



If you avoid showing your legs because you have spider veins—those small clusters of red, blue or purple veins that appear on your legs and ankles, sclerotherapy may be a treatment option for you.

We would be happy to see you in consultation for a personal evaluation and treatment plan.

Please call us at 317-621-5555 to setup an appointment with one of our board certified interventional radiologists who are experts in sclerotherapy.



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SCLEROTHERAPY

Spider Vein Treatment



During the sclerotherapy procedure, a healthcare provider injects medicine into smaller veins, which seals the vessel shut.

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What is sclerotherapy?

Sclerotherapy is a medical procedure used to treat varicose veins and "spider veins." During sclerotherapy, the provider injects a solution directly into the affected vein. The solution irritates the lining of the vessel, causing it to swell and stick together. Over time, the vessel turns into scar tissue that fades from view. Sclerotherapy is a well-proven procedure and has been used since the 1930s.

How is sclerotherapy done?

Sclerotherapy is performed in a doctor's office. The treatment area is cleansed, The solution is injected directly into the blood vessel, using very fine needles. The number of veins injected in one 30 minute session is variable, depending on the size and location of the veins, and the patient's overall medical condition.

Sclerotherapy works well for most patients, It is estimated that as many as 50 percent to 80 percent of injected veins may be eliminated with each injection session. A few (less than 10 percent) of the people who have sclerotherapy do not respond to the injections at all. In these instances, different solutions may be tried.

In general, spider veins respond to treatment in 3 to 6 weeks, and larger veins respond in 3 to 4 months. If the veins respond to the treatment, usually they will not reappear. However, new veins may appear over time.

How will I feel?

Mild discomfort may occur when the veins are injected, and a cramping sensation may be felt for 1 to 2 minutes when larger veins are injected.

How long will the treatment take?

The sclerotherapy procedure takes about 30 minutes.

What are the side effects of sclerotherapy?

Side effects of sclerotherapy may include:

- Larger injected veins may become lumpy or hard for several months before resolving.
- Raised, red areas may appear at the injection sites and should disappear within a few days.
- Brown lines or spots on the skin may be noted at the site of the injection, possibly caused by a form of iron that escapes from the blood in the injected veins. In most cases, they disappear within 3 to 6 months, but can be permanent about 5 percent of the time.
- Bruising may occur around the injection site and can last several days or weeks.
- Temporary tiny blood vessels may develop at the treated area. This is called revascularization, "flares," "mats," or "blushing." They may appear days or weeks after the procedure but should fade within a few months and usually do not require further treatment.
- Very rarely, Allergic reactions to the sclerosing agent may occur at the time of the injection and are rarely serious. Symptoms include itching and swelling.

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