

Venus Vein Center
1101 Laurel Oak Road
Suite 120
Voorhees, NJ 08043
856-354-VEIN

Sclerotherapy Informed Consent

This form is designed to provide you with information you need to make an informed decision on whether or not to have sclerotherapy performed. If you have any questions or do not understand any potential risks, please do not hesitate to ask us.

What is sclerotherapy?

Sclerotherapy is a popular method for eliminating varicose veins and superficial telangiectasias (spider veins) in which a solution, called a sclerosing agent, is injected into the veins.

Does sclerotherapy work for everyone?

The majority of people who have sclerotherapy performed will see significant improvement. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that sclerotherapy will be effective in every case. Approximately 10% of patients who undergo sclerotherapy have poor to fair results ("poor results" means that the veins have not totally disappeared after six treatments). In very rare instances the patient's condition may become worse after sclerotherapy treatment.

How many treatments will I need?

The number of treatments needed to clear or improve the condition differs from patient to patient, depending on the extent of varicose and spider veins present. One to six or more treatments may be needed; the average is three to four. Individual veins usually require one to three treatments.

What are the most common side effects?

The most common side effects experienced with sclerotherapy treatment include the following:

- 1. Itching.** Depending on the type of solution used, you may experience mild itching along the vein route. This itching normally lasts 1 to 2 hours but may persist for 24 hours or more.

2. **Transient Hyperpigmentation.** Approximately 10% of patients who undergo sclerotherapy notice discoloration (light brown streaks) after treatment. In almost every patient, the veins become darker immediately after the procedure. In rare instances this darkening of the vein persists for 4 to 12 months.
3. **Sloughing/Limb Injury or Loss.** Sloughing occurs in less than 1% of the patients who receive sclerotherapy. Sloughing consists of a small ulceration at the injection site that heals slowly over 1 to 2 months. A blister may form, open and become ulcerated. The scar that follows should return to a normal color. This occurrence usually represents injection into or near a small artery and is not preventable. In rare cases, loss of limb has occurred.
4. **Allergic Reactions.** Very rarely a patient may experience an allergic reaction to the sclerosing agent used. The risk of an allergic reaction is greater in patients who have a history of allergies.
5. **Pain.** A few patients experience moderate to severe pain and some bruising, usually at the site of the injection. The veins may be tender to the touch after treatment, and an uncomfortable sensation may run along the vein route. This pain is usually temporary, in most cases lasting 1 to 7 days.
6. **Telangiectatic Matting.** This refers to the development of new tiny blood vessels in the treated vessel. This temporary phenomenon occurs 2 to 4 weeks after treatment and usually resolves within 4 to 6 months. It occurs in up to 18% of women receiving estrogen therapy and in 2% to 4% of all patients.
7. **Ankle Swelling.** Ankle swelling may occur after treatment of blood vessels in the foot and ankle. This swelling usually resolves in a few days and is reduced by wearing the prescribed support stockings.
8. **Phlebitis.** Phlebitis is a rare complication, seen in approximately 1 out of every 1000 patients treated for varicose veins greater than 3 to 4 mm in diameter. The possible dangers of phlebitis include the possibility of a pulmonary embolus (a blood clot to the lungs) and post phlebitis syndrome, in which the blood clot is not carried out of the legs, resulting in permanent swelling of the legs.

What are the possible complications if I do not have sclerotherapy performed?

In cases of large varicose veins (greater than 3 to 4 mm in diameter), spontaneous phlebitis and/or thrombosis may occur with the associated risk of possible pulmonary emboli. Additionally, large skin ulcerations may develop in the ankle region of patients

with long-standing varicose veins with underlying venous insufficiency. Rarely these ulcers may hemorrhage or become cancerous.

Are there other types of procedures to treat varicose veins and telangiectasias ?
What are their side effects?

Because varicose and telangiectatic leg veins are not life threatening conditions, treatment is not mandatory in every patient. Some patients may get adequate relief of symptoms from wearing graduated support stockings. Ambulatory phlebectomy is a procedure in which certain types of veins can be removed through small surgical incisions. The complications of this procedure are similar to those of sclerotherapy with the addition of small surgical scars that naturally occur with this procedure.

Vein stripping and/or ligation may also be used to treat large varicose veins. This procedure may require a hospital stay and usually is performed while the patient is under general anesthesia. Risks of vein stripping and/or ligation include permanent nerve paralysis in a small percentage of patients, possible pulmonary emboli, infection, and permanent scarring. General anesthesia has some associated risks, including the possibility of paralysis, brain damage and death.

What if I experience a problem after receiving sclerotherapy?

If you notice any type of adverse reaction, please call the doctor immediately.

Sclerotherapy Informed Consent

BY SIGNING BELOW, I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I AM NOT PREGNANT AND I HAVE READ THE FOREGOING INFORMED CONSENT FORM. THE DOCTOR HAS ADEQUATELY INFORMED ME OF THE RISKS OF SCLEROTHERAPY TREATMENT, ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF TREATMENT AND THE RISKS OF NOT TREATING MY CONDITION. I HEREBY CONSENT TO SCLEROTHERAPY TREATMENT PERFORMED BY

DR. _____.

DATE _____ TIME _____ AM/PM

PATIENT SIGNATURE

PATIENT REPRESENTATIVE

I AM NOT PREGNANT

(If patient is a minor or is incompetent, signature of Parent or
Legal Guardian is required.)

Thank you again for choosing the Venus Vein Center at ACC for your
Sclerotherapy. Any additional questions or concerns please contact the office
(856) 354-VEIN (8346) or visit us online at www.venusvein.com.