anaesthetic, and where local anaesthesia is required the cost is included in your quote.

Compression garments and post-procedure care. You may need to cover incidentals such as compression garments or stockings, ointment for bruising, or anti-inflammatory medication.

Two more that are easy to overlook: review appointments , which are part of the treatment rather than an optional extra — releasing trapped blood early is what prevents long-term staining — and time off work , which is minimal for most vein treatments but is real for surgery under general anaesthetic.

Comparing quotes between clinics

Vein quotes are unusually hard to compare, because two clinics can quote for genuinely different amounts of work. Six questions make them comparable.

“Is the duplex ultrasound included, and who performs it?”

“Does the quote include treating the trunk vein, or only the visible branches?” This is the biggest single difference between one quote and another.

“How many sclerotherapy sessions are in this figure, and what happens if I need more?”

“Are compression stockings included, and how many pairs?”

“Are review appointments included, including the one where lumps are released?”

“What is the total, and what would maintenance cost in a few years?”

A lower per-session price with the trunk vein left out is not a lower price. It is a plan that treats the branches while the source keeps running, which is also the most reliable way to be back within a year or two.

Informed financial consent

You are entitled to know what a course of treatment will cost you before agreeing to it — in writing, itemised, naming anything that will be billed separately, and given with enough time to read it. It is reasonable to ask for that by name, and a clinic that cannot produce one has told you something useful.

Where part of it genuinely cannot be fixed in advance — the number of sclerotherapy sessions is the usual one — the estimate should say so and give a range, rather than leaving the line out.

How the treatment method affects cost

Sclerotherapy — from $470

A sclerosant solution is injected into the affected vein through very small micro-needles, causing the body to close and contract the vein until it disappears. It suits large veins, particularly in the legs, and also smaller veins as a way to prevent them deteriorating into larger varicose veins.

Two types are used. Liquid sclerosant, and foam sclerosant. Foam is generally preferred because less solution is required to achieve the result, it is visible under ultrasound which allows the treatment to be monitored, and it typically causes less discomfort with more rapid healing.

Ultrasound-guided sclerotherapy — from $740

Treatment involving ultrasound monitoring generally costs more than standard sclerotherapy, because it targets veins that are not visible at the surface. Both forms of sclerotherapy typically cost less than varicose vein surgery. Sclerotherapy can also be combined with vein surgery, which affects the cost.

Endovenous laser ablation (EVLT) — from $4,200

A fibre-optic probe is inserted into the vein and laser light generates heat, causing the vein to shrink and close. It suits larger veins such as the greater and small saphenous veins, can be performed in summer or winter, and offers a relatively quick recovery. EVLT typically costs more than sclerotherapy but less than vein surgery.

Surface laser treatment

Effective for small spider veins on the face and nose, and usable on small veins on the legs and body. Laser light is absorbed by blood in the vein, converts to heat and causes the vein to shrink. No dressings or stockings are needed. It is only suitable for patients with lighter skin.

Surface laser options include Aura laser, intense pulsed light (IPL), Laser Genesis and YAG laser, which differ in cost. For varicose veins specifically, other procedures are generally more effective given the size and nature of the veins — the preferred laser method for varicose veins is endovenous laser ablation.

Varicose vein surgery

There are two types. Ambulatory phlebectomy extracts the vein through very small incisions, offering a relatively quick recovery, and is usually performed in clinic under local anaesthetic. Where that is not suitable, traditional vein surgery may be required for larger veins that also need ligation and possibly stripping and removal; this is usually performed in hospital under general anaesthetic.

Vein surgery typically costs more than less invasive treatments. At Me Clinic surgery is treated as the last option — the preference is the least invasive treatment that addresses the veins with minimal downtime.

Where a general anaesthetic and hospital admission are involved, several parties bill separately — surgeon, anaesthetist, hospital, and sometimes an assistant. A figure from one of them is not a quote for the operation. Ask for an itemised estimate naming each.

Is varicose vein treatment covered by Medicare?

You may be able to claim a Medicare rebate for vein treatment. Your physician will discuss any applicable rebates at your initial consultation, and you can contact Medicare directly for further detail about what applies to your situation. A valid GP referral supports a claim.

Vein treatment is one of the areas where a rebate is more likely to apply than in purely cosmetic surgery, because venous disease can cause pain, swelling, skin changes and ulceration rather than being an appearance concern alone.

Three separate pots, and what unlocks each

	What it pays	What unlocks it
Medicare	A set rebate against doctors' fees	A valid MBS item number for your circumstances, plus a GP referral
Private health insurance	Hospital and theatre costs, where an admission is involved	An item number, hospital cover including the category, and waiting periods served
You	Everything neither of the above pays	—

Three consequences worth understanding:

The rebate is a fixed schedule amount , not a proportion of the fee — so a rebate existing does not mean the gap is small.

Fund cover follows Medicare. Without an item number, a fund generally pays nothing.

What distinguishes medical from cosmetic is documented reflux plus symptoms — aching, heaviness, swelling, itching, cramps, skin changes, bleeding or ulceration. People routinely under-report those, and it is the commonest reason someone who might have qualified does not. Describe them accurately.

Get the GP referral before your first appointment, ask for the cost both with and without a rebate, and remember that item numbers and criteria change — eligibility is a clinical judgement made at consultation, not something a website can determine. We are not a no-gap provider , so out-of-pocket costs apply even where a rebate is available.

The treatment process

Consultation. A one-on-one consultation with a Me Clinic physician who assesses your condition, explains the treatment options and likely outcomes, gives an overview of the process and expected timeframes, undertakes a general medical consult in most cases, and provides a quote outlining the associated costs.

