

Informed Consent: Chemical Ablation

Chemical ablation involves the injection of a medication, called Varithena, directly into your vein. The medication is injected into the veins. This causes an irritation of the inner lining of the vein resulting in closure of the vein. The majority of persons who have had chemical ablation performed have satisfying results. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that chemical ablation will be effective for you. In rare instances, the condition may become worse after chemical ablation treatment. The number of treatments needed varies from patient to patient, depending on the extent of the problem and your body's response to the injections.

Possible Risks and Complications

Discomfort: The polidocanol is pH balanced so should not be painful, but there may be some discomfort. After the procedure, tenderness of the treated veins is considered normal.

Infection: This is rare. The skin is cleansed with alcohol prior to the procedure and every precaution is taken.

Allergic reaction: Very rarely, a patient may have an allergic reaction to the polidocanol foam. The risk of this is greater in patients who have a history of allergies.

Bruising: Bruising will resolve over time. We suggest Arnica cream to help with symptoms.

Itching: Itching usually lasts less than 60 minutes after the procedure

Discoloration: Hyperpigmentation is caused by trapped blood. It is transient in 80% of patients and may be treated with laser if it persists.

Skin ulceration: In rare cases, a blister may form, open, and become ulcerated. Healing occurs slowly over a few months. After healing, this may leave a scar.

Deep vein thrombosis: This may happen if enough medication were to enter the deep system; this is highly unlikely.



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There have been instances of light headedness, vision changes, heart palpitations, migraine headaches, stroke, death, cardiac toxicity, pulmonary embolism, and transient neurological changes associated with chemical ablation. These are rare and more common when performed outside licensed indications. There have also been cases involving cutaneous necrosis, limb loss, and other complications.

Alternatives

Varicose veins are not a life-threatening condition. Some patients get adequate relief from symptoms by wearing graduated compression stockings.

Disclosure

The practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science. Therefore, reputable practitioners cannot guarantee results. While the overwhelming numbers of patients have noted gratifying results from chemical ablation, we cannot promise or guarantee any specific results.

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By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the foregoing information and understand the risks of chemical ablation, alternative methods of treatment, and the risks of treating my condition.

Dr. Asbjornsen and/or Alison Scheib PA-C have answered all my questions and I hereby consent to treatment.

Patient Name

Patient Signature

Date