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San Francisco Vein Center
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Informed Consent: Sclerotherapy

- **Please read and understand the possible risks and complications below that can result from sclerotherapy.**
- **Patients respond differently to sclerotherapy and results are not guaranteed. Approximately 20% of patients who undergo sclerotherapy may only have fair results after multiple treatments.**
- **You may need up to 3 treatments to see results.**
- **Sclerotherapy can make your legs look worse before they get better and often involves bruising.**
- **Sclerotherapy may be uncomfortable. If you are extremely intolerant of pain, then sclerotherapy may not be for you.**

Sclerotherapy involves the injection of special medication, called a sclerosing agent, directly into your spider or varicose veins using the smallest needles available. This causes an irritation of the inner lining of the vein resulting in closure of the vein. Most patients relate the discomfort to an ant bite. The majority of persons who have sclerotherapy have satisfying results. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that sclerotherapy will be effective for you. In rare instances, the condition may become worse after sclerotherapy treatment. The number of treatments needed varies from patient to patient, depending on the extent of the problem and your body's response to the injections.

Risks and Complications

Most Common Side Effects: The veins may be tender to touch after treatment, and an uncomfortable sensation may run along the vein route. This discomfort is usually temporary. Bruising is very common and to be expected. Some patients complain of an itchy sensation after treatment. Some patients have pain over the larger veins for several days, which is also very normal. Trapped blood may cause discoloration. This discoloration can remain discolored for up to one year.

Hyperpigmentation: After sclerotherapy, you may notice some discoloration (dark streaks) along the treated veins. This occurs when the blood is trapped inside the vein after treatment. This does not mean anything has gone wrong, and often, these dark spots disappear with time. If the vessel becomes dark, it may take several months for the vein to disappear. Occasionally, the pigments of the red blood cells may deposit in the subcutaneous space and cause darkening of the skin, which in rare cases, can be permanent.

Matting: This is a rare condition where the treated spider veins may cause a pink discoloration that turns white (blanches) when pressed on. This is often a reaction to the sclerosing agent and it ends up looking like a permanent pink bruise which can be distressing. This condition occurs in less than 1% of patients. It cannot be predicted who will have matting. This condition is not dangerous in any way. Matting is sometimes permanent but can occasionally be treated with subsequent laser therapies.

Skin Ulceration: In rare cases, a blister can form, open, and become ulcerated. Healing occurs slowly over a few months. After healing, this will usually leave a scar. This condition is extremely rare.

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Allergic Reaction: Very rarely, a patient may have an allergic reaction to the sclerosing agent. The risk of this is greater in patients who have a history of allergies.

Deep Vein Thrombosis: This represents a very rare complication, and usually a complication of injecting large veins, or a complication of foam sclerotherapy, which is not done in our office.

Alternatives

Varicose veins and spider veins are not life-threatening. Treatment is not mandatory. Some patients get adequate relief from symptoms by wearing graduated compression stockings. Another alternative is to receive no treatment at all or to treat your spider veins with laser. Laser is intended for small spider veins.

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The practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science. Therefore, reputable practitioners cannot guarantee results. While the overwhelming numbers of patients have noted gratifying results from sclerotherapy, we cannot promise or guarantee any specific results. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the foregoing information and understand the risks of sclerotherapy, alternative methods of, and the risks of treating my condition. Dr. Aquino has answered all my questions and I hereby consent to treatment.

Note: The medication we use is Sodium Sotradecol, a sclerosant recognized and used worldwide. It is FDA approved.

Payment

I acknowledge that I am legally responsible for all charges for the treatment provided by Dr. Aquino. Insurance coverage is rare. If I plan to have this procedure covered by insurance, I understand that authorization is not a guarantee of payment and it is my responsibility to check with my insurance company as to whether or not I will be covered. If you do not know your benefit coverage, we strongly recommend that you contact your insurance company directly for any questions and/or concerns you may have.

Patient or Legal Representative

Printed Name

Date