

# The Vein Centre

At Vascular Surgical Associates

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## Informed Consent for Sclerotherapy

### What is Sclerotherapy?

Sclerotherapy is a very popular method of eliminating varicose veins and spider veins in which a solution, called a sclerosing agent, is injected into the veins. This causes an irritation to 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 people who have sclerotherapy performed have satisfying results. **Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that sclerotherapy will be effective for you. However, approximately 90% of patients who undergo sclerotherapy see improvement. In rare instances, the patient's condition may worsen after sclerotherapy treatment.** The number of treatments needed varies from patient to patient, depending on the extent of the problem. Each vein may need to be injected one to five more times, over a period of several months. Improvement is usually seen over a period of months, not weeks. In each treatment session, multiple areas can be treated, thus reducing the total number of sessions required.

### Risks and Side Effects

- Transient Hyperpigmentation – Approximately 20% of patients who undergo Sclerotherapy notice discoloration after treatment. This usually fades in 4-12 months. In rare instances, this darkening of skin may persist for years.
- Skin Ulceration – This occurs in less than 1% of patients who receive Sclerotherapy. A blister may form, open and become ulcerated. Healing occurs slowly over a few months. After healing, a scar may be present.
- 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 – A *very rare* complication seen in approximately one out of every 10,000 patients treated. The dangers of phlebitis include the possibility of pulmonary embolus (a blood clot carried to the lungs) and post phlebotic syndrome, resulting in a permanent swelling of the leg.
- Most Common Side Effects – The veins may be tender to the touch after treatment and an uncomfortable sensation may run along the course of the vein. 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. Tenderness or firmness in the treated area can occur and be minimized by the use of support hose. Trapped blood may cause discoloration, which can be flushed out, although this may leave hyperpigmentation up to one year.

### Alternative Treatments

Varicose Veins and spider veins are not life-threatening conditions. Treatment is not mandatory. Some patients get adequate relief of symptoms from wearing graduated support stockings.

### Proposed Treatment Results

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

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the foregoing information and understand the risk of sclerotherapy, alternative methods of treatment, and the risks of not treating my condition. Therefore, I hereby consent to sclerotherapy treatment.

Patient Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**This is a COSMETIC procedure and Insurance will not pay nor will we file your insurance on this visit.**

Sign and Date: \_\_\_\_\_

