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Current Standards and Recent Progress in Minimally Invasive Phlebo Surgery

[Oliver Göckeritz](#)

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Abstract

Venous disorders are among the most frequent disease patterns in the Western world. Still at the turn to the 21st century there was no alternative available to the surgical treatment of varicosis. Meanwhile the endoluminal treatment methods have established and have demonstrated their efficiency while having lower side effects in comparison to the traditional treatment, even though conservatively oriented surgeons are still skeptically eyeing these methods. **In the US, according to the latest MRG report of 2011, about 95% of all venous surgeries are already done endoluminally.** This paper offers an overview of prevailing treatment standards of the most important endoluminal therapy techniques and shows current trends.

KEYWORDS: Endoluminal, laser, radiofrequency, sclerotherapy, varicous veins

Only he, who is able to change, stays true to himself

-Habermas

SUMMARY

Taken as a whole, endoluminal treatment techniques today play an essential role in the treatment of varicosis. The early and mid-term treatment results achieved by endoluminal laser therapy and radio wave therapy with ClosureFast™ are at least as good as those of the traditional stripping operations, not to mention the considerably lower complication rates and a greater patient comfort. Although these two treatment techniques are used in a standardized manner, they, too, are subject to further developments. The objective is to further enhance patient comfort and to achieve permanently optimal closure rates of the treated veins. The RFITT™ treatment has not yet been studied sufficiently; in particular there is still a lack of randomized studies looking at longer-term treatment results. The hot-steam and ClariVein™ treatments are still too new on the market to allow us to pass any judgement at this stage.