

# Frequently Asked Questions - USGS

**Q:** Is swelling normal following a vein procedure?

**A:** Some bruising, swelling and minimal discomfort may be experienced following a radiofrequency vein ablation. This is normal and over-the-counter anti-inflammatories such as Ibuprofen, Motrin/Advil, Naproxen or Aleve may be taken unless instructed otherwise by the provider.

**Q:** Can I travel after procedures?

**A:** We recommend avoiding flying for 2 weeks following procedures. The day of the procedure we recommend avoiding laying down/sitting for long periods of time. For the next 5-7 days following the procedure we recommend not sitting for >3 hours in long car rides.

**Q:** How long will I be in compression stockings?

**A:** Following a USGS procedure, compression stockings should be worn around the clock for 24 hours. Following this period, compression stockings should be worn during waking hours for 5 additional days if you are experiencing aching or discomfort.

Compression stockings may be used for soreness or swelling that occurs after vein treatment.

**Q:** How long do I leave the steri strips on?

**A:** The Steri Strips are applied at the vein access points, and can be removed at the 24-hour point

**Q:** Can I go to work after procedures?

**A:** You may return to normal activities following the procedure. The exception is NO heavy lifting and NO swimming for 48 hours following the procedure. We encourage walking at least 30 minutes a day.

**Q:** What is Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy?

**A:** Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy polidocinical injectable foam 1% is an FDA-approved prescription medicine used to treat varicose veins caused by problems with the great saphenous vein (GSV) and other related veins in the leg's GSV system. Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy improves symptoms related to or caused by varicose veins, and the appearance of varicose veins.

**Q:** How does Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy work?

**A:** The physician administers a small amount of Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy in the vein. The microfoam fills and treats the desired section of the vein. The diseased vein collapses and the foam is diluted in the bloodstream and flushed out.

**Q:** How is blood flow affected?

**A:** When the malfunctioning vein collapses, blood flow shifts to healthier veins nearby.

**Q:** What is treatment like?

**A:** Treatment with Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy is minimally invasive and nonsurgical (no incisions required). Other kinds of varicose vein therapies may require many needle sticks. But with Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy, treatment is usually just one or two needle sticks and is nearly painless. Patients reporting pain at the injection or application site in clinical trials was 4.0%.

**Q:** How fast is the treatment?

**A:** It usually takes less than an hour to get the treatment.

**Q:** How soon can I get back to my normal activities?

**A:** Most patients report a noticeable improvement in their symptoms within 1-2 weeks following the procedure. Symptoms can vary from patient to patient and improvements can be seen as far out as 12 months.

**Q:** How many treatments might I need?

**A:** Most people only need a single treatment. Additional treatment may be needed, depending on the number and size of veins being treated.

**Q:** Will my insurance cover treatment?

**A:** Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy is covered by most Medicare and insurance plans. Coverage may depend on the severity of your varicose veins and symptoms. Your physician's office may be able to help you understand your coverage.

**Q:** Is Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy effective?

**A:** In clinical studies, the majority of patients treated with Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy experienced improvements in symptoms: heaviness, achiness, swelling, throbbing and itching after just one treatment. The clinical studies also found that the majority of patients experienced improvement in vein appearance in assessments by both patients and physicians.

**Q:** What are the side effects?

**A:** The most common side effects are leg pain or discomfort, injection site bruising or pain, and potentially serious blood clots in the leg veins. These are not all of the possible side effects of Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy. Tell your healthcare provider about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. You can also report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

**Q: What should I tell my physician?**

- Tell your physician about all of your medical conditions, including if you:
- Have arterial disease (a disease of the blood vessels)
- Have reduced mobility
- Have a history of blood clots in the veins or lungs
- Have had major surgery in the past three months
- Have recently had a long hospital stay
- Are pregnant or have recently been pregnant