

# **REMOVAL OF LEG VEINS BY SCLEROTHERAPY**

Sclerotherapy is a technique to remove unwanted spider and telangiectatic veins from the legs. A sclerosing solution is injected into the blood vessel and works by irritating the inside of the vessel and causing it to swell shut. Some vessels will disappear.

Approximately 50 to 70% of treated vessels will close up successfully. Fading of the vessels is usually seen by 4-6 weeks injections, but may take up to 3 months to fade completely. Spider veins generally require anywhere from 2-10 months to eradicate, the average being 6 months. These injections are given 3-6 week intervals.

The injections are relatively painless using a small gauge needle. Bruising at the site after injection is common because irritated blood vessels leak small amounts of blood into the skin. About 40% of veins may leave a streak-like deposit of blood in the skin which resolves to a brown streak in the skin. This is iron pigment from the blood. The brown stains are usually temporary and fade by 2-6 months.

After injections it is best to remain as active as possible with lots of walking, so time off from work is not needed for recuperation.