Booking. If you decide to proceed, a time is scheduled for your procedure.

The procedure. Your physician advises what to expect afterwards. Depending on the treatment, most patients are able to return home immediately.

Post-procedure. Depending on the treatment performed, you may need to attend a post-procedure check-up. The clinic is available for questions or concerns between appointments.

What you should leave the consultation with

Your ultrasound findings in plain terms — which veins reflux, and whether the deep system is normal

The whole plan, in order, with the number of appointments

A written, itemised quote covering every step, stockings and reviews

What happens, and what it costs, if more sessions are needed

Whether an MBS item applies, and the figure both with and without it

What maintenance is likely to look like in later years

Written aftercare and an after-hours contact number

Risks

All procedures carry some risk. Risks vary by treatment method and are discussed with you in detail at consultation, and you are given written information to take home. Please read our information on the risks and complications of cosmetic surgery before proceeding.

Results differ between patients because conditions and requirements differ. Individual results may vary.

Any surgical or invasive procedure carries risks. Before proceeding you should seek a second opinion from an appropriately qualified health practitioner.

Who performs vein treatment

Dr Tim French (MED0001790529) practises in phlebology, holds AHPRA registration and has over a decade of clinical experience in venous medicine. He holds an MBBS, a Diploma of Surgical Anatomy (University of Melbourne), and further qualifications in phlebology and ultrasound in phlebology, and has worked at major hospitals including the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

One point of accuracy: phlebology is not an AHPRA-recognised medical specialty in Australia. Doctors practising in it hold general or specialist registration in a recognised field alongside additional training in venous medicine. Registration and any conditions on it can be checked free of charge on the AHPRA public register.

We are at 4 Burke Road, Malvern East VIC 3145, five minutes' walk from Caulfield station. Phone 1300 852 050, or use the online consultation form .

Related: vein treatments , varicose veins , does Medicare cover my surgery.

Individual results may vary. Any surgical or invasive procedure carries risks. Before proceeding you should seek a second opinion from an appropriately qualified health practitioner.

Common questions about varicose vein treatment cost

How much does varicose vein treatment cost?

From $470. The final cost depends on the method, the number of veins, the number of sessions and the complexity, and a consultation is needed for a personalised quote.

What are the published prices?

As at September 2024 including GST: vein consultation with a doctor, which may include ultrasound, $230; sclerotherapy from $470 a session; ultrasound-guided sclerotherapy from $740 a session; EVLT from $4,200; and surgery quoted individually.

Is the consultation fee ever waived?

It may be, if you proceed with treatment on the day of the consultation.

Why is the per-session price not the useful number?

Because varicose veins are almost never treated in one appointment. Two people can pay the same session price and ten times the total, depending on whether a trunk vein needs closing and how many branch sessions follow.

What does a whole plan usually involve?

Consultation and duplex ultrasound; closing the refluxing trunk if there is one; one to several sclerotherapy sessions for the branches; compression stockings; review appointments; and occasional maintenance later.

What should I ask at consultation?

“What is the likely total for the whole plan, including stockings and reviews, and how many appointments is that?”

What is in the cost?

Consultation fee, procedure fee, the number of sessions, the type of treatment, any anaesthetic, and compression garments and post-procedure care. Review appointments and time off work are easy to overlook.

Why do review appointments matter financially?

Because releasing trapped blood early is what prevents long-term brown staining. They are part of the treatment rather than an optional extra.

How do I compare quotes between clinics?

Ask whether the ultrasound is included and who performs it; whether the trunk vein is included or only the visible branches; how many sclerotherapy sessions are in the figure; whether stockings are included; whether reviews are included; and what the total and later maintenance would be.

Which of those differences is biggest?

Whether the trunk vein is included. A lower price with the trunk left out is not a lower price — it treats the branches while the source keeps running.

What is informed financial consent?

A written, itemised estimate naming anything billed separately, given with enough time to read it. Where a figure genuinely cannot be fixed — usually the number of sclerotherapy sessions — it should give a range rather than omit the line.

Does anything require an anaesthetic?

Most vein treatments do not. The exceptions are EVLT, usually under local anaesthetic in clinic with the cost included in the quote, and vein surgery.

Who bills me for surgery under general anaesthetic?

Several parties separately — surgeon, anaesthetist, hospital and sometimes an assistant. A figure from one of them is not a quote for the operation.

Is laser an option for varicose veins?

Surface laser suits small spider veins, particularly on the face and nose, and only in lighter skin. For varicose veins the preferred laser method is endovenous laser ablation, inside the vein.

Will Medicare cover it?

Possibly. Vein treatment is one of the areas where a rebate is more likely than in purely cosmetic surgery, because venous disease can cause pain, swelling, skin changes and ulceration.

What decides whether it qualifies?

Broadly, duplex ultrasound showing reflux together with symptoms or complications. A valid GP referral supports a claim, and eligibility is a clinical judgement made at consultation.

Does a rebate mean the gap is small?

Not necessarily. The rebate is a fixed schedule amount, not a proportion of the fee, and we are not a no-gap provider.

Will my health fund help?

Where a hospital admission is involved and an item number applies, it may — if your policy covers the category and waiting periods are served. Without an item number, a fund generally pays nothing.

What is the commonest reason someone misses out on a rebate?

Under-reporting symptoms. Aching, heaviness, swelling, itching, cramps, skin changes, bleeding and ulceration are what distinguish medical from cosmetic — describe them accurately rather than playing them down.

Should I get the referral before or after?

Before your first appointment. It is easier to arrange beforehand than retrospectively.