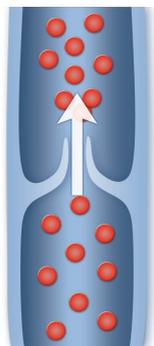


UNDERSTANDING THE CAUSE

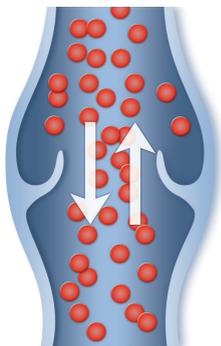
About Venous Reflux

Healthy leg veins have valves that keep blood flowing to the heart.



NORMAL VEIN

Valves ensure blood flows in one direction



DISEASED VEIN

Valves that cannot close allow blood to drain and pool

Venous Reflux develops when the valves stop working properly and allow blood to flow backward (i.e., reflux) and pool in the lower leg veins.

Chronic Venous Insufficiency

If venous reflux is left untreated, it may worsen over time and develop into a more serious form of venous disease called **chronic venous insufficiency (CVI)**.¹



CVI SYMPTOMS AND RISK FACTORS

The Link to Venous Leg Ulcers

If CVI is not treated, legs can sometimes develop painful sores or wounds on the skin's surface, called **ulcers**. Ulcers may indicate a more severe and progressive state of the disease.¹

CVI Signs & Symptoms in the Legs or Ankles²

- Varicose veins
- Aching or pain
- Swelling
- Cramping
- Heaviness or tiredness
- Itching
- Restlessness
- Skin changes
- Brown, colored skin
- **Open sores or ulcers**

CVI Risk Factors²

- Family history
- Lack of exercise
- Leg injury or trauma
- Prolonged sitting or standing
- Obesity or excess weight
- Current or previous pregnancies
- Smoking