

Things to Know About Cosmetic Sclerotherapy

- Sclerotherapy is a treatment method for eliminating superficial spider veins by the injection of a solution, called a "sclerosing agent," into the veins. The vast majority of patients who undergo sclerotherapy treatment will have significant clearing of the veins with at least good improvement. There can be no guarantee, however, that the treatment will be effective in every case. Less than 10 percent of patients undergoing sclerotherapy will have poor results, meaning the veins do not improve despite multiple injections. It is extremely rare for anyone's condition to worsen because of treatment.
- It is important to realize that sclerotherapy *does not prevent* development of new spider veins and varicosities over the years. Many people will require treatments from time to time to keep their legs clear. Standing occupations, pregnancy and high estrogen states increase this tendency.
- It is difficult to predict the number of treatments needed to clear or improve the condition. Each vein may need to be injected one to five or more times, over a period of several months. Improvement is usually seen over a period of weeks or months. In each treatment session, multiple areas can be treated, thus reducing the total number of sessions required. The total number of treatment session needed depends on the amount and severity of the veins (the average is three to five), with severe cases requiring as many as 10 or more.
- Cosmetic sclerotherapy is not usually covered by insurance companies, depending on the size of the veins and whether or not they cause symptoms. When the veins are small, the treatment is considered cosmetic and *not* covered. When the veins are large and "varicose," or cause pain or discomfort, then there is a *chance* that the sclerotherapy will be covered. Each patient has the responsibility for payment at the time of service, whether or not the treatments are successful, and whether or not the treatments are covered by insurance.
- Each treatment session lasts approximately 30 minutes and will treat multiple areas. Veins are treated by physicians and physician assistants or nurse practitioners. For pricing and appointments, call VCU Vein Care at (804) 628-4680.