

## Sclerotherapy Consent

Sclerotherapy involves the injection of special medication, called a sclerosing agent, directly into your spider or varicose vein. 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 treatment 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:

Any procedure carries a small risk of infection, allergic reaction, pain, blood clots and anesthetic complications. These complications have been well studied and are rare with this procedure. Possible risks and side effects that are specific to sclerotherapy include but are limited to the following:

**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 or flushed out, although this may remain discolored for up to one year. Most sclerotherapy sessions will only eliminate a percentage of spider veins, so many patients will require more than one treatment for a satisfactory result.

**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" or "flush" the trapped blood out on your next visit if this is necessary. If the flushing does not alleviate the discoloration, it will likely fade on its own in 6-12 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 may 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 (DVT):** This is 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 leg or feet.

**Matted telangiectasia:** This is also an unusual complication, but following a sclerotherapy session a cluster of tiny veins may appear in the vicinity of the treated vein.

**Alternatives:** Laser ablation may be used or in conjunction with sclerotherapy. 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.

### Consent:

I have read the information stated above and understand the risks and benefits of the procedure as well as that of the local anesthesia. I also understand the alternative methods of treatment. I have had an adequate explanation and have no further questions as they have been answered. I understand that, while the great majority of patients have very satisfying results, the practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science, and therefore, results cannot be guaranteed.

**Be sure to notify your physician if you have a history of medication allergies, prior blood clots of severe medical conditions.**

**Patient Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_