

What you need to know about Sclerotherapy



Your wellness is our priority.

The Vein Center of St. Paul Radiology is proud to offer services to help you look and feel your best. As the Twin Cities' premier vein care provider and imaging specialist, you can feel confident knowing that we are always in search of the most advanced technology available to provide our patients with leading edge care.

Vein Treatment Services to help you look and feel your best.



What is sclerotherapy?

Sclerotherapy is a procedure used to inject a solution into a vein causing the lining of the vein wall to scar down. After the vein "dies" the body breaks it down and re-absorbs it. The solution used for sclerotherapy at the Vein Center is Sotradecal™ or Asclera™.

Asclera™ and Sotradecal™ are the only injections that are currently FDA approved for the injection of veins.

What are spider veins?

Spider veins are the tiny veins that appear on the surface of the skin. They are usually red, blue or purple. Sometimes they are associated with varicose veins and cannot be successfully treated until the varicose veins are treated. Spider veins that appear on the inside part of the leg, the knee or ankle may be a sign of a more significant underlying problem that would require a medical consultation with the Vein Center Physician. Spider veins with no associated symptoms or bulging veins are generally considered a cosmetic problem.

How do I know if this is a medical problem or a cosmetic problem?

Typically, people with venous disease will have some symptoms that get worse as the day progresses and improve with leg elevation. These symptoms could include:

- Aching or pain in the legs
- Swelling
- Heaviness or fatigue
- Open sores/areas of redness or discoloration
- Itching or burning
- Throbbing or leg cramps

If you have these symptoms, you may have a condition which should be evaluated as a medical condition.

If you don't have any of these symptoms in your legs and do not like the appearance, this is a cosmetic problem and would not be a covered service. If you are unsure

of which category you fall into, then we would suggest you come in for a free cosmetic consultation to determine if you require additional evaluation.

How are spider veins treated?

Spider Veins can be treated with sclerotherapy or cutaneous laser. A cutaneous laser is used when the veins are too small to be injected. The laser delivers energy to the vein causing damage to the vein wall and coagulation of the small red blood cells within the vein. The body then re-absorbs the vein.

Do spider veins come back?

The spider veins treated will disappear over a period of months and will not re-appear. Nothing can prevent or predict if new spider veins may re-appear over a period of time. Typically, the treatment of spider veins is something that needs to be maintained over the years. Typically, patients will return in 18 months to 2 years for evaluation of any new spider veins.

How many treatments will I need?

The number of treatments you will need will be determined on your initial examination. Typically 1 to 3 treatments are needed. Each session will last approximately 45 minutes. Follow up care is included in the price of the treatment sessions for cosmetic treatments. Medical treatments & follow-ups are billed to your insurance company.



VeinCenterStPaul.com



No MORE PANTS! NO MORE PANTS!

Ever since I had my spider vein treatments, I no longer hide my legs behind my pants. **SET YOUR LEGS FREE** with varicose and spider veins treatments that are quick, minimally invasive, and covered by most insurance. It's so easy, you'll be back on your feet in about an hour.

Feel Good. Look Better.

VeinCenterStPaul.com

Does Sclerotherapy hurt?

Immediately following sclerotherapy, you will be placed in compression stockings to wear overnight the first night. Wearing the stockings all day and night keeps the sclerosing solution trapped in the veins allowing it to make prolonged contact with the vein wall, as well as compressing or pushing down the vein. The second day you will begin wearing the stockings during the daytime hours, except during exercise, for 2 weeks.

Three weeks after your initial injections, you are asked to return to the Vein Center for a check up appointment. During the check up, we will check the treated veins for trapped blood. Trapped blood is old blood that is contained in the vein, and cannot get out because the vein is scarring down. If trapped blood is present, the nurse will make a small poke in the vein and express the trapped blood out. This is performed to improve your overall outcome.

How long will it take to recover?

For several weeks following sclerotherapy or laser therapy, your legs will look worse before they look better. As the veins scar down, they look dark or even bruised in appearance. The rate of healing or disappearance of the veins varies slightly from person to person. You will continue to see improvement over 3 to 6 months depending on how big the veins were that are treated.

How quickly can I return to normal activity?

You are encouraged to return to normal activity immediately following your sclerotherapy session. We want you to remain active and even exercise. We ask that you do not use leg weights for 1 week following the injections.

What are the risk of sclerotherapy?

Every possible precaution is taken to minimize the risk of having sclerotherapy. We use the lowest concentration of medication necessary to treat the vein, we inject as little as necessary and we only treat abnormal veins.

Anytime work is performed on the veins, there is a risk for blood clotting in the deep veins.

It is possible for a small sore to form on or over the treated vein if some of the medicine used gets into the skin. This is an ulceration, or skin breakdown. This is allowed to heal by keeping it covered with a gauze pad.

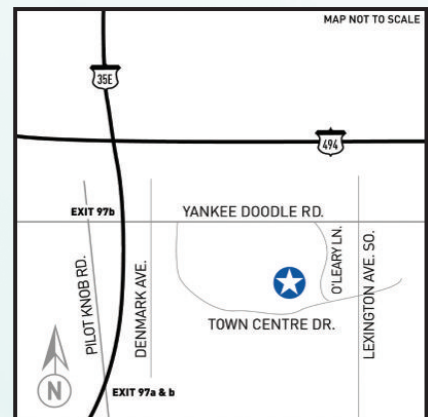
On occasion, people undergoing sclerotherapy can get a small patch of new red veins in the area where other veins were treated. This is called matting. Matting can occur as a result of the blood being redistributed from the vein that is being closed.

Trapped blood that sits in the vein during the re-absorption process can stain the skin. This staining is called hyper-pigmentation. Hyperpigmentation can be caused by hemoglobin that is trapped in the vein that the body will break down for e-absorption. This can occur just as a result of having sclerotherapy.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Vein Center of St. Paul Radiology scheduling department at

651.456.1350.

Vein Center Location



VEIN CENTER OF ST. PAUL RADIOLOGY
1185 TOWN CENTRE DRIVE, SUITE 145
EAGAN, MN 55123

Appointment

Name: _____

Location: _____

At: _____ : _____ On: _____ (Day), ___/___/___ (Date)

