

ECHOSCLEROTHERAPY

USGPFS (Ultrasound Guided Polidocanol Foam Sclerotherapy) or echosclerotherapy is a new minimally invasive injection procedure for the treatment of varicose veins. It is an in-office procedure with very minimal, if any discomfort. There is no downtime. It replaces the old way of performing sclerotherapy.

We usually perform this procedure in our office on Friday afternoons. The treatment period is usually anywhere from 15 minutes to 45 minutes. The method involves mixing of a small amount of air with the sclerosant liquid. This creates a solution that when injected is visible with an ultrasound. We use the ultrasound to help judge when enough sclerosant has been injected to treat the involved areas. All of the injections are done with very tiny needles and are usually painless. Your leg is then wrapped with an Ace wrap and we like you to walk to your car and drive home. At home, I like you to walk around for a few minutes every hour. When you're not walking, your leg should be elevated above your heart. You can return to your normal activities the following day while wearing elastic compression stockings. The timing of visible improvement in the varicose veins can vary but is usually obvious at 2 -3 months afterward.

Any surgical procedure is associated with certain benefits and risks. The purpose of USGPFS is to minimize abnormal vein flow patterns (i.e., minimize leg fatigue, discomfort, ulcers, etc.) and obtain cosmetic improvement. These are the benefits. The possible risk or complications include the future need for additional injections, brownish skin staining, lumps and bumps, and the very rare complications of ulcers, deep vein thrombosis and eye floaters. Please ask about any of these complications that are of concern to you. However, remember we only offer the procedure when we feel the potential benefits far outweigh the theoretical risks.

Insurance companies may not pay for the injection of varicose veins. We will submit your claim for you to your insurance company. Please remember that a call from you to your insurance company has a lot more meaning than a call from us!

If you opt to have these procedures without insurance coverage, they will therefore be an out of pocket expense for you. The charge is 600 dollars per hour which is reasonable concerning the involvement of a vascular lab technician, a nurse, and an ultrasound machine in addition to me. We require a 250 dollar deposit to schedule your procedure appointment. This down payment is then applied to the cost of the procedure when it is completed.