



Pueblo Radiology Medical Group

# Look What's New at Pueblo Radiology

## Advantages of the laser procedure:

- Immediate return to normal activities
- Brief outpatient procedure
- Quick recovery
- No scarring
- Minimal post-operative pain
- Visual results can be immediate

## Endovenous Laser Ablation Technique for Varicose Veins

Pueblo Radiology now offers a new minimally invasive technique for treating varicose veins in the outpatient setting, with excellent results, quick recovery time and no need for general anesthetic. The varicose veins are closed off by applying laser surgery to the inside of the vein. Like "vein stripping", laser ablation treats the root cause of varicose veins and this may be all that some patients require. This procedure is done under

local anesthesia, using ultrasound guidance, and the standard interventional radiology techniques for passing a laser fiber to the problem area. Treatment takes about an hour to perform. Following this, the patient wears compression stockings for several weeks, but can otherwise return to normal activities.

For a free patient screening or for more information, call Linda at (805) 654-8170.



Before Treatment



Following Treatment



American College of Radiology

## CT and MRI Accreditation

*We proudly announce that we have received our ACR accreditation in CT and MRI. These accreditations were received for achieving high practice standards based on a peer-reviewed evaluation of our practice. We continue our dedication to quality care, state-of-the-art imaging and patient safety.*

## Screening CT Examinations

The Pueblo Radiology CT whole body scan is a personalized scan that can detect the presence of many common forms of cancer in their early stages, so that a patient and their physician can take the necessary actions for early intervention. As opposed to the "street corner" or mobile operations that provide a similar service, we only work with a physician referral. These studies, while extraordinary in the amount of information generated, must be evaluated with the patient's entire healthcare picture in mind.

Pueblo Radiology uses the Siemens Sensation 16 CT scanner. This 32 slice/second

scanner provides higher speed with real-time reconstruction, and higher image resolution than most standard CT systems. The improved image quality of this scanner allows doctors to see fine anatomical detail that could only be seen previously with surgery. The scan is performed in a single sweep lasting usually less than one minute, acquiring scans through the lungs and organs of the abdomen and pelvis. Our board certified radiologists look for signs of possible heart disease, lung disease, aortic aneurysms, and tumors (cancers) in the chest, abdomen and pelvis. They also check for non life-threatening conditions

including gallbladder and kidney stones and degenerative disease of the spine.

A whole body scan is designed for people with no medical complaints and who make a personal choice to undergo screening exams. While a whole body scan may not be appropriate for you, portions of the examination, such as coronary artery calcium scoring or lung nodule detection can be very valuable. Regular evaluations by your personal physician remain the cornerstone of your medical care. Be sure to ask your doctor about screening CT services at Pueblo Radiology.

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## Current Breast Imaging Technology

At Pueblo Radiology, we continue to provide state-of-the-art breast imaging and intervention. In our offices, we utilize a number of proven technologies including film-screen mammography with CAD (Computer Aided Detection) and high resolution ultrasound. Pueblo Radiology also offers breast MRI, an evolving and powerful problem-solving tool. Our MRI scanners are the only ones in the Tri-County that provided bilateral dynamic scanning (both breasts simultaneously).

The buzz regarding digital mammography is the result of its recent approval by the FDA. It was a long and arduous process for the manufacturers to prove that the cancer detection capability of digital was equivalent to conventional (film-screen) mammography.

We have decided to monitor the progress of digital mammography for the near future. The transition to digital should be

a careful, deliberate process for the following reasons:

- There is no consensus that digital improves patient outcomes.
- The digital exams cost more, and insurers are not yet uniform in their reimbursement criteria.
- Patients still undergo breast compression identical to film-screen mammography.
- There is conflicting data regarding radiation exposure. While women with small breast tend to need less x-ray to produce an acceptable digital image, large breasted women can require a higher dose to produce the digital study.

We will continue to evaluate this technology as it evolves over the next few years. The preliminary results of the first large national comparison study will be

reported in 2004. A detailed discussion of this is available at [www.michigancancer.org](http://www.michigancancer.org). Until the digital "bugs" are resolved, we will continue to perform mammographic studies on our ACR/MQSA accredited film-screen units, utilizing CAD on each annual exam.



**Pueblo Radiology's Computer Aided Detection (CAD) unit**