

SCLEROTHERAPY OR MICROSCLEROTHERAPY

▪ **WHAT IS SCLEROTHERAPY?**

Sclerotherapy is a safe and effective method of eliminating small varicose veins, reticular veins and telangiectasias (spider veins), in which a solution or foam solution is injected directly into the vein using tiny needles. Sclerotherapy has been part of the treatment of varicose veins for over fifty years. However, our techniques, instrumentation, and FDA approved solutions that we have utilized for the past ten years are new. The principle of this treatment is to fill the vein being treated with the solution to empty the vein of the blood, causing the inner lining of the vein wall to become inflamed. As a result, the walls of the vein will adhere or scan together and the vein is obliterated, no longer visible, and becomes incorporated into the tissue underneath. Since the veins of the legs are under high pressure, new spider veins may develop in the future. This requires re-evaluation by the doctor for minor additional treatment.

▪ **DOES SCLEROTHERAPY WORK FOR EVERYONE?**

The majority of persons who have Sclerotherapy performed will be cleared of the varicosities or at least see good improvement. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that it will be effective 100% in every case. Approximately 10% of patients will have only fair results (fair results that the vein have not totally disappeared after six treatments).

▪ **WHAT ARE THE CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS USED?**

We only use the two FDA approved solutions, **Asclera** (polidocanol) and **Sotradecol** (sodium tetradecyl sulfate). Both of these come in different strengths. A foam solution is a fresh reconstituted mixture of any one of these chemical solutions mixed with air. Foam solution is more effective compared to solution alone because it allows the chemical to stay inside the vein much longer; therefore, is much more effective in obliterating the vein. We can only use no more than 20 cc of the solution per session, as overdosing causes untoward reactions.

▪ **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 the varicose or spider veins present. One to six or more treatments may be needed. The average is three to four. **It should be understood that sclerotherapy is not a miracle cure!** Neither sclerotherapy or any other vein treatments will initially return the skin of the legs to the way it was as a teenager. For certain, most of the objectionable veins can be eliminated, and the cosmesis will be acceptable under sheer stockings.

▪ **COMBINATION TREATMENT?**

Many patients will undergo sclerotherapy alone to eliminate small varicose veins, reticular veins, and spider veins. Other patients will have Endovenous laser treatment (EVLT) of the high pressured major veins, followed by phlebectomy combined with sclerotherapy or sclerotherapy alone. Patients who suffer from chronic venous insufficiency with or without ulcerations will undergo EVLT first followed by ultrasound guided sclerotherapy.

▪ **CONTRAINdicATIONS?**

Persons who have known allergies to the solution. Pregnant or nursing mothers. Children younger than 18 years of age.