

SCLEROTHERAPY

This treatment involves the injection of an irritant solution into small veins.

Several chemicals are available but this clinic usually uses a strong salt solution, thus causing the walls of the vein to swell and to obliterate the vein.

During the injection some discomfort may be felt if any of the salt solution seeps into the surrounding tissues should the vein rupture.

Some transient cramp may also be experienced in the surrounding muscles of the leg.

Brown staining may occur at the place of injection which may take several months to clear.

Ulceration, though rare, can occur if a large amount of salt solution escapes into the tissues.

Obliteration of the vein is not immediate but is slowly progressive over a period of three weeks.

No special preparation of the skin is needed before treatment.

Treatment sessions usually take 20-40 minutes.

No special treatment or dressings are needed on the legs after sclerotherapy.

The legs may bruise and ache for a day or two.

Most people tolerate the injections easily, but people with needle phobia or very low pain thresholds may find it too uncomfortable.