



Professional Medical Spa  
Alex Eshaghian, MD, PhD  
Medical Director  
info@aeskin.com

15840 Ventura Bl. Suite 106  
Encino, CA 91436  
(818) 835 - 1833  
www.aeskin.com

## **SCLEROTHERAPY INFORMED CONSENT**

### **Background**

Sclerotherapy is a non-surgical medical procedure with the purpose of removing unwanted or unsightly blood vessels including spider veins. Using a very fine needle, the physician injects a solution (sclerosing agent) into the veins that causes them to contract and eventually disappear. The injected veins become inflamed, blood is then unable to flow through them and ultimately, the body absorbs these non-functioning vessels. Most people undergoing sclerotherapy will see good improvement after three to four treatments.

### **Risks and Complications**

This list is not meant to be inclusive of all possible risks and complications associated with sclerotherapy as there are both known and unknown side effects associated with any medication or procedure. The possible side effects of sclerotherapy include but are not limited to:

1. Post-treatment bruising, burning sensation, pain, blood clots, and temporary cramping. These usually take one to four weeks to heal.
2. Depending on the solution, patients may experience an itching sensation along the route of the vein. This usually lasts one to two hours, but may last for one or two days.
3. Hyperpigmentation is a possible side effect of the procedure. This may take up to six months to resolve.
4. There may be a bump in the area of injection which represents blood accumulation in the vessel. The use of recommended stockings or hosiery will minimize this possibility.
5. There may be swelling in the ankles after the procedure. This usually resolves in a few days and is improved by wearing recommended stockings or hosiery.
6. Tiny new blood vessels (telangiectasias) may develop near the treatment area. This occurs in two to four percent of patients undergoing the procedure, but up to 18 % for patients on estrogen therapy. This occurs two to four weeks after treatment. It is temporary and usually resolved within four to six months.
7. Although infection following treatment is unusual, bacterial, fungal, and viral infections can occur. Should any type of skin infection occur, additional treatments or medical antibiotics may be necessary.
8. In rare cases, there may be an allergic reaction to the sclerosing solution. This risk is higher in patients with a history of allergic reactions.
9. There is a risk of scarring.
10. Sloughing occurs in less than one percent of patients undergoing sclerotherapy. There may be a small blister at the injection sight which ulcerates. This heals slowly over one to two months. There may be a scar in that location, which should return to a normal color.

### **Alternatives**

Sclerotherapy is an elective procedure; one alternative is to not have any treatment at all. Alternative treatments include ambulatory phlebectomy and vein stripping and ligation. These are invasive procedures which have increased risk for scarring and may require anesthesia and hospital stays. Laser-assisted vein removal is another option, with risks similar to sclerotherapy.

### **Photographs**

Clinical photographs and their use for shall be used for the patient's medical record and for scientific purposes both in publications and in presentations. The patient's identity will always be protected.

