

# MTHFR polymorphisms in primary varicose vein disorder

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Varicose veins occur commonly in the general population but, despite much research, the etiology of venous disease is still poorly understood. The pathogenesis of the vein dilatation remains obscure in spite of the evidence of a primary defect in the vein wall. A number of epidemiological studies have shown that, in addition to environmental factors, genetic mechanisms may play a role in determining susceptibility to vascular disease. In particular, abnormalities in the enzymes that control homocysteine metabolism have been shown to cause vascular disease (Sverdlova et al., 1998; Kim et al., 2007).

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