

Vein Procedure Education

INTRODUCTION

Your doctor has advised you that you need a vein procedure due to vein insufficiency. This education guide will help communicate what will happen before, during and after your vein procedure. It was written to inform you about your test and answer the most frequently asked questions.

What is a vein ablation/laser procedure? The physician will perform the procedure using imaging such as an ultrasound to guide the procedure. The leg to be treated will be injected with numbing medication. Once the leg is numb, the vein to be treated will be punctured with a small needle. The catheter containing the ablation or laser heat source is inserted into the vein and once it is in the correct position, the catheter is then slowly drawn backward. As the heat is emitted from the catheter the vein is closed off.

What is a phlebectomy? If you have bulging varicose veins, a small incision will be made to remove these. Local anesthetic is used.

What is endovenous foam; sclerotherapy? This procedure involves injecting a medication into the smaller surface veins. The medication irritates these smaller veins causing them to close.

What is liquid sclerotherapy? It is an injection of medication into spider veins. The medication irritates them causing closure. Insurances consider this cosmetic, so this is an out of pocket expense that can be arranged.

PREPARATION

- You will receive a phone call reminding you of your procedure and arrival time. Please feel free to ask our staff any questions you may have.
- No caffeine on the day of procedure.
- You will need to drink water before the procedure and stay hydrated which helps the staff see your veins more clearly.
- You do not have to fast, unless you have been scheduled for sedation.
- You will need to purchase compression hose and bring them with you to your procedure.
- **You will need to arrange for a driver. YES NO**
- Bring an updated list of all your medications.

DAY OF PROCEDURE

What do I do the day of my test?

- Report to the hospital 1 - 1.5 hours prior to your scheduled procedure time.
- After checking in you will be taken back to a your room to get ready for the procedure.
- Your nurse will get you ready for the procedure and we will do a preliminary ultrasound on the leg that will be treated.

ANESTHESIA

Will I have anesthesia?

Most patients will not need conscious sedation. If sedation is necessary to give, you will receive sedation pills prior to your procedure or intravenous sedation during your procedure, if this is what you and your provider have discussed prior to the date of your procedure. If you receive any sedation, you must have a driver with you. These medications will help you to become sleepy, relaxed and more comfortable during the procedure. You will also receive a local anesthetic along the leg that is being treated.

What are the side effects of anesthesia?

- Headache
- Memory fog
- Sleepiness
- Nausea

AFTER THE PROCEDURE

What should I expect after my procedure?

Once the procedure is complete, the staff will wrap your leg; staff will help you get up to walk; and go to the restroom. You will be able to leave shortly after the procedure is finished.

- It is normal to have pink tinged drainage on your wrap.
- If you received sedation medication, you should not drive or make any legal decisions for 24 hours after the procedure due to the sedation medication.
- It is important to follow your post-operative instructions including walking as much as possible every 1 hour to 1 1/2 hours

Will I have pain?.

You may have tenderness and bruising. You may take Tylenol or Advil for minor discomfort.

QUESTIONS FOR MY DOCTOR

Date & Version #	Form Changes
OHHP-F632 (Rev. 2/18)	Typos & Wording
OHHP-F632 (Rev. 1/20)	Type Changes