CLAIMS.

1. A venous compression element comprising
a central core of fluid filled cells and
an outer layer of soft material suitable for maintaining contact with skin for a prolonged period of time covering the core.

2. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 1 characterised in that the core comprises gas filled cells.

3. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 characterised in that the gas is air or nitrogen.

4. A venous compression element as claimed in any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the core comprises a plastics laminate material formed such as to encapsulate discrete air filled cells between two or more layers of plastics sheet.

5. A venous compression element as claimed in any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the core is arranged as a cylindrically formed contiguous body of air filled plastics cells.

6. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 1 characterised in that the core is a sheet of cellular bubble encapsulating material, comprising regularly spaced, protruding hemispheres of fixed volume, rolled into a cylinder and covered with tubular bandage.

7. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 6 characterised in that the sheet is a rectangle of between 20 and 50 cms length.

8. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 6 or 7 characterised in that the sheet is folded or rolled upon itself with a bubble projection surface facing inward and a flat base layer facing outward.

9. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 6, 7 or 8 characterised in that the cylinder so formed is of 10 to 50mm diameter.

10. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 9 characterised in that the cylinder is of 20 to 40 mm diameter.

11. A venous compression element as claimed in any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the core is covered with one or more tubular bandages.

12. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 11 characterised in that the bandages are Molnlycke Tubinette.

13. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 11 or 12 characterised in that the laminate material encapsulating fluid filled cells is a bubble wrap sheet material.

14. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 13 characterised in that the sheet material has a cell diameter, as measured on the base layer, of between 6 and 14mm.

15. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 13 characterised in that the sheet material has a cell diameter of from 9 to 11mm.

16. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 15 characterised in that the sheet is a double layered plastics which provides improved resistance to loss of gas pressure.

17. A venous compression element as claimed in any preceding claim for use in the treatment of varicose veins.

18. A venous compression element as claimed in claim 17 characterised in that the compression element is applied to the skin surface and aligned with a vein after performace of an endovenous endothethial wall damaging technique.

19. A compression element as claimed in any one of the preceding claims characterised in that it is incompressible at physiological pressure, with essentially

complete resistance to crushing at 0-50mm/Hg and 0 to 0.1 atmospheres for a one to two week interval over which it is applied to a patient.

20. An element as claimed in any one of the preceding claims characterised in that it is in the form of a compression pad.

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CLAIMS

1. A venous compression element comprising

a central core of gas filled cells and

an outer layer of soft material suitable for maintaining contact with skin for a prolonged period of time covering the core

characterised in that the core comprises a plastics laminate material formed such as to encapsulate discrete air filled cells between two or more layers of plastics sheet.

2. A venous compression element as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that the core is arranged as a cylindrically formed contiguous body of air filled plastics cells.

3. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 1 characterised in that the core is a sheet of cellular bubble encapsulating material, comprising regularly spaced, protruding hemispheres of fixed volume, rolled into a cylinder and covered with tubular bandage.

4. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 3 characterised in that the sheet is a rectangle of between 20 and 50 cms length.

5. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 3 or 4 characterised in that the sheet is folded or rolled upon itself with a bubble projection surface facing inward and a flat base layer facing outward.

6. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 3, 4 or 5 characterised in that the cylinder so formed is of 10 to 50mm diameter.

7. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 6 characterised in that the cylinder is of 20 to 40 mm diameter.

8. A venous compression element as claimed in any one of the preceding claims characterised in that the core is covered with one or more tubular bandages.

9. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 8 characterised in that the bandages are Molnlycke Tubinette.

10. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 1 characterised in that the laminate material encapsulating fluid filled cells is a bubble wrap sheet material.

11. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 10 characterised in that the sheet material has a cell diameter, as measured on the base layer, of between 6 and 14mm.

12. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 10 characterised in that the sheet material has a cell diameter of from 9 to 11mm.

13. A venous compression element as claimed in Claim 12 characterised in that the sheet is a double layered plastics which provides improved resistance to loss of gas pressure.

14. A venous compression element as claimed in any preceding claim for use in the treatment of varicose veins.

15. A compression element as claimed in any one of the preceding claims characterised in that it is incompressible at physiological pressure, with essentially complete resistance to crushing at 0-50mm/Hg and 0 to 0.1 atmospheres for a one to two week interval over which it is applied to a patient.

16. An element as claimed in any one of the preceding claims characterised in that it is in the form of a compression pad.