

Conditions – Spider Veins, Georgia

Spider veins (less than 1 mm in size) are common and it is estimated that at least one-third of women have spider veins. Also known as Telangiectasia, they are red, blue, or purple veins that lie in or immediately below the skin surface and are commonly found on the thighs, calves, and ankles. However, they may be seen in other locations like the face and breast.

Spider veins usually appear as one of three patterns or shapes:

- Spider pattern with veins radiating out from a central point
- Tree or branch-like structure usually seen on the anterior and lateral thighs
- Thin separate lines typically seen on the medial thigh and inner knees

Contributing Factors for Spider Veins

- Heredity – genetics is the number one factor for spider veins on the thigh and legs
- Gender – women are more likely than men to suffer from spider veins
- Pregnancy – women often develop spider veins with pregnancy
- Activity or occupation – sitting or standing occupations increase the risks of spider veins
- Other contributing factors include aging, obesity, and injury

Treatment for Spider Veins

We offer sclerotherapy and surface laser therapy for spider veins on the legs. However, we prefer sclerotherapy as the most effective treatment for leg spider veins. Worldwide, sclerotherapy is the gold standard treatment for spider veins on the legs. For difficult spider veins on the legs and for facial spider veins, Dr. Kenneth Harper offers surface laser treatments.

If you are looking for a vein specialist in the Macon area and Georgia, Dr. Harper and staff have treated thousands of patients suffering from spider veins since 1997. In addition to their experience, Terri and Dr. Harper have taught hundreds of physicians, nurse practitioners, and Physicians Assistants the art of vein care including sclerotherapy. As founders of the Comprehensive Vein Training Center they are dedicated to improving the quality of vein care through education of physicians, extenders and Registered Nurses.

The treatment of spider veins is a process. The first step is a consult to determine if any underlying vein disease is present. If reflux or varicose veins are identified these should be treated first, then the spider veins can be treated with a series of 2-4 sclerotherapy sessions.

Sclerotherapy is often referred to as saline injections by patients but new FDA approved solutions for treatment have replaced saline. These new sclerosing agents are more effective, safer, and less painful. A tiny needle is used to introduce the sclerosing solution into the spider veins. At Vein Specialists of the South and Spa Medical, we use polarized lights with magnification and a trans-illumination light to improve the visualization of the veins at the time of injection to achieve optimal results. Based on clinical analysis trials we recommend the use of compression for up to two weeks after each session to improve the results.

It is important to have realistic expectations for any treatment and advise patients to expect to begin to see improvement in their legs after the second sclerotherapy session. Optimum results include a 70% to 80% fading of the visible spider veins after the initial series of 2 to 4 session. Maintenance sessions will be needed to keep your legs looking and feeling great.

The treatment of spider veins is considered cosmetic by insurance plans. These treatments are offered in the cosmetic side of our practice. Spa Medical is a division of Vein Specialists of the South and is conveniently located within our office. When you see the specialists at Vein Specialists of the South and Spa Medical you will benefit from their years of experience and expertise gained from actively participate in training other doctors and physician extenders in sclerotherapy.

Since sclerotherapy is the gold standard treatment for spider veins, it costs \$350 for one treatment or \$850 for a package of three treatments. However, since it is the gold standard, it is the best. Laser isn't bad either, but it hurts more than just regular sclerotherapy.