

What Are The Other Side Effects?

Other side effects include a burning sensation during injection of some solutions, neovascularization (the development —usually temporary —of new tiny blood vessels), transient phlebitic-type reactions (swelling of the vein might cause the ankles to swell), temporary superficial blebs or wheals (similar to hives), and, very rarely, wound infection, poor healing, or scarring. Phlebitis is a very rare complication, seen in approximately 1 of every 1000 patients treated for varicose veins greater than 3 to 4 mm in diameter. The dangers of phlebitis include the possibility of pulmonary embolus (a blood clot to the lungs) and postphlebitis syndrome, in which the blood clot is not carried out of the legs, resulting in permanent swelling of the legs.

What Are The Possible Complications If I Do Not Have Sclerotherapy?

In cases of large varicose veins (greater than 3 to 4 mm in diameter), spontaneous phlebitis and/or thrombosis may occur with the associated risk of possible pulmonary emboli. Additionally, large skin ulcerations may develop in the ankle region of patients with long-standing varicose veins with underlying venous insufficiency. Rarely, these ulcers may hemorrhage or become cancerous.

Are There Other Types Of Procedures To Treat Varicose Veins and Telangiectasias? What Are Their Side Effects?

Vein stripping, ligation, endolase, intra vessel laser or radio-ablation may also be used to treat large varicose veins. Risks of vein stripping or ligation include permanent nerve damage in up to 30% of patients and possible pulmonary emboli, infection, and permanent scarring. General anesthesia has some associated

serious risks, including the possibility of serious harm, paralysis, brain damage, and death. For most severe disease and deep venous reflux, endolase or radioablation are best with better cosmetic and treatment outcomes than leg stripping.

-Transcutaneous Laser therapy used to be ineffective before the diode 900 nm and 1064 nm lasers. ELOS technology also further improved these results.

What Are the Costs?

Cosmetic Consultation: \$75

Sclerotherapy (hypertonic saline)

\$275 (1cc syringe)

\$375 (2 cc syringe)

future option, chromated glycerin

Reductions in costs may be made if very

limited/focal areas of involvement are present.

Compression stockings, coban self adherent gauze, or Ace wraps are encouraged for two weeks after the procedure for success and prevention of complications.

Laser Sclerotherapy

Laser 900nm diode with ELOS from Syneron

\$350/session up to 4 sq cm

\$450/session up to 12 sq cm

Greater Des Moines Dermatology

2424, 128th st, Urbandale, Iowa 50323

Phone 515-243-8676 Fax 515 243-0487

www.greaterdesmoinesdermatology.com

Like us: www.facebook.com

www.healthgrades.com

www.vitals.com www.realself.com



gdmdermatology



SCLEROTHERAPY with HYPERTONIC SALINE AND/OR LASER (SPIDER VEIN) TREATMENT

GDMD

Greater
Des Moines
Dermatology PC

Timothy Abrahamson, MD 05 2021
Jake Lorsung PA

What is Sclerotherapy?

Sclerotherapy is a popular method of eliminating varicose veins and superficial telangiectasias ("spider veins") in which a solution, called a "sclerosing agent," is injected into the veins. We use **hypertonic saline** as there is no risk of anaphylaxis as is reported with all other detergent products.

What is Laser Therapy

The **900nm laser with ELOS** technology from Syneron® is a laser modality to treat leg veins.

Advantages: Can treat both smaller veins that **NOT** accessible to sclerotherapy and sometime larger veins where sclerotherapy effect may be limited. It uses both laser and radio-frequency to destroy the vessel.

(<http://www.syneron.com/treatments/leg-vein-vascularis>)

Do These Veins Serve A Purpose?

No. They represent a dilation of surface vessels secondary to increased pressure in the deeper veins.

Is Sclerotherapy For Everyone?

The majority of people who have sclerotherapy performed will get cleared of their varicosities or at least see good improvement. Unfortunately, 10% of patients who undergo sclerotherapy have poor to fair results. ("Poor results" means that the veins have not totally disappeared after six treatments.) In very rare instances, the patient's condition may become worse after sclerotherapy treatment.

Laser therapy has little risk of worsening after the procedure or branching effect sometimes caused following sclerotherapy. However, sclerotherapy can be highly effective when branches are

well connected. The more broken up the individual vessels, the better laser affect

How Many Treatments Will I Need?

The number of treatments needed to clear or improve the condition differs from patient to patient, depending on the extent of varicose and spider veins present. One to six or more treatments may be needed; the average is three to four. Individual veins usually require one to three treatments.

If medium sized vessels, sclerotherapy may be used 1st followed by laser sessions in the future based on response. A mixed protocol is not unreasonable approach to minimize cost and maximize efficacy.

What Are The Most Common Side Effects?

The most common side effects experienced with sclerotherapy and laser treatment are as follows:

1. **Itching.** Depending on the type of solution used, you may experience mild itching along the vein route. This itching normally lasts one to two days.
 - This can occur with laser but less common
2. **Transient Hyperpigmentation.** Approximately 30% of patients who undergo sclerotherapy notice a discoloration of light brown streaks after treatment. In almost every patient, the veins become darker immediately after the procedure. In rare instances, this darkening of the vein may persist for 4 to 12 months.
 - This is less likely with laser therapy
3. **Sloughing.** Sloughing occurs in less than 3% of patients who receive sclerotherapy. Sloughing consists of a small ulceration at the injection site that heals slowly. A blister may form, open, and become ulcerated. The scar that follows should return to a normal color.
 - This can occur with laser therapy but

more common with sclerotherapy.

4. **Allergic Reactions.** Although rare, a patient may have an allergic reaction to the sclerosing agent used. The risk of an allergic reaction is greater in patients who are treated with solutions other than salines and salines with dextrose (sugar).
 - Allergy to laser is rare and typically would be a contact allergen to topicals not the laser itself
5. **Pain.** A few patients may experience mild to moderate pain and some bruising, usually at the site of the injection. The veins may be tender after treatment, and an uncomfortable sensation may run along the vein route. This pain is usually temporary, in most cases lasting one to, at most, seven days.
 - This can also occur with laser but post treatment pain is Unusual

GDMD Recommends These Topicals For Comfort:

RX: Lidocaine 4% OTC/4ounces

or

RX:Lidocaine 5%/50gm

or

RX:EMLA 30gm starting 30minutes before tx, reapply every 10 minutes.

***all on www.goodrx.com ***