

## **ALABAMA PHLEBOLOGY TRAINING INSTITUTE**

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The Alabama Phlebology Training Institute provides a comprehensive vein training program for physicians, sonographers, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, and medical assistants. More than 150 physicians and staff members have trained at this Institute since the onset of the training programs in 2003.

All aspects of modern phlebology are taught and demonstrated during the training sessions. In addition, hands-on practical experience is provided. Doctors are exposed to the presenting signs and symptoms of patients, as approximately 40 new vein patients are evaluated each week. Every patient undergoes a diagnostic venous duplex ultrasound evaluation and clinical examination. The patients hear a group lecture as part of the consultation process, and are then individually examined. Treatment decisions are based upon the ultrasound findings, patient symptoms and physical examination. This exposure to new patients is considered a critical part of the training process.

Each week in the Alabama Vein Center, at least 40 patients undergo endovenous CoolTouch laser ablation of the incompetent great or small saphenous vein. The physicians and staff-in-training are taught the procedure in detail, including all equipment and techniques necessary to successfully perform the operations. Doctors and staff are scrubbed to assist and to participate in the operations as performed. The staff learns how to set up the cases, prepare the ultrasound equipment, prepare the patient for surgery and how to assist with the procedures.

In addition, micro-phlebectomy and foamed sclerotherapy are performed daily, either in concert with the laser ablation procedures or as stand-alone treatments. The training staff is encouraged to learn, assist and participate in these procedures, as well. The techniques are taught and the treatment solutions are demonstrated, as are all preparations.

The teaching staff includes Dr. John Kingsley, M.D., Dr. Jim Isobe, M.D. and Dr. Vince Gardner, M.D., all Board Certified Phlebologists. Dr. Kingsley is a boarded vascular surgeon and Dr. Isobe and Dr. Gardner are boarded general surgeons. Certified PA's with experience in the vein specialty and especially sclerotherapy provide one-on-one training for performance of these procedures. The medical assistants of the Alabama Phlebology Institute staff also offer one-on-one assistance to teach all aspects of supportive care for the clinics and the operations. A full-time and very experienced ultrasound specialist performs and demonstrates the diagnostic vein ultrasound studies, the operative support and assessment following laser ablation or other procedures.

The Alabama Phlebology Training Institute is consistently regarded as one of the premier training locations to learn all aspects of the vein specialty. A reference list is available upon request. Adjunctive aesthetic procedures will be added to the program beginning 2009.