

During Treatment

The Vascular Sonographer will scan your veins to plan the treatment process. The use of real time imaging will enable efficient injection of the deeper varicose veins. The number of injections required will vary from person to person dependent on the nature of individual veins.

After Treatment

Following treatment with ultrasound guided sclerotherapy you will be asked to go for a walk for approximately half an hour. You will be sent home in bandages with instructions for care. Bandages are generally worn overnight and removed before showering the following morning. From that time they are no longer required.

An appointment will be organised for you to check your progress and to arrange any follow up superficial sclerotherapy that may be required.

- You may drive yourself home and resume regular activities immediately.
- You may fly interstate after 24 hours and overseas after 10 days.

Ongoing Recovery

Following Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy the body will slowly reabsorb the treated vein through an inflammatory process.

It is normal to expect:

Bruising at the injection sites.

Inflammation in the form of redness, heat, swelling and tenderness. This can be managed by staying active and taking anti inflammatory medication or panadol.

Pain can last a few weeks and will slowly resolve.

Tender lumps along treated vein are normal and indicate that the vein is slowly being reabsorbed.

Staining of the leg along the line of the vein will occur as the iron component of the blood is slow to be reabsorbed by the body. This will fade over time with a final result for most people within 12 months.

Information on Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy

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What is Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy?

This treatment obliterates varicose veins that may not be visible on the skin surface, but may be contributing to visible blue veins and spider veins. Vascular ultrasound provides real time imaging enabling the Surgeon to visualise the deep veins and strategically inject the varicose veins with the sclerosing agent Aethoxysklerol.

Which Varicose Veins are Suitable for Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy?

Deeper varicose veins that are causing discomfort but are not large enough to require coil occlusion or laser are suitable for Ultrasound guided sclerotherapy (UGS).

Painless veins that may not be visible but are contributing to surface veins will also be treated this way to reduce pressure contributing to the formation of blue veins and spider veins.

How does Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy work?

All injection treatments for varicose veins are based on the principle of damaging the lining of the vein to be obliterated. This results in collapse of the vein followed by solidification. The vein traps blood in the centre of the vessel, which makes the vein lumpy after treatment. The body then dissolves the solid vein by creating inflammation around it.

What are possible Side Effects?

Pain: Pain can occur, on injection, in the form of a stinging sensation.

Migraine: Including visual disturbance and weakness may occur particularly in people predisposed to migraine. This can be treated with aspirin and resolves quickly.

Cough: Cough / tightness in the chest may occur and resolves in 15-30 minutes.

Fainting: Fainting at the sight of a needle, or from the agent itself. If severe will be treated with an injection of Atropine which stabilizes your blood pressure and heart rate.

What are the advantages of UGS?

- Short procedure time (approximately 1hr)
- Walk in walk out procedure
- No hospital admission
- No general anesthesia
- Return to normal activity the following day
- No scarring from surgical incisions

Prior to Treatment

There are no special requirements beforehand except that you should wear warm clothes loose enough to go over the legs after the application of bandages. Warmth is helpful in dilating the veins so over dress or walk briskly before your visit.
*Please do NOT moisturise legs on day of treatment.

