



INFORMATION AND CONSENT FOR ULTRASOUND GUIDED INJECTION SCLEROTHERAPY

It has been determined that you are a candidate for ULTRASOUND GUIDED INJECTION SCLEROTHERAPY. Please read the following before consenting to proceed with this treatment.

What is Ultrasound Guided Injection Sclerotherapy?

Ultrasound guided injection sclerotherapy is one method of eliminating varicose veins. A medicine called a sclerosant is injected into the vein guided by ultrasound. There are two FDA approved sclerosant in the U.S. (Sotradecol and Polidocanol). They are approved as a liquid, but are commonly turned into a foam to make the treatment safer and more effective. Because these medications were originally approved as liquid, not foam, the use of foam is identified as "off label." Saline is another sclerosant used but is also considered "off label" when used to treat spider veins. Worldwide, Polidocanol is the most popular product because in many studies has been shown to be one of the safest and most effective sclerosants with the least side effects. After the procedure, compression is applied to the leg, either in the form of stocking or a bandage. This compression is worn for 3 days to 2 weeks, depending on the patient's veins.

What Results Can I Expect?

Generally one treatment with a very concentrated sclerosing agent is successful in closing down very large veins such as the Greater Saphenous vein or the Lesser Saphenous vein. Very concentrated solutions should only be injected with ultrasound guidance. Occasionally an additional treatment may be required. Most patients will have improvement in their venous disease. Unfortunately, neither cosmetic nor symptomatic improvement is guaranteed. Sometimes the results do not meet the patient's expectations. Rarely, a patient may actually be worse after the treatment.

What are the Risks?

1. Some patients may develop brown discoloration of their skin consisting of spots or streaks after treatment. In most cases, this resolves 6-12 months after treatment. In rare cases, this discoloration may be permanent.
2. New spider veins may form in a treated area. Most of these will resolve within a year. Occasionally, treatment of these new veins will be required, either with sclerotherapy or laser.
3. Ulceration of the skin may occur after sclerotherapy. Usually, this consists of a small sore in the skin. This sore generally heals within a month, leaving a small scar. Very rarely, a large, painful ulceration may occur that will require several months to heal and may leave a larger scar.
4. Phlebitis, inflammation and clot within a vein, may occur after this treatment. Generally, this will resolve with anti-inflammatory medication and compression of the area. It is possible for a clot in a deep vein to develop after sclerotherapy, although this is extremely unlikely.
5. Allergic reactions to any of the sclerosing agents may occur. These allergic reactions are generally immediate and may include rashes, hives, breathing problems, or death. Giving a "test dose" prior to sclerotherapy will not prevent an allergic reaction.
6. Injection of the sclerosing agent into an artery is very uncommon. When this occurs, it may result in large areas of skin and tissue damage and even loss of the limb.

What Are Potential Side Effects?

1. Itching and mild to moderate pain or aching in the legs is common for 1-2 days after sclerotherapy. Walking will usually relieve this.
2. Numbness and swelling of the leg or ankle may occasionally result from the compression and will usually resolve within 1-6 months.
3. Bruising is common and will fade within a month.
4. Tender lumps may indicate the presence of trapped, broken-down blood within a treated vein. This blood may need to be removed at an office visit. This can be done after a local anesthetic is injected.
5. The bandage or stocking may cause a rash, blisters, or skin irritation.

Are There Other Treatment Options?

Surgeries, such as vein stripping, ligation or phlebectomy, are possible alternative treatments for larger varicose veins. Patients may also choose not to treat for varicose or spider veins. However, without treatment some patients with large varicose veins may develop phlebitis, ulcers of the skin or hemorrhage. Symptoms will worsen over time and may become disabling. Some spider veins, especially near the ankle, may bleed profusely.

CONSENT

By signing this form, I attest that I have read and understand the procedure and its risks, and that it has been explained to my satisfaction. I understand that the established technique of generating a foam with the sclerosant is still considered an off-label use. I consent to the taking of photographs while I am undergoing treatment and the use of those photos for scientific, educational, research or marketing purposes. I understand that I will never be identified personally in the photos. The above details including possible complications and risks of the procedure have been explained to me to my satisfaction and understanding. I agree to proceed with the treatment today.

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____