

THE ELOQUENCE OF SYMBOLS

Thirty years of new venous hemodynamic concept and teaching

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This is the third article on teaching.^{1, 2} I would like to connect it to the new concept of venous hemodynamics for a therapeutic strategy of one of the most widespread and oldest diseases: varicose veins. Thirty years have passed since the publication of the book by Claude Franceschi³ and since the beginning of a new treatment method known as CHIVA, which is the French acronym for ambulatory conservative hemodynamic treatment venous insufficiency.⁴

Teaching is an essential part of learning and making research. As recounted by many, the great philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein used to think out loud before his pupils and with his pupils, and in his lessons he did not simply convey a concept which was already formed and concluded in itself.⁵ Also, the handwritten pages of medieval books served as scores spoken aloud for their execution.⁶ Similarly, it can be stated that the lesson left by Claude Franceschi in his famous book, as from the numerous scientific meetings in comparison with experienced phlebologists, has had a similar efficacy in shaking and reviving outdated or erroneous concepts of the listeners.

Particularly in Italy, his teaching stimulated the minds and was enriched with external contributions, producing an absolutely profitable matter^{7, 8} up to an encyclopedic outcome,⁹ as in an UIP Consensus Document chaired by B.B. Lee.¹⁰

I will not attempt to describe with my own words a thought that has had wide circulation and stirred much debate, with supporters and critics. Instead, I will leave it to Claude Franceschi himself: "My observations of the varicose veins disappearance when I lifted the feet of my patients combined together with the Trendelenburg and

Perthes maneuvers effects, convinced me that the cause of the venous insufficiency and its symptoms as the varicosity was just a hemodynamic impairment of the venous flows and pressure control. Then, on these grounds and thanks to the studies of the venous pressure mainly published by Bjordal and the revolutionary capability of recent echo-Doppler ultrasound devices, I could figure out a better hemodynamics of the venous system and its anomalies. From all this, new proposals of venous pathophysiological hemodynamic principles resulted, as the dynamic fractioning of hydrostatic pressure, various venous shunt patterns, re-entry concept, trans-mural pressure control as the target of any rational treatment, location of not yet individualized pelvic leak points, hemodynamic venous cartography, and finally the necessary conservation of the venous network for a correct drainage of the tissues and prevention of recurrence. These concepts were the basis of the CHIVA treatment."⁴

Figure 1 contains the conceptual prologue of Franceschi's book, with its witty approach made apparent by the drawings of a little dog throughout the whole book.

Finally, thanks to hundreds of studies, some RCTs and a Cochrane review by various authors over Europe, CHIVA is today validated as more successful than destructive method and the more recent international meta-analysis concluded that CHIVA seemed to have superior clinical benefits on long-term efficacy comparing different therapeutic procedures for treating varicose veins.¹¹⁻¹³ The efficacy of this approach was based on a better physiological process, and this revolutionary approach should be widely applied in clinics. However, the conclusion still needs additional trials for supporting evidence.

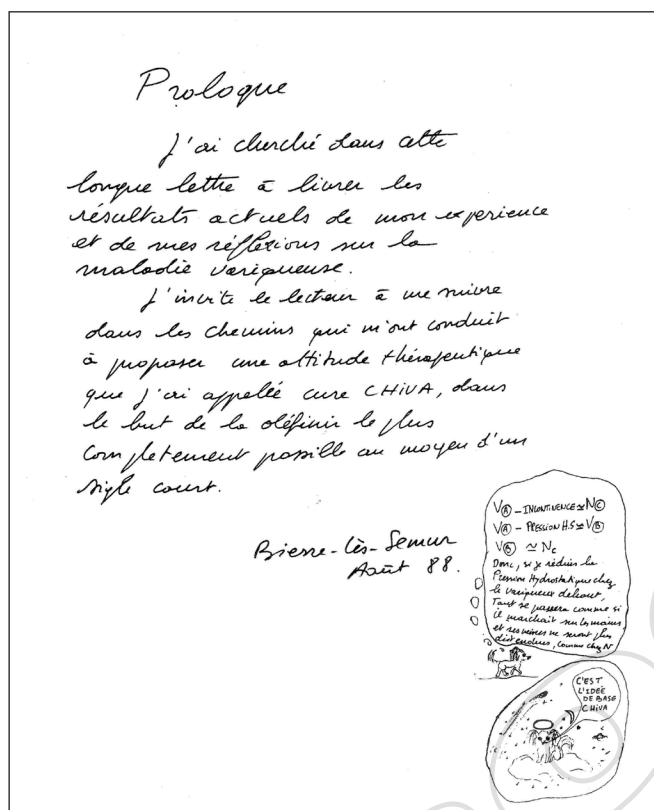


Figure 1.—The prologue of Franceschi’s book.

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