

Consent for Sclerotherapy

Sclerotherapy is used to clear, or improve varicosities. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that sclerotherapy will be effective in every case. Approximately 10% of patients who undergo sclerotherapy have only fair results, defined as veins that have not disappeared totally after multiple treatments.

Sclerotherapy is an in-office procedure, done by a physician, which improves and or clears the appearance of small, superficial varicosities or “spider veins” in the legs. Injecting a sclerosing agent into the veins causes the vein wall to become inflamed and then to collapse. When the vein can no longer carry blood through it, it will break down and no longer be visible through the skin. This process usually takes up to 8 weeks.

Hyperpigmentation (increased pigmentation) is seen in approximately 30% of patients who undergo sclerotherapy treatment. Occasionally when the solution is injected into the veins during treatment a vein may rupture, allowing the solution and some blood to leak into the surrounding tissue. This may result in the formation of brown spots in the skin. These spots are usually small and no larger than the vein that was treated. In most cases they resolve spontaneously, but in some cases they may persist.

Very rarely deep vein thrombosis (blood clots) may occur after injections.

Very rarely a patient may experience an allergic reaction to the sclerosing solution used.

Some patients may experience moderate to mild pain and bruising at the injection site. The vein may be tender to the touch and an uncomfortable sensation may run along the vein route. This pain is temporary in most cases, lasting 1 to seven days.

The solution used in this office is a combination of saline and Sodium Tetradecyl Sulfate. This combination is in wide clinical use for this treatment. It is FDA approved for the use of sclerotherapy. Occasionally this solution will cause localized, mild itching along the vein route. The itching is a histamine response to the treatment and can be treated with a Benadryl type cream or an over-the-counter anti-itch cream such as hydrocortisone.

The cost of a full treatment is \$600.00 and \$55 for a pair of hospital grade compression support stockings which will be specially fitted at the time of treatment. More than one treatment may be necessary to achieve the desired results. The number of treatments can be approximated at the time of the initial treatment which depends on the size, location and number of varicosities being treated.

Since sclerotherapy is an elective and cosmetic procedure, we require payment at the time of treatment. We can, however, provide you with a receipt stating the diagnostic and procedure codes which you can submit to your insurance company or healthcare-spending plan, in hopes that it will be a reimbursable medical expense. If you wish to

check with your insurance company beforehand to determine if the procedure will be covered, we recommend that you give them the following information: The diagnosis is *varicose veins or spider veins*. The corresponding **ICD Diagnosis code** is **454.9** for varicose veins and **448.1** for spider veins. The procedure you will undergo is called *Sclerotherapy*. The ICD procedure codes are 36471 for varicose veins or 36468 for spider veins. Our office is not set up to do pre-authorization since we do not file with insurance for any procedures.

A pair of hospital grade compression support hose will be fitted and applied following the treatment. They are to be worn during your waking hours for at least two weeks following the procedure. You may continue to wear them for comfort for as long as desired following the two-week period.

The procedure does not require anesthetic. A very tiny needle (smaller than an insulin needle) is used to inject the solution. The treatment will take anywhere from 45 minutes to an hour. Some of the varicose veins will disappear immediately, some will bruise and some will fade over the course of the next six to eight weeks. Gradual fading may take up to four months. The veins that are successfully treated will not return. It is possible however, that new varicose or spider veins may develop in this area over time.

This Consent Form and the Post-Treatment Instructions have been explained to me, I understand their contents, and I have been given the opportunity to ask questions. I consent to this procedure.

Patient Signature

Date