

## A Patient's Guide to the SensiLase System:

### *Two Simple Tests to Measure Blood Flow and Circulatory Health*

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A wound that will not heal or other persistent circulatory problems require carefully planned and managed treatment to avoid further complications. For this reason, your physician has scheduled two simple tests provided by the SensiLase System that will give him or her essential information when developing the optimal treatment plan for you. These tests are typically painless, requiring only minutes to complete:

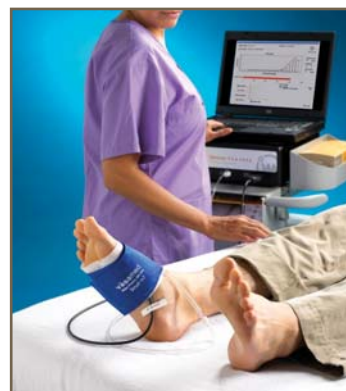
- **Skin Perfusion Pressure (SPP)** which evaluates how well the tiny blood vessels (capillaries) are circulating blood to your skin.
- **Pulse Volume Recording (PVR)** which measure the volume of blood going through the larger vessels (arteries) in your leg with each pulse, or beat, of your heart.

Together, these tests will quickly provide information about whether the blood flow in your legs, feet toes or fingers is decreased or absent due to blockage or damage to your vascular system. This is very important since capillaries or arteries that have become blocked or damaged may be the reason that you have a wound that will not heal normally. In addition to wound care, the SPP and PVR tests can be used to assist your doctor in diagnosing and managing your care if you have circulatory problems such as peripheral arterial disease (PAD). The results of the SPP and PVR tests will help guide your physician in prescribing the most appropriate treatment plan for you.

#### **The Skin Perfusion Pressure (SPP) Test**

SPP testing is similar to taking a blood pressure in that a pressure cuff is used to briefly stop capillary blood flow. It is placed around the test site (finger, toe, foot or ankle). The SPP test is administered with you lying flat and relaxed on your back. (If you cannot lie flat on your back, the specialist performing your test will make the necessary adjustments.) A small sensor and pressure cuff will be placed at the test site. Once inflated, the pressure cuff is then slowly deflated at a controlled rate as the laser sensor under the cuff measures the return of blood flow to the capillaries.

The only special instruction you must follow during an SPP test is to lie quietly without moving to ensure timely and accurate measurements.



#### **The Pulse Volume Recording (PVR) Test**

Following completion of the SPP test, the cuff will then be rewrapped a bit more snugly for the PVR test. The PVR test evaluates changes in the arterial blood volume in the legs or arms with each pulse, which helps determine the level and severity of arterial disease or damage in the limb.

#### **Preparing for the SPP & PVR Tests**

- As caffeine and smoking may alter the results of these tests, please refrain from consuming caffeine and smoking on the day of the exam.
- It may be helpful prior to your appointment to complete the Patient Vascular History form.