



Vanderbilt Vein Clinic

Sclerotherapy - Your Questions Answered

What are spider veins?

Spider veins are tiny superficial blood vessels usually appearing as clusters of red, purple or blue veins close to the skin surface. They are small, thread-like and “spidery” in appearance, sometimes having a starburst or tree-like pattern. Most commonly, they occur in areas of the leg around thighs, calves, or ankles.

How are spider veins treated?

Sclerotherapy is the “gold standard” in the treatment of unwanted spider veins. This procedure continues to be the most successful treatment option available for spider veins.

What is Sclerotherapy?

Sclerotherapy is a simple procedure performed in clinic that requires no anesthesia. A sclerosant (irritating liquid) is injected into a vein by using a small needle, causing the blood in the vein to displace. The vein collapses, closes down and then disappears over time.

Does Sclerotherapy work for everyone?

The majority of people who have sclerotherapy will have pleasing results. In very rare cases, conditions may become worse after treatment.

Will treated veins recur?

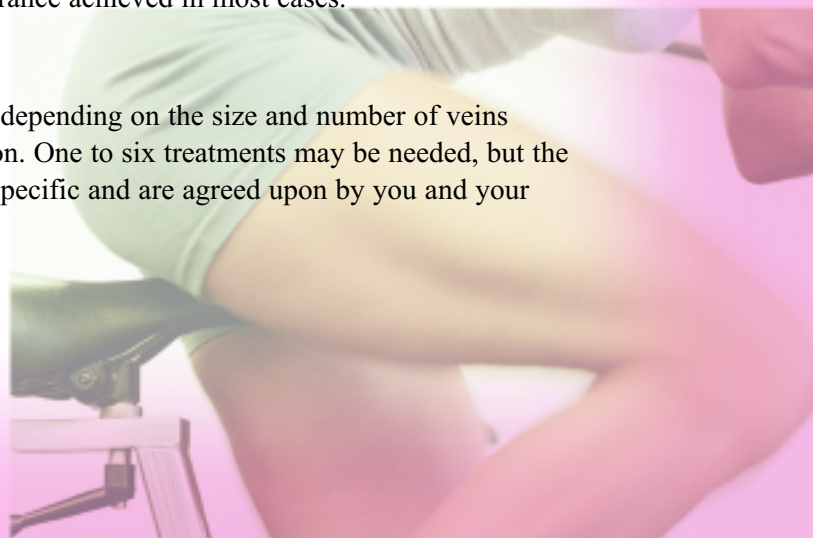
After treatment, spider veins may appear again in some patients. Approximately 10% of veins treated persist after multiple treatments. Additional treatments may be required; some veins do not respond to sclerotherapy, and new spider veins can develop near the site of previous injection.

Will I see immediate results?

After several treatments most patients can expect 50-90% improvement. However, fading is gradual, usually over several months, with complete disappearance achieved in most cases.

How many treatments are required?

The number of treatments will vary for each patient, depending on the size and number of veins involved. Several veins can be injected at each session. One to six treatments may be needed, but the average is three to four. Treatment plans are patient specific and are agreed upon by you and your vein specialist.



Is Sclerotherapy painful?

The procedure is usually associated with minimal discomfort. A burning or stinging sensation at the time of injection may be felt. This discomfort usually resolves within minutes. Most are able to return to their normal routine right after their treatment session.

Are there any side effects with Sclerotherapy?

Occasional side effects do exist even with highly trained clinicians providing your care. They can include the following:

- Swelling at the injection site is common in some patients. Also, swelling of the ankles, feet or muscle can occur. These symptoms usually resolve within 30 minutes after injection.
- Bruising can develop around injected areas if the veins are unusually weak, and will disappear within a month's time.
- Bleeding at the injection site can occur and resolves with direct pressure. Hematomas are accumulations of blood underneath the skin that feel like "lumps" and usually need to be drained if they occur.
- Matting (the appearance of fine red veins)
- Hyperpigmentation (brown lines or spots)
- Ulcers
- Allergic reactions.

A discussion with the clinician of your concerns and expectations from the procedure is important.

Are "medical" stockings needed after treatment?

Compression therapy is an important part of treatment for vein disease. In order to achieve and maintain pleasing results, you must wear compression stockings. A prescription will be provided before your session.

Will insurance pay for Sclerotherapy?

The cost for sclerotherapy is not covered by most insurance companies and is not billed to insurance by Vanderbilt. Vein clinic fee schedules will be made available prior to treatment.

Let the professional staff at the Vanderbilt Vein Clinic schedule your comprehensive medical evaluation.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call

(615) 343-2887

or visit our website:

www.vanderbiltveinclinic.com