



Tri-Cities Vein & Vascular Institute
761 Williams Dr. Richland, WA 99354, 509-946-9707

RISKS & COMPLICATIONS RELATED TO LASER ABLATION, PHLEBECTOMY AND SCLEROTHERAPY

No matter how small and non-invasive a procedure can be, it is still a PROCEDURE. At Tri-Cities Vein & Vascular Institute we do our best to give the optimal treatment and benefit for the patient. Complications can happen, they are rare but there is a risk, even in daily life. Whether these procedures are medically necessary or cosmetic as a Vascular Surgeon, it is my own style to let the patients know all possible complications that can occur and what to expect during and after the procedure.

SCLEROTHERAPY (including but not limited to)

When injecting the sclerotherapy solution, it will feel like a bee sting and a slight burning sensation as the solution is being injected. Complications: bleeding, allergic reaction to prepping solutions / sclerotherapy solution, sloughing of the skin that may need wound treatments (skin grafts etc), scarring, keloids, bruising, blisters on the skin, recurrent or new spider veins in the same or different sites, numbness in the areas treated, matting of the skin with hyper pigmentation, staining of the skin (to reduce risk avoid sun exposure and tanning after the procedure for at least a month), thrombosis of superficial veins feeling a “cord like” structure under the skin, DVT (deep vein thrombosis) through injections in veins or perforators which may require anticoagulation treatment, PE (pulmonary embolism) that can be fatal, skin ulceration with post thrombotic syndrome, strokes, visual symptoms, MI (myocardial infarction) and even death.

STAB PHLEBECTOMY (including but not limited to)

We inject a halo of local anesthesia in the skin. You will feel a burning sensation from the anesthesia. A small incision will be made and we will hook and remove or disrupt the vein. Veins are unpredictable where they come and go so the patient may feel a tugging/pulling sensation. Complications: bleeding, allergic reaction to prepping solutions/ medications, sloughing of the skin that may need wound treatments (skin grafts etc), scarring, keloids, bruising, blisters on the skin (from steri strips etc), recurrent or new veins in the same or different sites, numbness in the areas treated, wounds, matting of the skin with hyper pigmentation, staining of the skin, thrombosis of superficial veins feeling a “cord like” structure under the skin, PE (pulmonary embolism) that can be fatal, skin ulceration with post thrombotic syndrome, strokes, heart attack, MI (myocardial infarction) and even death.

LASER ABLATION (including but not limited to)

Patients are prepped in a sterile fashion. You may experience a burning sensation from the anesthesia, burnt smell/taste, and pressure/discomfort from the laser or wires threaded through the vein. Complications: Unable to complete the procedure due to the tortuosity of the vein or a vein spasm (we cannot advance the wires), re-do the procedure due to complications or recurrent symptoms (possible vein stripping), bleeding, allergic reaction to prepping solutions/ medications, sloughing of the skin that may need wound treatments (skin grafts etc), scarring, keloids, bruising, blisters on the skin, recurrent or new veins in the same or different sites, pressure from injecting the tumescent solution, swelling/edema, recurrent symptoms from re-canalization of the vein, numbness in the areas treated, matting of the skin with hyper pigmentation, staining of the skin, thrombosis of superficial veins feeling a “cord like” structure under the skin, DVT (deep vein thrombosis) veins or during treatment for perforators which may require anticoagulation treatment, PE (pulmonary embolism) that can be fatal, skin ulceration with post thrombotic syndrome, strokes, heart problems, MI (myocardial infarction) and even death.

OTHER INFORMATION

Patients are required to wear their compression stockings 24 hours per day (day and night) for three (3) days following any of these procedures. Laser Ablation or Phlebectomy patients wear 20-30 mgHg compression during the day for thirty (30) days total. Sclerotherapy patients wear 15-20 mgHg compression for a week during the day. If compression is too tight then remove and replace with an ace bandage. If bleeding occurs, elevate leg and apply pressure until the bleeding stops. If you cannot control the bleeding go to the Emergency. For the first three days, patients should sponge bath and avoid the shower, particularly after the Phlebectomy. Do not fly or go into a hot tub for 14 days. If steri strips were applied, they will fall off in 7 – 10 days. Laser Ablation patients have an ultrasound approximately three (3) days following their procedure. Phlebectomy and Sclerotherapy patients should follow-up three (3) months after their treatment is completed.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 509-946-9707