

Microsclerotherapy

Patient Information Leaflet

Sclerotherapy is a safe and well established treatment for thread veins on the legs. Although there are a number of alternative treatments, it remains the most reliably successful of them all.

The Treatment:

A solution is injected with a very tiny needle, very superficially into the veins, causing the lining of the vein to swell and become sticky. Compression is then applied to close the veins. Over a period of time the vein will heal closed and fade away.

Before treatment:

- Do not use bath oils, lotions or creams on your leg on the day of your treatment.
- Dress in loose clothing, jogging trousers or skirt and comfortable shoes to accommodate the compression hosiery.
- If you are going to be wearing compression stockings bring a suspender belt with you to hold up your compression hosiery.
- If you have already been supplied with a compression stocking bring it with you on the day of treatment.

The Risks:

Though safe, it is not entirely without risk. The two most common side effects are something called haemosiderin deposition and telangiectatic matting. Haemosiderin deposition occurs when the vein is not entirely closed, blood is trapped and clots. In some people iron pigments leak from the clot and stain the skin over the vessel brown. These brown marks are usually not permanent but may take 6 - 18 months to fade. They darken when exposed to the sun and will take longer to fade if tanned. Matting occurs if the fragile vessel is injured during the injection, leaving a mat of tiny veins that look like a blush or a red bruise. Matting usually disappears completely after 6 - 12 months, but if it persists, it can be treated with sclerotherapy if the needle can access the fine vessels and flush the solution gently through.

Other risks are extremely rare but these include:

- Allergic reaction - any drug carries a risk of allergic reaction which may be serious. Though it is quite common for patients to experience some itching and some redness at the treatment site, this is no cause for concern and will pass within a few hours.
- Whilst extremely rare there is a risk of Deep Vein Thrombosis. Rarely, a treated vein may become inflamed temporarily and this may be painful.
- If the solution irritates the tissue surrounding the vein, in rare instances blistering can occur. If left alone these can potentially lead to further blistering and scarring.

(The drug we use is called Sclerovein. It is widely used in Europe, the USA and the UK but as yet is unlicensed in this country. We use it because; in our opinion, it has the least side effects and is painless.)

The Results:

Finally, the results achieved after one treatment vary considerably from one client to another. You should budget for up to 4 treatments 8 - 12 weeks apart and you can expect an improvement in their appearance of 60 - 80%. Even if the treatment is completely successful new veins usually reappear over 2-3 years, these will require further treatment in order to maintain the effects.

In rare cases the treatment has little or no effect. Results cannot be guaranteed.