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| 11-Sep-2012Dear Dr. franceschi:It is a pleasure to accept your manuscript entitled "Additional  information and comments to the article review citing CHIVA" in its current form for publication in Phlebology.  The comments of the reviewer(s) who reviewed your manuscript are included at the foot of this letter.Thank you for your fine contribution.  On behalf of the Editors of Phlebology, we look forward to your continued contributions to the Journal.Sincerely,Dr. Steven E ZimmetEditor, Phlebology[zimmet@skin-vein.com](http://webmail1k.orange.fr/webmail/fr_FR/read.html?FOLDER=SF_INBOX&IDMSG=41819&check=&SORTBY=1)Reviewer(s)' Comments to Author:Manuscript ID: | PHLEB-12-076 |
| Title: | Additional information and comments to the article review citing CHIVA |
| Authors: | franceschi, claudeZamboni, PaoloPares, 0riolJuan, Jordibahnini, amineMendoza, Erikacuaranta, robertoPassariello, Faustocappelli, massimoermini, stefanodelfrate, roberto |
| Date Submitted: | 05-Jun-2012 |

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05-Jun-2012

Dear Dr. franceschi:

Your manuscript entitled "Additional  information and comments to the article review citing CHIVA" has been successfully submitted online and is presently being given full consideration for publication in Phlebology.

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Complementary information and comments to the article review citing CHIVA

The article “Treatment options, clinical outcome (quality of life) and cost benefit (quality-adjusted life year) in varicose vein treatment . “D Kelleher and al. Phlebology 2012;27 Suppl 1:16–22.” states: “One single-centre series has shown that while CHIVA offers improved recurrence rates compared with open stripping in experienced hands, it has a steep learning curve and can lead to worse outcomes”. This statement is not in accordance with the reality of the literature because 3 more favorable RCT3,4,5among several other studies regarding CHIVA are available in Pubmed from 2003 to 2010 and a Cochrane Review protocol6 is more recently published. As CHIVA practitioners and searchers since more than 2 decades we can testify that the learning curve and the expertise necessary for good outcomes is not so difficult. The secret relies in getting information and knowledge from the advances in venous insufficiency hemodynamics due to US Duplex, in order to plan a correct strategy and comply to the surgical specific technique. Beside the recurrence reduction, this endeavor offers the saphenous vein conservation for possible further needed arterial by-pass.

We are CHIVA practitioners and searchers since more than 2 decades. 1 We are surprised by the affirmation “One single-centre series2 has shown that while CHIVA offers improved recurrence rates compared with open stripping in experienced hands”, whilst 3 more favorable RCT3,4,5among hundreds of studies are available in Pubmed and a Cochrane Review protocol6 is published and the review is going on

Review article

D Kelleher, T R A Lane, I J Franklin and A H Davies Academic Section of Vascular Surgery, Department of Surgery and Cancer, Imperial College London, Charing Cross Hospital, London, UK

Treatment options, clinical outcome (quality of life) and cost benefit (quality-adjusted life year) in varicose vein treatment

Phlebology 2012;27 Suppl 1:16–22. DOI: 10.1258/phleb.2012.012S22

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| **claude franceschi** |

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Dear Colleague,

I read in your very intersting paper "One single-centre series 40 has shown that while

CHIVA offers improved recurrence rates compared

with open stripping in experienced hands, it has

a steep learning curve and can lead to worse

outcomes 41".

I inform you that there are 3 centers series instead of a single one  that confirm the good  results of CHIVA  (1,2,3).

On an other hand, the learning curve is profitable for both patients ( sparing the saphenous vein for future by pass) and the surgeon. In Spain, this method is teached at the University and 50% of procedures performed in Public Hosptitals  in varicose veins and ulcers are CHIVA ;

1/Clinical and  random study comparing two, surgical techniques for  varicose vein treatment : immediate results Iborra and all Angiologia 2000:6, 253-258

2/ Varicose Vein Stripping vs Haemodynamic Correction (CHIVA):

a Long Term Randomised Trial. Carandina, C. and al.Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg xx, 1e8

 3/Minimally 3/Invasive Surgical management of primary venous Ulcer vs. Compression Treatment: a randomized Clinical Trial P.Zamboni and all Eur J vasc Endovasc Surg 00,1 6 (2003)

4/ Minimally Invasive Surgical management of primary venous Ulcer vs. Compression Treatment: a randomized Clinical Trial

P.Zamboni and all

Eur J vasc Endovasc Surg 00,1 6 (2003)

# 5/ CHIVA method for the treatment of varicose veins *Bellmunt-Montoya S, Escribano JM, Dilme J, Martinez-Zapata MJ.* Published Online:<http://summaries.cochrane.org/CD009648/chiva-method-for-the-treatment-of-varicose-veins> February 15, 2012

*This Cochrane Review is at the protocol stage and there is no abstract or plain language summary. The objectives for the review are as follows:*

To evaluate the efficacy and safety of the CHIVA technique compared with other procedures to treat varicose veins

All the best

40 Pare´s JO, Juan J, Tellez R, et al. Varicose vein surgery:

stripping versus the CHIVA method: a randomized controlled

trial. Ann Surg 2010;251:624–31

41 Milone M, Salvatore G, Maietta P, Sosa Fernandez LM,

Milone F. Recurrent varicose veins of the lower limbs

after surgery. role of surgical technique (stripping vs.

CHIVA) and surgeon’s experience. G Chir 2011;32:460–3

**Recurrent varicose veins of the lower limbs after surgery. Role of surgical technique (stripping vs. CHIVA) and surgeon's experience.**

[M Milone](http://pubget.com/search?q=authors%3A%22M%20Milone%22), [G Salvatore](http://pubget.com/search?q=authors%3A%22G%20Salvatore%22), [P Maietta](http://pubget.com/search?q=authors%3A%22P%20Maietta%22), [L M Sosa Fernandez](http://pubget.com/search?q=authors%3A%22L%20M%20Sosa%20Fernandez%22) and [F Milone](http://pubget.com/search?q=authors%3A%22F%20Milone%22) [G Chir](http://pubget.com/search?q=latest%3AIl+Giornale+di+chirurgia&from=22217371) [**32**(11-12):460-3](http://pubget.com/search?q=issn%3A0391-9005+vol%3A32+issue%3A11-12&from=22217371)(2011) [PMID](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22217371)  22217371

Background. Surgical treatment of varicose veins of the lower limbs resolves symptoms and improves quality of life. However, the high recurrence (20-80%) is a costly and complex issue. Patients and methods. This is a retrospective review of 1489 patients with varicose vein of the lower limbs seen at our hospital between January 1980 and December 2005. The aim is to evaluate the effect of surgical technique (stripping vs. CHIVA) and surgeon's experience in reducing recurrences. Results. With experienced surgeons, CHIVA appears to be more effective than stripping in reducing the recurrence rate (p <0.05). However, when performed by an inexperienced surgeon the results are far worse than those achieved with stripping. Conclusion. There was a clear reduction in recurrences at 5-10 years with CHIVA than with conventional stripping. However, if performed incorrectly, results are far worse with CHIVA. In fact, good results are far more difficult to achieve with CHIVA than with stripping, which is repeatable and easy to perform.