



Surgical – Varicose Vein Treatments - Spider Vein Removal Surgery - Downloadable Fact Sheet

What is Sclerotherapy?

Sclerotherapy is a medical procedure whereby a chemical, the sclerosant, is injected into a vein to entirely obliterate it. The sclerosant damages the innermost lining of the vessel, resulting in a clot that blocks the blood circulation in the vein beyond. Veins carry unoxygenated blood from the peripheral tissues back to the heart. Since the blood pressure in the veins is low, the blood is pumped forward by contractions of the heart. To prevent back-flow, most veins have valves that only allow blood only to flow in the direction of the heart. When these valves become incompetent, veins become enlarged and bulging (varicose). Smaller veins that feed these varicose veins can also become enlarged and appear as red or blue spider veins in the skin. Varicose veins can lead to a chronic swelling condition of the leg called venous insufficiency. Venous insufficiency predisposes a person to blood clots and skin ulceration. Even more frequently, damaged veins are manifested as unsightly spider veins. The destruction of these types of veins can be desirable both medically and cosmetically.

Sclerotherapy Facts

- During the sclerotherapy procedure, a health-care professional injects chemicals into smaller veins, which damage the inner lining and produce a clot. As the clot is reabsorbed, the vessel is permanently obliterated.
- The choice of the chemical sclerosing agent and its physical form depend on the size of the vessel to be treated.
- Treatment of the correct vessels can improve the symptoms of venous insufficiency.
- Small superficial vessels are often destroyed for cosmetic reasons.

Is Sclerotherapy safe?

All medical procedures have risks that should be considered carefully prior to embarking on a particular treatment. Since sclerotherapy is frequently used to treat cosmetic problems, untoward and dangerous side effects are fully explained to the patient.

Does Sclerotherapy hurt?

Because this procedure requires injections through the skin, it is not a painless procedure. Certain chemicals that are injected (sclerosants) are more likely to cause pain than others. If the sclerosant is deposited outside the vein inadvertently, this is often more painful.

Is Sclerotherapy an effective treatment for varicose veins and spider veins?

Sclerotherapy is an effective technique to obliterate or collapse veins. Other techniques include surgical removal of the offending vein, endovenous laser destruction (fiberoptic-transmitted laser light) and, for very small vessels, percutaneous laser light or intense pulsed-light exposure might be also effective.

Who is a good candidate for Sclerotherapy?

Those with venous insufficiency who have disease that is poorly controlled with compression stockings and who are not obese and who do not have any serious health conditions are ideal candidates for sclerotherapy. To determine if sclerotherapy obliteration is likely to be of benefit, the site of the defective vein is identified as well as the venous drainage pattern. Healthy people who complain of unsightly superficial veins of small caliber (4 mm or less) are also candidates for sclerotherapy.

How do people prepare for the Sclerotherapy procedure?

Patients are screened using special ultrasound techniques to determine the site of venous disease prior to treatment. In situations where there is only a small area of spider veins, this is rarely done.

Are you ready to get started? [Contact us](#) today to schedule your consultation!

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