

Ultrasound Guided Sclerotherapy

Ultrasound guided sclerotherapy was developed in France, Australia, the USA and Canada in the late 1980s. With the application of B mode ultrasound imaging, incompetent truncal veins could be seen and accessed which enabled the source of venous reflux to be treated. This offered a viable non-surgical alternative to surgery for large varicose veins.

Veins up to approximately 5mm in diameter (when the patient is standing) respond well to this relatively simple, non-invasive treatment. Larger veins (no size limit for many practitioners) have also been successfully treated, however a relatively high recanalization rate necessitates multiple treatments over a year or more to achieve total fibrosis that can now be obtained from a single session of endovenous laser ablation.

Following patient assessment and mapping of the superficial veins of the lower limb, the procedure is performed in the phlebologist's rooms. No anaesthetic is required and the patient is able to drive home afterwards. There are no scars, no time is lost from work and the patient can continue with normal daily activities.

Serious complications are a rare making UGS a simple, safe and effective treatment for truncal and branch varicosities. It has a high degree of patient satisfaction and acceptance.

David Jenkins MB BS FACP
Phlebologist, Sydney