## ADDITIONAL VASCULAR TREATMENTS

**Vascular access** refers to the medical procedure used to gain direct access to your circulatory system so that your blood can be cleansed of waste during dialysis. At VISA, we perform minimally invasive vascular access options on an outpatient basis. These include arteriovenous fistulas (AVFs) for long-term dialysis, grafts (artificial blood vessels for dialysis) and catheter placement (for temporary hemodialysis access).

**IVC filter placement** refers to a device placed into the inferior vena cava, a large vein that carries blood from the legs to the lungs and heart. The device acts like a filter, trapping blood clots and breaking them up before they can travel to the lungs and cause a pulmonary embolism. IVC filter placement and removal is performed at our center on an outpatient basis.

If you are a candidate for one of our procedures, we invite you to schedule a consultation with us. We are happy to work with your doctor(s) and other members of your care team to find the right treatment for your specific condition.

## VASCULAR & INTERVENTIONAL SPECIALISTS OF AMERICA

VISA interventional radiologists are among the most highly trained practicing medicine today. With a combined total of 40+ years of experience in interventional procedures, our physicians utilize medical imaging to expertly guide procedures using tiny catheters and miniature instruments from within the body's vascular system.

In addition to vascular disease, we offer minimally invasive treatments for primary and metastatic liver cancer, vertebral compression fractures, uterine fibroids, chronic hemorrhoids, enlarged prostate (BPH) and knee osteoarthritis. For more information, please visit VisaVascular.com or call us at 205-905-8411.

VISA
Vascular & Interventional Specialists of America

**P: 205-905-8411**
**F: 205-460-8560**

**VisaVascular.com**

**3570 Grandview Parkway, Suite 100**
**Birmingham, AL 35243**

# Vascular Disease

Minimally invasive treatment options for vascular disease.

VISA
Vascular & Interventional Specialists of America

# Non-surgical treatments for vascular diseases and conditions

Vascular disease refers to blockages or dysfunction within the blood vessels of the body. Vascular disease occurs most commonly in the legs, but it can also occur within the abdomen and pelvis.

Left untreated, vascular disease can worsen, and lead to cramping, limited mobility, infection, gangrene, amputation and even death. Fortunately, there are several highly effective and less invasive treatment options if vascular disease is detected early.

## TYPES OF VASCULAR DISEASE TREATED AT VISA

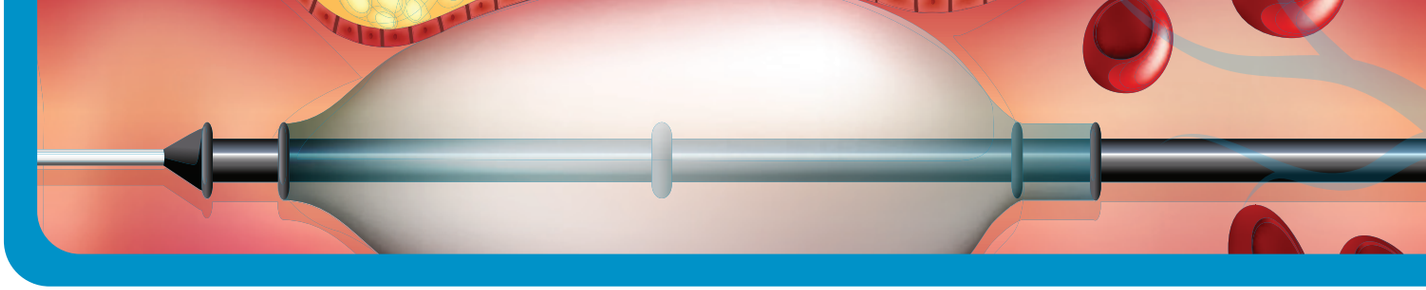
### Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD)

PAD often goes unnoticed and undiagnosed by healthcare providers. What's more, the symptoms of PAD are easily mistaken for other conditions, such as neuropathy or just the normal aches and pains of getting older.

Symptoms of PAD include:

- Leg pain, numbness, tingling or weakness
- Changes in the color of the arms or legs
- Foot or toe wounds that do not heal or heal slowly
- Decrease in the temperature of the lower legs and feet compared to the rest of the body
- Poor nail or hair growth

If the disease is not severe, PAD can be treated with medication and/or lifestyle changes. If it has progressed to the point where an intervention is needed, there are several procedures available for you and your doctor to consider.



VISA offers minimally invasive, imaging-guided treatments for PAD that do not require open surgery and have a faster recovery period with less downtime. These include **angioplasty** (with or without stents) and **atherectomy**, two highly effective and clinically proven treatments for PAD. With angioplasty, a balloon-tipped catheter is inserted into the blocked artery and inflated to restore blood flow. In some cases, a stent is used to prevent the artery from closing again. Atherectomy uses a special cutting device to remove plaque from the artery wall and remove it from the body.

### Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)

When a blood clot, or thrombus, forms within one of the deep veins within the leg, the condition is known as deep vein thrombosis. DVT can cause swelling and pain, but sometimes there are no symptoms at all.

Those who do have symptoms may experience:

- Leg pain, cramping, swelling or soreness
- Changes in leg skin color
- Warmth or tenderness near the affected area

One of the complications of DVT is pulmonary embolism. This potentially life-threatening condition occurs when a blood clot in a deep vein breaks off and travels into the lungs.

DVT may be treated with anticoagulant medications to prevent further clot formation. At VISA, we perform two minimally invasive procedures to treat DVT. **Thrombolysis** is performed by our interventional radiologists who use imaging to guide a catheter into the clot and inject a special medication to dissolve it. **Thrombectomy** involves a similar approach but uses a mechanical tool to break up the clot and remove it from the vein. In some cases, the two procedures may be used together.

### May-Thurner Syndrome

Also known as MTS, May-Thurner Syndrome is a relatively common vascular condition, affecting between 14-32% of Americans. It is more common in women, especially those of childbearing age, as well as those with risk factors such as being overweight, use of hormonal birth control or a history of deep vein thrombosis.

MTS is caused when the left common iliac vein (which carries blood from the left leg to the heart) is compressed by the right common iliac artery. This can reduce the flow of blood and create an increased risk of blood clots forming in the left leg.

Symptoms of MTS usually occur in the left leg and include:

- Redness, swelling and pain
- Varicose veins
- Open sores (ulcers)
- Skin discoloration
- Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)

VISA physicians perform several treatment options for MTS. If DVT is not a concern, angioplasty (with or without stenting) may be used to open the left iliac vein. During angioplasty, catheter with a special balloon attached is advanced to the affected area and inflated to widen the vein. If needed, a small mesh scaffold (stent) may be placed to keep the vein open. If DVT is present, thrombolysis (delivery of medication to the clot via a catheter) may be performed in combination with other therapies to break up any clots and enlarge the blood vessels to ensure adequate blood flow.