

# MIDWEST LASER SURGERY CENTRE

Toll Free: 1-800-463-8700  
Open: Monday to Friday 9:00-5:00  
Extended hours: Evenings and Weekends

Email us at: [mwlc.ab@shaw.ca](mailto:mwlc.ab@shaw.ca) (Alberta)  
[mwlc.sk@shaw.ca](mailto:mwlc.sk@shaw.ca) (Saskatchewan)

Visit our website: [www.midwestlasercentre.com](http://www.midwestlasercentre.com)

## ***Saskatoon, SK***

#6-701 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North  
Ph: (306) 668-5522

## ***Regina, SK***

2820B Avonhurst Drive  
Ph: (306) 924-5244

## ***Edmonton, AB***

102-9145 82nd Ave  
Ph: (780) 469-4704

## ***Calgary, AB***

102-1000 8th Ave SW  
Ph: (403) 232-6484

## Vascular Lesions & Spider Veins



# Sclerotherapy

Sclerotherapy is a technique used to treat unwanted spider veins particularly those in the lower extremities. Spider veins are small superficial vessels of red or blue color that appear on the surface of the skin.

Although spider veins do carry blood, they are not necessary and therefore can be easily treated. Treatment consists of a series of injections, directly into the veins using a very fine needle. The sclerosing solution that is used irritates the lining of the vessels being treated causing them to swell, stick together and collapse. The body's immune system finishes the process by clearing away the collapsed vessels. It is usually necessary to have several treatments done at 4-6 week intervals. A test dose may be required before you begin your Sclerotherapy treatments.

## How effective is Sclerotherapy?

Sclerotherapy remains one of the most effective ways to treat spider veins. It has been documented that 90% of patients that have undergone a series of treatments have succeeded in eliminating 90% of their unwanted vessels. New lasers may hold promise for treating blood vessels but currently vessels in the legs do not respond uniformly to laser treatment.

## Are there possible side effects to Sclerotherapy?

Possible side effects include:

- A slight pain or stinging at the injection site.
- Red raised areas at the injection site (these should disappear in a day or two).
- Bruising at the injection site (these should disappear within a few days although they could last up to 3-4 months).
- Bronzing or brown discoloration along the vessels (usually this disappears in a few months but may last up to a year or longer).

## What is required of the patient?

- Do not use any lotion on your legs on the day of treatment.
- Please bring shorts to wear during your treatment.
- Vigorous sports like jogging or aerobics should be avoided for 1-2 days after treatment.
- It is important to use sunscreen of minimum SPF 15 at least one week following treatment. The recommended sunscreen is Ombrelle
- Avoid hot baths on the day of the treatment although showering is fine.

## How much does Sclerotherapy cost?

Provincial health insurance does not cover cosmetic procedures. The precise cost is determined in consultation with the doctor and depends on how many vessels need to be treated.