

Subject:	New techniques in treatment of varicose veins
Summary:	<p>Various (new) techniques are being used for the treatment of varicose veins. CVZ has assessed whether the following techniques can be regarded as insurable provisions under the <i>Zorgverzekeringswet</i> (Health Insurance Act):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Endovenous laser treatment (EVLТ); ➤ Radiofrequency obliteration (RFO); ➤ Duplex-guided foam sclerosis of varicose veins in the vena saphena magna of the upper leg; ➤ Trans-illuminated powered phlebectomy (Tipp). <p>CVZ's conclusion is that, with the exception of duplex-guided foam sclerosis of varicose veins in the vena saphena magna of the upper leg, the above-mentioned techniques are covered by the Health Insurance Act. This applies only to EVLB since 15 February 2008.</p> <p>Furthermore, CVZ feels that, in cases with a confirmed haemodynamic disorder or a severe complication, the treatment of varicose veins is a medical necessity and not primarily cosmetic in nature. This applies to varicose veins referred to as C2, C3, C4, C5 and C6 in the CEAP classification of varicose veins. It does not apply to varicose veins referred to as C0 and C1 in the CEAP classification. As a rule, the treatment of these varicose veins is not an insured provision under the Health Insurance Act because these are generally regarded as cosmetic interventions.</p> <p>N.B. Update: Two new outcomes of assessments have been issued since the one above:</p> <p>Endovascular treatment techniques in cases of trunk varices (25 October 2010, case number 29096155, series no. 2010119530). The conclusion of that outcome of assessment is that, just as in 2008, EVLT and RFO for the treatment of trunk varices are covered by the Health Insurance Act and that the use of foam sclerosis to treat trunk varices does not comply with the established medical science and medical practice criterion stipulated in the Health Insurance Act.</p> <p>Varicose veins: medical necessity versus cosmetic treatments (25 March 2011, case no. 2010024825, series no. 2010112726 [in Dutch only])</p> <p>This outcome of assessment reassessed the demarcation between medical necessity and the cosmetic treatment of varicose veins. The outcome of assessment is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive treatment of C3, C4, C5 and C6 varices is regarded as an insured provision under the Health Insurance Act. The medical necessity of invasive treatment for these indications is not open to discussion; • Invasive treatment of C0, C1 and C2 varices is not regarded as an insured provision under the Health Insurance Act. There is no evidence (C0, C1) or insufficient evidence (C2) of the necessity to treat.

Type of ruling:	SpZ = Outcome of Assessment Zvw
Date:	21 February 2008
Issued to:	WVS
Care form:	Medical specialist care