

Injection Sclerotherapy

Veins with poor or non-functioning valves enlarge and then become varicose veins. They can have a red or bluish colour and appear on the leg surface. Symptoms can include heaviness, aching, throbbing, itching and cramps or tiredness in the legs. Some patients may have skin discolouration, inflammation or ulcers on the skin. If these are distressing, they may be treated

How are Varicose Veins treated?

Very large varicose veins may need surgery, but a number of patients can be treated with a procedure called injection sclerotherapy. A very fine needle is used to put a solution into the veins to cause the walls to swell and stick together.

Several veins can be treated at the same time. Tight compression stockings are applied and then worn for a couple of weeks after the procedure and you will be required to go for a brisk walk for 15 minutes immediately afterwards and then twice daily. Some local redness may occur, but should fade over a few weeks. This treatment will often have to be repeated until a fair result is made

How successful is sclerotherapy?

After several treatments, most patients can expect an 80% improvement. The fading process is gradual and not often perfect.

Will treated veins recur?

Yes it is common after any form of treatment for varicose veins for them to recur. To help prevent this, we recommend wearing support stockings when standing for a long time. If the veins recur they can be treated by further injections.

Before each appointment

Try to avoid taking Aspirin for pain relief for one week before your appointment. Do not apply moisturiser, suntan lotion or any creams to your legs on the day of your appointment. Always bring your compression stocking.

Side effects to sclerotherapy

- Red raised areas at injection site should disappear after one or two days.
- Brown lines or spots at sites of treated blood vessels are very common but should disappear within 12 months. However, in some patients, these can take years but

usually slowly fade. Most patients find the brown marks less unsightly than the original vein.

- Development of fine red blood vessels (thread veins) near injection site of larger vessels can develop. These usually fade with time but may be permanent. If you have thread veins already you are more likely to develop these.
- Bruises at the injection site usually disappear within a few weeks.
- Rarely painful ulcers may form immediately following or within a few weeks of the treatment. Please inform the clinic if these occur. These ulcers will heal and leave a small scar
- Numbness due to bruising of the nerves supplying skin, may take 6-12 months to settle.
- Allergic reactions to certain solutions. You should inform your doctor if you have any allergies or any reaction to the injection.
- Inflammation of treated blood vessels due to the reaction of sclerosant on the blood vessel. It is associated with pain and treated with anti-inflammatory medications such as. This inflammation is often associated with painful lumps. These usually disappear over a matter of weeks but some hardness may persist long-term. Most patients find these much less troublesome than the original vein.
- There are a number of rare and alarming complications that only last for a short time, these include visual disturbance, chest tightness, and confusion. It must be stressed these are unusual and not long lasting.

Vein injection has now been used in thousands of patients around the world and a number of serious complications have been reported these include clotting in the deep veins (DVT), pulmonary embolus, heart attack and stroke. These however are very rare.

Pain

You may feel some discomfort after your treatment. You may take pain tablets 4-6 hourly. If there is significant pain or discomfort, remove and re-apply the stocking. If pain continues please consult your doctor.

If you develop any of those symptoms, please call the above number or see your GP.

For further information, please visit my website www.AdvancedVascular.com.au