

## **Informed Consent: Sclerotherapy**

Sclerotherapy involves the injection of special medication, called a sclerosing agent, directly into your spider or varicose veins using the smallest needles available. The medication is injected into the veins. This causes an irritation of the inner lining of the vein resulting in closure of the vein. A small gauge needle is used to perform the injections and most patients relate the discomfort to an ant bite. The majority of persons who have had sclerotherapy performed have satisfying results. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that sclerotherapy will be effective for you. In rare instances, the condition may become worse after sclerotherapy treatment. The number of treatments needed varies from patient to patient, depending on the extent of the problem and your body's response to the injections.

### **Possible Risks and Complications**

**Most Common Side Effects:** The veins may be tender to touch after treatment, and an uncomfortable sensation may run along the vein route. This discomfort is usually temporary. Bruising is very common and to be expected. Some patients complain of an itchy sensation after treatment, which is also very normal. Trapped blood may cause discoloration, which can be expressed out, although this may remain discolored for up to one year.

**Hyperpigmentation:** After sclerotherapy, you may notice some discoloration (dark streaks) along the treated veins. This occurs when the blood gets trapped inside the vein after it closes down. We can usually "express" the trapped blood out on your next visit if this is necessary. If the flushing does not alleviate the discoloration, it will fade on its own in 4 to 12 months. In rare instances, this darkening of the skin may persist for years.

**Skin Ulceration:** In rare cases, a blister may form, open and become ulcerated. Healing occurs slowly over a few months. After healing, this will usually leave a scar.

**Allergic Reaction:** Very rarely, a patient may have an allergic reaction to the sclerosing agent. The risk of this is greater in patients who have a history of allergies.

**Deep Vein Thrombosis:** This a *very rare* complication. The dangers of phlebitis include the possibility of a pulmonary embolus ( a blood clot carried to the lungs) and post phlebotic syndrome, resulting in permanent swelling of the feet.

**Alternatives**

Varicose veins and spider veins are not life-threatening conditions. Treatment is not mandatory. Some patients get adequate relief from symptoms by wearing graduated compression stockings. The other option is to receive no treatment at all or to treat your veins with a laser which has similar possible side effects.

**Disclosure**

The practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science. Therefore, reputable practitioners cannot guarantee results. While the overwhelming numbers of patients have noted gratifying results from sclerotherapy, we cannot promise or guarantee any specific results.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the foregoing information and understand the risks of sclerotherapy, alternative methods of treatment, and the risks of treating my condition.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ has answered all my questions and I hereby consent to treatment.

**Note: The medication we use is Sodium Sotradecol, a sclerosant recognized and used worldwide. It is the only FDA approved medication for sclerotherapy in the US. We may create a foam solution with this medicine which is not FDA approved but has been used by vein specialists for decades.**

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**Patient Signature**

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**Date**