



# *Vein Treatment Institute*

of Bucks County

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## **INJECTION SCLEROTHERAPY**

*For Varicose Veins and Spider Veins*

### **What is sclerotherapy?**

Injection Sclerotherapy is the injection of chemical irritants into veins that causes local inflammation of the veins, leading to closure of the veins and “disappearance.” Spider veins and very small varicose veins often respond well to this form of treatment, although sometimes several treatments are needed to completely close the veins. Your doctor can give you an estimate of the number of sessions that will be needed to achieve your goals.

### **Will the veins be gone immediately?**

Initially, the treated veins may appear red and “inflamed,” and may then become blue, purple or brown. Complete “disappearance” can take days, weeks or months.

### **Will the abnormal veins recur?**

There is a small risk of recurrence over time, especially if more “central” underlying venous hypertension exists and is not treated first. Other spiders or varicosities may occur over time as well.

### **Are there risks or complications?**

There are small risks of tiny ulcerations developing at the injection sites which usually resolve over time. Occasionally there is pigmentation or “matting” that may or may not improve over time. Allergic reactions are uncommon.

### **Is Sclerotherapy painful?**

There may be slight pain or burning sensation that fades quickly.

### **Is it covered by Insurance?**

Most spider veins and small varicose veins do not cause symptoms themselves, and treatment of these is considered “cosmetic” by most insurance plans, and therefore not covered. Underlying Venous Hypertension causing such symptoms can be treated by various techniques, including Radiofrequency Ablation (VNUS Closure technique) and/or Phlebectomies (Surgical removal of the abnormal veins), which are often covered by insurance plans. You will be responsible for the fee for sclerotherapy in advance, although we will be happy to help you submit insurance claims if your plan covers sclerotherapy.

### **What can you do to improve the results?**

1. Wash your legs on the day of treatment, but DO NOT apply creams or lotions. Bring shorts or loose-fitting slacks to wear during the treatment.
2. Wear your compression stockings for 24 hours straight after the treatment, then most of the time for the next 2 weeks. Bring your stockings with you to your treatment sessions. If you do not already have compression stockings, you should purchase them before the treatment session. Stocking pressure ranges of 15-20 mmHg or 20-30 mmHg should suffice.
3. Walk as much as possible afterward. Elevate your legs especially when not wearing your compression stockings. Avoid heavy lifting and exercising for 7 days following your treatment. Remove your dressings (gauze or cotton pads) on the day after the treatment.