

During Treatment

Treatment is a series of small injections into the unwanted superficial veins. The number of injections is dose related to ensure best result with least risk of side effects.

During the treatment you will notice some minor discomfort from the needle pricks and a stinging sensation from the agent (Aethoxysklerol) itself. Please see separate information sheet on Aethoxyskerol.

Following each injection the vein is compressed with a cotton ball and a strip of adhesive tape. Once all the injections are completed, a compression bandage is applied to push the vein walls together so they "stick". You **must** take the bandage off and remove the tapes and cotton wool balls that night or first thing the next morning.

After Treatment

After your sclerotherapy treatment you will be told to take a walk for around 30 minutes. You will also be instructed when to remove your bandages. The bandages are generally worn overnight and removed first thing the following morning.

Elastic stockings may be worn to improve comfort in the days following treatment, but are not essential.

- You may drive yourself home and resume regular activities immediately.

- It is safe to fly interstate 24 hours after treatment and internationally 10 days after treatment.

It is normal to expect:

- **Bruising** (for 2-4 weeks)

- **Inflammation & Pain** can be managed by staying active and taking anti inflammatory medication or panadol. Pain can last a few weeks and will slowly resolve.

- **Swelling** is common especially around the ankle region. Any swelling to the level of the knee should be reported to Mr Milne's office

- **Brown staining** from the absorption process of the vein. It can take up to two years to resolve completely.

Possible Complications:

- **DVT:** This is extremely rare if the correct dosage is followed and the injection is associated with compression bandaging and mobilization.
- **Ulcers/Blisters** from leakage of the agent into the capillaries of the skin
- **Anaphylaxis:** Severe allergy to the agent occurs in 1:2,000,000 treatments.

Information on Sclerotherapy

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What Varicose Veins are Suitable for treatment?

Sclerotherapy treatment alone is only effective for small veins of less than 4 mm diameter. If larger veins are treated by this technique alone, recurrence usually occurs in 12 months with secondary brown staining.

Small surface veins called "Starburst veins", "Spider Veins", "Broken Capillaries", "Dermal venules" or "Reticular veins" that look like bruises are suitable for injection treatment.

These types of smaller veins do tend to recur with time and although eliminated by treatment, new veins can grow elsewhere on the legs. As these small veins re-grow elsewhere with time, treatment is best regarded as an "ongoing commitment" similar to haircuts, but less frequent.

Facial veins are also managed by injection, but facial capillaries and veins often do well with combined treatment, laser and Sclerotherapy



What is Sclerotherapy?

Sclerotherapy treatment is successful for treating venules and spider veins. It is also used in conjunction with laser therapy, coil ligation and under ultrasound guidance. Sclerotherapy is a procedure involving the injection of a solution (Sclerosant) into unwanted varicose veins. The principal purpose of injecting the vein is to damage the lining of the vein to be obliterated. The sclerosant injected into the vein has a "soap like action" which leaches the fat from the wall of the vein, resulting in the vein collapsing and going solid.

What are possible Side Effects?

Migraine: symptoms similar to migraine including visual disturbance and weakness may occur particularly in people predisposed to migraine. Symptoms are treated with aspirin and resolve quickly.

Ulceration: ulceration is rare but can be painful and slow to heal. Patients who have had previous ulceration are more predisposed to this. Although not seen in this practice, extreme cases may require hospitalization for skin grafting.

Pain: Pain can occur, on injection, in the form of a stinging sensation.

Cough: Cough / tightness in the chest may occur and resolves in 15-30 minutes.

Fainting: Fainting at the sight of a needle, or from the agent itself. If severe will be treated with an injection of Atropine which stabilizes your blood pressure and heart rate.



How much does it Cost?

The treatment costs \$600 per session. A Medicare rebate is available (\$92.35).

"Spider veins, broken capillaries and reticular veins are suitable for sclerotherapy"

Prior to Treatment

There are no special requirements beforehand except that you should wear warm clothes loose enough to go over the legs after the application of bandages. Warmth is helpful in dilating the veins so over dress or walk briskly before your visit.

*Please do NOT moisturise legs on day of treatment.