

## CONSENT FOR TREATMENT OF LEG VEINS

There have been many methods tried to remove unsightly “broken” or enlarged veins on the legs. Most do not work, and have been abandoned. The doctor uses a technique called sclerotherapy, which involves the following.

A tiny needle is threaded into the blood vessel and a small amount of a sclerosing agent is gently injected. This may sting for 20-30 seconds or cause a slight cramp. The injection “flushes” out the red blood cells temporarily, leading to an inflammatory reaction. This reaction causes “sclerosis”, or the formation of fibrous tissue within the vessel, leading to the gradual disappearance of the vessel. This fading can take from a few weeks to a few months. Most areas will require between three to five treatments to fade.

Some of the possible risks include:

1. The appearances of the veins may *not* improve. However, over 90% of patients see improvement.
2. Brown spots may appear that look like bruises or follow the path of the vein. These brown areas take several weeks to months to go away. It is rare for any discoloration to be permanent. Patients with naturally darker skin are more likely to experience this.
3. Blistering, redness, itching and irritation may develop as reaction to the adhesive tape used for compression.
4. Blistering, infection, ulceration, and scarring may develop if someone is exceptionally sensitive to the tiny amount of solution that may leak out during the injection. This occurs in less than 1% of patients. An allergic reaction to some of the solutions is also a rare possibility.
5. Tenderness, bruising, or a firmness (especially along the larger vessels) in the treated area may last for varying periods of time. This can be minimized by the use of support hose after the treatment.
6. Some people (less than 10%) may develop a “matt”, or pink blush of the skin, which comes from a temporary enlargement of the tiny capillaries. This is rarely permanent, and can be treated.

7. Sometimes blood may accumulate in the larger veins treated by sclerotherapy. These accumulations may be treated by the physician to decrease any discomfort. Strict use of support hose minimizes this possibility.
8. Rarely, this accumulation of blood may form a clot. Although this is usually trapped in the treated vein, an extremely rare possibility is the extension of this clot into a deeper vessel causing phlebitis. The risk of this occurring is much less than 1%.
9. People with significant circulatory problems, uncontrolled diabetes or pregnant women should not undergo this procedure.

**CONSENT**

By signing this form, I attest that I have read and understand the procedure and its risks, and that it has been explained to my satisfaction.

Patient \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Physician \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_