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## CONSENT FOR SCLEROTHERAPY AND VEINGOGH TREATMENT

### SCLEROTHERAPY

Varicose Veins and Spider Veins are chronic and recurrent conditions. The variety of treatments available will not offer a cure, but rather a control of the condition. Sclerotherapy is injecting spider and varicose veins to improve the appearance of the veins. The solution causes the lining of the vein to be damaged and the body then seals off the vein thereby reducing its appearance. Each vein may require more than one injection but typically one will see a 50% improvement upon completion of the treatment. Your tendency towards developing new veins will not be relieved by this or any other form of treatment.

You may experience mild discomfort and cramping for one to two minutes, especially when larger veins are injected. The procedure itself takes approximately 30 minutes. The number of veins injected in one session varies depending on the size and location of the veins.

#### **Potential Risks and Side Effects**

All surgical interventions carry an inherent risk of infection, allergic reaction, and anesthetic complications including cardiopulmonary complications, inflammation in the venous system with formation of a thrombus (clot), postoperative bleeding, and nerve trauma that may lead to temporary or permanent numbness. Below are possible risks and side effects that are specific to Sclerotherapy:

**Bruising:** Bruising is very common around the injection site and can last several days or weeks. Trapped blood may cause discoloration when may need additional treatment.

**Transient Hyperpigmentation:** Patients who have had Sclerotherapy may notice some discoloration after treatment. These brown lines or spots are almost always transient and will resolve in three to six months. In rare cases, this darkening of the skin may persist up to a year or longer.

**Pain and/or Itching:** Patients may experience moderate pain and/or itching following the procedure. The leg may be tender to the touch after treatment. An uncomfortable sensation may run along the leg. This discomfort is usually temporary.

**Swelling:** Swelling usually occurs after treating veins in the leg. It usually resolves in a few days but may last a few weeks, especially after treatment of large veins. Wearing the prescribed compression hose lessens leg swelling.

**Allergic reaction:** Very rarely, a patient may have an allergic reaction to the sclerosant agent. The risk of this is greater in patients who have a history of allergies.

**Deep Vein Thrombosis:** A very rare complication; the dangers of phlebitis include the possibility of pulmonary embolus (a blood clot carried to the lungs) and post-phlebotic syndrome, resulting in a permanent swelling of the leg.

**Skin ulceration:** Ulceration involves the formation of a blister that may open. Healing occurs slowly over a few months. The healed ulceration will usually leave a scar. This is a rare complication.

**Neovascularization:** The development of new, tiny blood vessels may occur at the site of sclerotherapy treatment. These tiny veins can appear days or weeks after the procedure but fade within three to twelve months without further treatment.

**Spider Veins:** Occasionally re-occur in the same or surrounding area.

#### **Alternative Treatments:**

Because spider veins are generally a cosmetic issue, surgical treatment is not mandatory. Some patients get adequate relief of symptoms from wearing graduated support stockings. The other option is to receive no treatment at all.

Spider veins and cherry angiomas are chronic and recurrent conditions. The variety of treatments available will not offer a cure, but rather a control of the condition. Treated vascular abnormalities typically do not return. However, your tendency towards developing new veins will not be relieved by this or any other form of treatment.

Do not have VeinGogh if you have a fever 99 degrees F or higher, a pacemaker, or other internal electrical device, epilepsy or history of seizures, skin cancer, metal sensitivities or allergies, heart conditions, hemorrhagic trauma, take blood thinners.

The procedure itself takes approximately 15 to 30 minutes. The number of veins treated in one session varies. It depends on the size and location of the veins. This is an office based procedure. There are no post procedural restrictions.

**Potential Risks and Side Effects:**

**Bruising:** May occur around the treated site and can last several days or weeks.

**Blistering/Mild Skin Burn:** May occur resulting from thermocoagulation treatment. Usually resolves in a few days, but may last a few weeks, especially after treatment of large areas.

**Pain:** The treated area may be tender to the touch and/or itchy after treatment. This discomfort is usually temporary.

**Scabbing/Sloughing of Skin:** The treated area may scab/slough, especially after treatment of large area. Usually resolves in a few weeks.

**Swelling:** Usually occurs after treatment. It usually resolves in a few days, but may last a few weeks, especially after treatment of large areas.

**Spider Veins:** Occasionally recur in the same or surrounding area.

**Alternative Treatments:**

Because spider veins and cherry angiomas are generally a cosmetic issue, treatment is not mandatory. The other option is to receive no treatment at all.