

## Reticular Vein Sclerotherapy

### ***What are Varicose Veins?***

Return of blood from the legs takes place through two largely separate systems of veins, the superficial system and the deep system. Most of the blood is returned through the deep system, while the superficial system serves to collect and channel blood into the deep system. To facilitate this, the veins are equipped with valves that keep the pressure low and speed the flow of blood in the correct direction.

When the valves in the superficial system do not function properly they become incontinent or leaky. This raises the pressure in the veins, especially in the upright position and dilation and engorgement of the veins results. The dilated veins can be painful, are always unsightly, and in some cases can develop complications such as clots, bleeding, and ulceration. These dilated veins are called varicose veins. Varicose veins are frequently hereditary, but other factors such as pregnancy, obesity, and prolonged standing can play important roles in their development.

### ***Sclerotherapy:***

Sclerotherapy (chemical injections) is the use of sclerosing agents in the treatment of varicose veins. These agents can be thought of as biological glue. The procedure consists of injecting varicose veins with **Sotradecol**, which causes irritation in the inner wall of the vein. The object is to glue the walls of the veins together so that they can no longer carry blood. When this happens, the symptoms disappear and the veins are no longer visible. **Be advised that the sclerosant agents are compounded medicines and are not FDA approved. The sclerosant has been used for more than 30 years, and has a very low incidence of drug reaction or unwanted side effects. Our sclerosing medications have purchased through the same compounding pharmacy for many years. Since it is not an FDA approved sclerosant we can not bill Medicare or any other insurance for treatment of Varicose Veins even if they are symptomatic.**

### ***Preparation for procedure:***

**Drink plenty of water in the days prior to injections.** Before your injections you may shower and shave your legs as usual, but do not use lotion or oils on your legs the night before or the morning of the procedure. Wear loose clothing and eat as you normally would. You may drive yourself here and drive yourself home.

### ***Treatment Process:***

Pre-treatment pictures are taken. Sclerotherapy is done in our office and takes approximately 30 minutes – 1 hour. This can be performed as an independent treatment process or can also follow a surgical procedure if indicated. Two treatment dates may be indicated if your veins are extensive. Multiple injections are done into the feeder veins. The leg is then covered by a support stocking along with specially designed foam pads (if indicated) to provide additional compression. The stocking is worn continuously for three weeks and a weekly follow-up visit is required during this three-week period. It takes 3-5 weeks for the bruising and blemishes to resolve. Final pictures are taken at completion of the treatment process.

**Restrictions:**

After the procedure the compression stockings cannot be removed except on your follow-up visits and must be kept dry. Cast protectors which cover the stocking and allow you to shower can be purchased. Specific showering instructions will be given if no compression pads are applied to the leg. No limitations are placed on normal activities. You may do any activity (walk, run, stand, exercise, etc.) with your stocking in place. After your stocking is removed, please protect your leg with sunscreen 45 SPF or greater until any pigmentation or brown spots have resolved.

**Side Effects:**

We have treated over 5,000 patients since 1988 using the techniques described and have had extremely low incidence of complications.

Possible risks include:

- ❑ Reaction to the injected chemical
- ❑ Ulceration resulting in small scarring
- ❑ Slight swelling post treatment
- ❑ Pigmentation or brown spots which are usually temporary\*
- ❑ Blood clots in the related veins, which are not harmful and cannot travel\*

\*Are most commonly seen and dealt with during follow-up visits.

**Cost:**

The price and the procedure will be determined at the time of your initial evaluation. **Insurance policies do not cover treatments done for cosmetic purposes.**

- ❑ Treatment of spider veins can be performed for an additional fee.

**Cancellation Policy:**

Due to high demand and limited time available for treatments, we ask that you please let us know **at least 3 business-days before** if you are unable to keep your scheduled appointment so that this time can be utilized by other patients.

- ❑ A \$300.00 deposit is required to hold your scheduled procedure times.
- ❑ This amount is refundable, only if a 72 hour (business day) notice is given.