

Bruce Hoyle, MD

Phlebologist

How did you get into Phlebology?

After my family practice expanded into Botox, lasers and cosmetic fillers, patients would ask if I could help with their leg veins. When a weekend conference in the new specialty of Phlebology came up in Palm Springs, I decided to attend. I went on to do several preceptorships with vein specialists in the U.S., Canada and Europe, earn an ultrasonography credential, and become one of the first 200 doctors in the nation to pass the certification exam of the American Board of Phlebology.

Ultrasound diagnosis along with the use of lasers, foam sclerotherapy, microphlebectomy and tumescent anesthesia has revolutionized vein treatment. I was the first physician in Orange County to perform endovenous laser ablations, and I'm one of the first to do ambulatory microphlebectomy. Currently, I'm beginning a clinical study at the VA Hospital in Long Beach on a new protocol to accelerate the healing of venous leg ulcers, which I think will be a more effective treatment going forward.



What is your involvement with La Amistad?

I have tried to support the hospital in any way I can although my practice is now completely office based. I called **Dr. (Michael) Malouf** a few years ago and volunteered my services. He has referred several patients with chronic leg ulcers and severe varices. Some of these patients have had multiple ER visits for bleeding, etc. It's been gratifying to treat them and they are incredibly appreciative.

How do you see healthcare changing?

It's going to get harder for doctors to be in solo practice and I'll probably need to align with someone to survive the changes. We seem to be evolving towards a healthcare system like Canada's, which is where I'm from, and went to medical school. When they adopted that model in the late 1960s, they obtained everyone's buy-in by promising the moon. They told doctors they'd get paid more, in quicker time; and the public that everything would be covered and free. Then they ran out of money and had to cut reimbursement and services. In 1990 I was on a medical sabbatical in Canada when my

five-year old daughter became ill. She was quickly diagnosed with a hydronephrotic kidney, but it took three months to get a surgery slot! Canadian health care is sub optimal at the secondary and tertiary level but they do a much better job than the U.S. in primary care with preventive services, peds, etc., being free and readily available to all. With this country's political system, agreement on any major change is unlikely. I think costs will keep rising and shifting to the consumer in higher premiums and co-pays. Ten years ago I completed a Health-care MBA from UCI. We went to Montreal to examine the Canadian model. We reached the same conclusion then.

What are your favorite pastimes?

There are too many. We enjoy road cycling, hiking, sailing, skiing, golf and scuba diving. Last year we climbed Mount Rainier. In January we cycled 500 km in New Zealand and in March I was heli-skiing in Alaska. I was an accomplished home wine maker for many years and still enjoy collecting wine.

Dr. Hoyle has three daughters and lives in Newport Beach with his partner, Christina, who also manages his practice.



A PUBLICATION FROM THE ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF OFFICE



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