

Ultra-sound guided foam-sclerotherapy as the sole method of treating superficial venous reflux.

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Ultra-sound guided foam sclerotherapy is a convenient, thorough and minimally invasive method of delivering sclerosant, most effectively, safely and economically, into the lumen of the refluxing/incompetent veins to produce endothelial damage leading to thrombosis and sclerosis of the diseased vein.

Many treat superficial venous reflux disease by surgery, endoablation by laser, radiofrequency or steam, either as the sole method or in combination.

For the last five years we have injected foamed sclerosant, under ultra-sound guidance into superficial refluxing/incompetent veins.

As our experience grew we increased its use to treat all superficial venous reflux/incompetence, irrespective of size or extent and now employ ultra-sound guided foam sclerotherapy as the sole method of treating superficial venous reflux.

After an initial color Doppler mapping of the superficial venous system, the refluxing/incompetent veins are injected, under ultra-sound guidance, with foamed sclerosant produced by the Tessari method. We use one part of 1:1 liquid mixture of 3% sodium tetradecyl sulfate and 3% Polidocanol, mixed with 4 parts of carbon-di-oxide gas to make 5 cc of sclerosant foam. We inject foam at multiple sites in a caudo-cranial/antegrade direction and use multiple sessions to achieve the desired result of sclerosing all refluxing/incompetent veins.

We use compression only in selective cases mainly in patients with ulcers.

Our method can be easily adopted even in remote or impoverished areas and does not require use of expensive equipment or disposables, except for good imaging provided by an ultrasound machine.

Our method and will be discussed in detail.