



James D. Albert, M.D., RPVI has led Albert Vein Institute (AVI) to become nationally recognized as Colorado's first and only **IAC ACCREDITED VEIN CENTER** (Intersocietal Accreditation Commission). The "**IAC Accredited Vein Center**" is the highest credential given to a vein practice from this overseeing healthcare organization recognizing and affirming the overall achievements and benchmarks for expertise, protocols and safety. This accredited "Vein Center" distinction is a guiding light for patients and referring physicians who are searching for the highest level of treatment and care for venous disease (varicose and spider veins).

Dr. Albert founded Albert Vein Institute (AVI) over eleven years ago and continues as its Medical Director and Practicing Physician today. Conveniently located in Colorado Springs and Denver, AVI is Colorado's premier outpatient vein center of excellence offering state-of-the-medical-arts diagnosis and treatment for all aspects of superficial venous disease. With Dr. Albert's supervision and participation, specialized treatment is offered for both serious medical as well as cosmetic vein issues including varicose and spider veins. As Colorado's Vein Specialist, Dr. Albert's exceptional training, experience and combination of recognitions and certifications allow him to bring exceptional medical expertise and surgical skills to each patient. He is the practicing physician who diagnoses and follows every patient and he performs the skilled endovenous laser and radiofrequency ablation procedures and microsurgical phlebectomy required for proven results. Dr. Albert meets with all new patients in a complimentary consultation.

Dr. Albert is one of approximately 700 diplomats nationwide who is Board Certified in Phlebology, the study and practice of vein care. He is also actively Board Certified in Cardiovascular Surgery, having spent 14 years as a Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeon and notably as the Chief of Cardiac Surgery at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs from 1998-2005. He received his medical degree from The University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine and trained in General Surgery at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center then completed his Cardiovascular Surgery Fellowship at The University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Denver.

Dr. Albert established Albert Vein Institute (AVI) in 2006 as the field of Phlebology was, and still is, experiencing significant field-changing advancements. He believed in devoting his medical practice to the quickly evolving knowledge and techniques of Phlebology. Now AVI is the first **IAC Accredited Vein Center** in Colorado where its practicing and founding physician has been devoted exclusively to vein care. AVI has become a world-class model for providing the highest standards of venous care in Colorado and the nation.

Dr. Albert's unsurpassed surgical background and skills, combined with today's advances in minimally invasive vein care techniques and equipment, allow Dr. Albert the maximum flexibility to customize the vein treatment of each patient. Thousands of patients have been treated at AVI's two prominent medical facilities in Colorado Springs and the Denver Metro area. Dr. Albert and the outstanding medical staff safely help patients reach optimum results by providing exceptional vein care in Colorado's only nationally recognized **IAC Accredited Vein Center**.

JAMES D. ALBERT, MD, RPVI

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A NEW WAY TO TREAT VARICOSE VEINS

Treatment of varicose veins has come a long way from the days of vein stripping, a surgery involving general anesthesia and risks such as scarring and nerve damage.

"That was such a terrible procedure," says Dr. James Albert. At his Albert Vein Institute -- the only IAC (Intersocietal Accreditation Commission) accredited vein center in the state -- he combines professional expertise with new but proven technology to diagnose and treat venous disease.

Varicose veins are more than a cosmetic issue, Albert says. "Patients who have allowed this to go on for a really long time end up with unresolved swelling and discoloration of their legs, and they can end up with clotting of their varicose veins. All of those things are things we try to prevent by getting to the problem relatively early."

Factors including heredity, pregnancy and prolonged standing or sitting can lead to varicose veins, which are caused by faulty valves in the superficial, or saphenous, veins in the lower extremities; as a result, surface veins can't drain and instead back up and bulge. There's no way to fix the valves, Albert says, so the approach is to close the saphenous vein, which is eventually absorbed by the body.

Albert uses two advanced, minimally invasive procedures: CoolTouch, which employs a laser leg to seal the vein, and



ClosureFast, which uses radiofrequency heat. Both are equally effective, he says.

While those ablation procedures attack the root of the problem, the bulgy veins remain. Albert performs a microphlebectomy to remove those surface veins, making a tiny incision and using micro instruments "to go in and grab those veins," then teasing them out through that tiny hole.

While it's also minimally invasive,

Albert advises seeking someone skilled in the procedure. "You want to make sure you're not pulling out a nerve or you're not pulling out an artery." Albert is board certified in both cardiovascular surgery and phlebology.

Ultrasound-guided sclerotherapy can later be used to prevent recurrences if it appears new varicose veins are trying to develop; it uses ultrasound to

guide injections of a solution to seal veins at the source of the problem. Sclerotherapy without the help of ultrasound is also used to treat spider veins, which are small, dilated blood vessels near the skin's surface.

Albert often sees patients at Albert Vein Institute's locations in Colorado Springs and Denver who have had care elsewhere and come to him with recurrences or unresolved issues.

"We're sort of the fix-it shop," he says.