UNDERSTANDING VASCULAR & LYMPHATIC ANOMALIES

01.

Not all vessel issues are the same.

Vascular anomalies are classified into two major groups: tumors and malformations. Each behaves differently and requires different care.

02.

Some tumors resolve, others don't.

Vascular tumors grow from blood vessels and may be harmless or serious. Some go away on their own, but others (like vascular cancers) need urgent care.

03.

Malformations are structural, not growths.

These result from abnormally formed arteries, veins, or lymph vessels present from birth. They often enlarge during puberty or pregnancy.

04.

Some anomalies are complex combinations.

Combined anomalies can affect multiple vessel types and lead to overgrowth in certain parts of the body.

05.

Lymphatic-only anomalies exist.

When only the lymphatic system is involved, the issue is classified as a lymphatic anomaly. These can appear in the head, neck, or deeper areas of the body.

06.

There are four main types of lymphatic anomalies.

These include generalized lymphatic anomaly (GLA), Gorham-Stout disease, central conducting lymphatic anomaly (CCLA), and kaposiform lymphangiomatosis.

07.

Symptoms vary widely.

Some people experience soft tissue swelling, infections, fatigue, pain, or mobility issues. Others may have fluid buildup in the chest or belly.

08.

Diagnosis can be difficult.

These conditions are rare. They can mimic other illnesses, and often require advanced testing only available in major medical centers.

09.

Treatment exists, even if there is no cure.

Options like sclerotherapy, embolization, surgery, or targeted medication may reduce symptoms and improve quality of life.

10.

Early diagnosis is key.

While there is no cure yet, early and expert intervention can make a huge difference. Seek out providers who specialize in vascular and lymphatic anomalies.

Ninjas Fighting Lymphedema

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Simplified, because no one should feel lost in their diagnosis