

Spider Veins & Varicose Veins

Spider veins of the legs are a common problem that particularly affects women. Small purple, blue or red veins can form anywhere on the leg, from the top of the thigh to the ankle, remaining close to the surface of the skin. These veins appear as connected lines resembling a spider web pattern or as short, unconnected lines.

Several factors can cause spider veins, including heredity, pregnancy, weight, occupations or activities that require prolonged sitting or standing, and certain medications.

Varicose veins are different from spider veins. Varicose veins are larger, darker in color and tend to bulge. Varicose veins are usually painful and related to more serious venous disorders.

Today, because of modern technology, both spider veins and superficial varicose veins can be treated through a procedure called Sclerotherapy. Sclerotherapy is a technique which involves the use of a very fine needle to inject a solution directly into the veins. The solution causes the blood within the vein to disappear or become less obvious.



What to Expect

Sclerotherapy will improve your appearance, but it's unrealistic to believe that every vein will disappear completely after your treatment. Sometimes two or more sessions will be required to obtain optimal results. A treatment plan customized to your needs will be developed by your physician.

NOHC Locations

Bellevue
1400 W. Main St.
Bellevue, Ohio 44811

Clague
960 Clague Rd.
Suite 2300
Westlake, Ohio 44145

Cleveland
2322 East 22nd St.
Suite 200
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Elyria
125 E. Broad St.
Suite 305
Elyria, Ohio 44035

Independence
6701 Rockside Rd.
Suite 100
Independence, Ohio
44131

Lorain
3600 Kolbe Rd.
Suite 127
Lorain, Ohio 44053

Medina
3457 Medina Rd.
Medina, Ohio 44256

Middleburg Heights
7255 Old Oak Blvd. C-408
Middleburg Heights, Ohio
44130

Norwalk
282 Benedict Ave.
Medical Park II, Suite D
Norwalk, Ohio 44857

Sandusky
703 Tyler St.
Suite 250
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Westlake
29325 Health Campus Dr.
Suite 3
Westlake, Ohio 44145

WHAT TO KNOW

Sclerotherapy

The Vein Center
at
North Ohio Heart Center



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Before Treatment

Prior to treatment, a complete medical history is taken and a thorough examination is made in order to determine, among other things, how long the problem has existed, the severity of the symptoms, whether or not the condition is affected by physical activity and if there has been prior surgery or treatment of the veins. The physician determines if the deep venous system is affected, in which case surgery may be recommended before Sclerotherapy is undertaken.

Preoperative instructions may include the elimination of certain drugs which contain aspirin in order to minimize the possibility of excess bleeding. Your physician decides whether or not the area to be treated should be shaved. The veins are usually marked while the patient is in a standing position.

Sclerotherapy Treatment

Larger veins are usually treated first. After the skin is thoroughly cleansed with alcohol, the physician uses a syringe with a tiny needle to inject a small amount of sclerosing (hardening) solution directly into the vein. The solution displaces the blood within the vein, causing it to blanch or turn white. The solution then causes the vessel to become irritated and swell shut, prohibiting the blood from reentering the vein.

When the needle is withdrawn, pressure is immediately applied to the area. The skin may be kneaded to help disperse the solution and reduce bruising. Each vein may require several injections and most disappear within two weeks to two months.

Following Treatment

Patients who have had Sclerotherapy report little discomfort. Some experience a slight to moderate burning sensation immediately after injection, but this disappears within a few seconds. An ointment to soothe the skin and relieve the burning may be used and a pressure bandage may be applied to prevent post-injection bleeding.

Compression stockings are an integral part of treatment. Stocking are prescribed for at least two weeks post procedure. In subsequent weeks, the need for compression therapy can be liberalized. Patients are usually advised to resume normal activity immediately, although vigorous activity is discouraged for twenty-four hours. Walking is encouraged because it increased the blood flow through other veins. Elevation of the legs is usually not recommended unless large veins have been treated.

Most patients experience no adverse effects; however, some minor side effects have been reported. These include slight blistering which occurs when small amounts of the solution seep into the surrounding areas. These spots usually resolve in time or respond to treatment with bleaching agents.

Bruising around the treated area, which eventually disappears, can result if the veins are unusually weak. Fair skinned people tend to bruise more than do dark skinned people. Clots sometimes develop at the site of the injection. Although not a major cause for concern, it may be necessary to remove these clots within two weeks in order to allow the healing process to progress normally.

Will Insurance Pay For My Treatment?

Most insurance companies do not pay for Sclerotherapy treatment if it is performed for cosmetic reasons. Some insurance companies do pay benefits if there is pain or discomfort which impedes activity and documentation of venous reflux or insufficiency. Each insurance carrier is different, and it is recommended that individuals check their own agents to determine if there is coverage.

