ASSOCIATION BETWEEN RECURRENT VARICOSE VEINS AND INCOMPETENT PERFORATING VEINS: OUR EXPERIENCE
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INTRODUCTION: The aim was to investigate the association between the presence of incompetent perforating veins and development of recurrent varicose veins.

METHODS: a consecutive group of patients presenting with varicose veins were examined using colour duplex ultrasonography. Pathological perforating veins were defined as those exhibiting bidirectional flow and a diameter of 4 mm or greater at the fascia.

RESULTS: between September 2008 and October 2009, 224 patients were examined. Primary varicose veins were found in 246 legs (165 patients) and recurrent varicose veins in 84 legs (59 patients). In patients with primary varicose veins, 108 (44%) had incompetent perforators compared to 53 (63%) of those with recurrent varicose veins. Also, for recurrent varicose veins, the percentage of patients with any given number of incompetent perforators was higher than for primary varicose veins. Overall, there was a higher number of incompetent perforators in those with recurrent veins compared to primary veins and this difference was significant at 95% confidence interval.

DISCUSSION: patients with recurrent varicose veins have both a higher prevalence and a greater number of incompetent perforating veins than patients with primary varicose veins.