

Spider Vein Laser Treatment

Varicose veins and spider veins are two different types of vein disorders. Both types of veins lie close to the surface of the skin; however, varicose veins are wide, abnormally swollen blood vessels and spider veins are thin vessels. A patient may have only one or both conditions.

Spider veins are purple, blue or red in appearance and can appear on the legs and face. Most commonly spider veins appear on the thighs and ankles. Spider veins appear in three basic shapes: linear, branch-like or in the shape of a spider, with a dark center point.

During an initial consultation, the physician will determine if the spider veins are caused by reticular veins or by a larger superficial leg vein that is functioning improperly, termed venous insufficiency. Venous insufficiency is a condition created when the valves of one of the larger superficial leg vein no longer works correctly, preventing blood from flowing properly and allowing the blood to pool in the veins. If the spider veins are related to venous insufficiency, the physician will treat this condition first to obtain the best results from the spider vein treatment.

Symptoms:

The most common symptom of spider veins is stinging or itching. Spider veins result from reticular veins, often called feeder veins, or from improper function of the major leg veins. If the patient is also experiencing pain and swelling in the leg, a physician may use ultrasound to make a complete diagnosis.

Possible Risks and Complications:

These complications have been well studied and are extremely rare with this procedure. Possible risks and side effects that are specific to laser treatment of spider veins include, but are not limited to, the following:

Pain: Patients generally experience mild to moderate discomfort during the procedure.

Skin Burns: Laser energy carries an extremely small risk of skin burns. This rarely been reported and precautions are taken to prevent this complication.

Darkening of the skin (hyperpigmentation): Patients who have had laser treatment may notice some discoloration after treatment. This discoloration

usually resolves in a few weeks to months. In rare cases, the darkening of the skin may persist up to a year.

Neuropathy: Rarely, there can be trauma to surrounding nerves, which can result in transient numbness that will resolve on its own with time. In rare instances, the localized numbness may be permanent.

Failure of the procedure or recurrence: Spider Vein treatment is successful greater than 90% of the time. However, the treatment may not be successful and may require subsequent. The diseased vein may initially seal but then re-open in time as the body can occasionally form a new channel in the treated vein.

Alternatives:

Sclerotherapy – A needle injects a solution that causes the lining of the vein to swell and eventually seal shut. The vein will usually fade in a few weeks. As with laser treatment, this procedure will take three to five treatment sessions. Staining, or brown discoloration on the skin is a possible side effect to sclerotherapy. The staining is caused by the sclerosing solution and may take six months or longer to fade.

Consent:

I have read the information stated above and understand the risks and benefits of the procedure. I also understand the alternative methods of treatment. I have had an adequate explanation and have no further questions as they have all 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 or severe medical conditions.

Patient Signature: _____

Date: _____