**WHAT IS SCLEROTHERAPY?**

Sclerotherapy is a medical procedure used to eliminate small to medium size thread, or “spider” veins. “Spider” veins are superficial tiny vessels that are red, blue or purple in colour. The majority of these veins present more as a cosmetic problem.

“Spider” veins do not have any useful function and eliminating them will not affect your circulation.

**HOW DOES SCLEROTHERAPY WORK?**

During Sclerotherapy, the physician injects a solution directly into the affected vein. The solution irritates the lining of the vessel, causing it to swell and stick together. Over time, the vessel turns into scar tissue that fades from view. Sclerotherapy is a well-proven procedure and has been used since the 1930s.

**WHAT HAPPENS DURING TREATMENT?**

Initial consultation with our cosmetic nurse/doctor is required to assess your suitability for Sclerotherapy based on your medical history and assessment of the veins.

The treatment area is cleansed and the solution is injected directly into the blood vessel, using very fine needles. The number of veins injected in one session is variable, depending on the size and location of the veins, and the patient’s overall medical condition.

The injections will cause some redness and welts, like insect bites. The veins are usually darker, sometimes with blue, black or brown spots under the skin.

The appearance will usually improve by day 10 - 14. At 4 - 6 weeks the thread veins should look pretty much as they did before injection and thereafter start improving. The full effect of the injection session is apparent at 12 weeks.

Please remember that everyone is different. Do not worry if the above does not apply to you. This is just a general pattern not a set of definite rules that define success or failure.

**HOW LONG DOES TREATMENT TAKE?**

The entire procedure takes approximately 30-60 minutes depending on the number of thread veins being treated.

**HOW LONG DOES THE TREATMENT LAST?**

There is no guarantee Sclerotherapy will be effective in every case or a permanent solution.

New “spider” veins may form requiring subsequent treatment. Periodic re-evaluations are encouraged so that any new veins that develop can be injected before they become too large or too numerous.

**HOW MANY TREATMENTS ARE NEEDED?**

The number of treatments needed varies from patient to patient depending on the type, size and quantity of veins. Some veins and areas will need to be retreated. We usually recommend up to 4 treatments at 6-8 weekly intervals.

**Most clients see a 60-80% improvement in the cosmetic appearance of the vein somewhere between four and six treatments.**

**DOES IT HURT?**

This is not a painful procedure. The injections are made with a tiny needle and very superficially. The solution does not sting. Some people feel nothing; some feel little pricks, how uncomfortable varies from one person to another.

**ARE THERE ANY SPECIAL PRE-TREATMENT INSTRUCTIONS?**

No creams/moisturisers/shaving for 24 hours. No laser treatment 2 weeks before or after treatment. We recommend avoiding aspirin, ibuprofen (such as Advil, Motrin, and Nuprin) or other anti-inflammatory drugs for 48-72 hours before Sclerotherapy. We recommend that you **bring a pair of shorts** to wear during the procedure.

If you have compression hosiery (support stockings) from previous treatments, please bring them with you so we can make sure they will provide adequate support after the procedure.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS WITH SCLEROTHERAPY?**

Though safe, it is not entirely without risk. The two most common side effects are called Haemosiderin deposition and Telangiectatic matting.

Haemosiderin deposition occurs when the vein is not entirely closed, blood is trapped and clots. In some patients iron pigment leaks from the clot and stain the skin over the vessel brown. These brown marks are usually not permanent but may take 6-18 months to fade.

Matting occurs if the fragile vessel is injured during the injection, leaving a mat of tiny veins that look like a blush or a red bruise. Matting usually disappears after 6-12 months.

Other risks are extremely rare but include: DVT, Phlebitis, Allergic reaction, itching, ulcers at site of injection.
POST TREATMENT AFTERCARE
Medical grade compression stockings are highly recommended throughout the course of treatment. We can supply these for £60.00 for below the knee and £80 for thigh support. You will be shown how to put on your hosiery after your first treatment.

COMPRESSION STOCKING – to be worn day and night for 72 hours. Thereafter, wear your support stocking during the day for 7 days, you may take them off at night.

Do not take a long-haul flight (more than 4 hours) for 2 weeks after treatment.

Do wear your hosiery for the recommended period of time. Compression is known to promote healing and minimise the risk of any side effects. The longer you wear them the better. The time recommended by your practitioner is a minimum.

APPEARANCE – Do not be alarmed that the veins look worse, this is normal.

ACTIVITY – walk around for 10mins afterwards to disperse the solution.

BATHING - baths, hot tubs and saunas should be avoided for two weeks after Sclerotherapy.

ELEVATION – legs as much as possible for 2 weeks

SUN EXPOSURE – avoid sun exposure for 4 weeks. Apply VAGHEGGI SPF30 sun block when sun exposure is anticipated to avoid pigmentation.

DRIVING- if your trip home is longer than an hour we recommend you stop regularly to stretch your legs.

ACTIVITY- avoid high impact activity for 2 weeks.

WAXING – avoid for 4 weeks after treatment.

We recommend the following VAGHEGGI products to compliment your skin and treatment:

www.vagheggibeauty.com

VAGHEGGI exclusive Italian skin care products contain pharmaceutical grade ingredients, i.e. Phyto-based ingredients to help deliver the best results using natural ingredients since 1975.

They are more concentrated, active & penetrate deeper than regular cosmetic products.

VAGHEGGI LIME VITAMIN C BODY CREAM 200ML
Vitamin C Lime regenerates the skin and protects it from the stresses that cause the early signs of ageing. (RRP £120.00)

SPF 30 BODY SUNSCREEN 200ml (RRP £29.00)
A post cosmetic anti-ageing sun cream to protect sensitive skin from UVA & UVB rays.

The VAGHEGGI post Sclerotherapy skin care PACKAGE can be purchased for £79 (RRP £149.00)