



## **LASER TREATMENT FOR FACIAL BLOOD VESSELS / SPIDER VEIN TELANGIECTASIA**

### **What is a "spider vein"?**

Telangiectasias, also known as “spider veins” are tiny veins below the surface of the skin, causing red, blue, or purple discolorations. These dilated blood vessels can develop anywhere on the body but are commonly seen on the face around the nose, cheeks, and chin. They can also develop on the legs. Some cases of spider veins can be quite small. Others are more noticeable. They can occur from trauma to the skin, genetics (especially those who have fair skin), sun-damaged skin, hormonal changes or changes associated with adult acne and the condition called rosacea.

### **Where do dilated vessels occur?**

Most commonly dilated vessels occur on the face, especially the cheeks and nose, or as clustered vessels of various sizes and patterns in the lower legs.

### **Are these dilated vessels dangerous or do they signal other problems?**

Usually these dilated vessels are not medically significant and are of cosmetic importance.

### **What are my treatment options?**

The treatments available vary and may include sclerotherapy or laser, depending on location. Sclerotherapy is a technique for isolated and fine spider veins and localized dilated blood vessels on the legs. Sclerotherapy effectively treats spider veins by injecting a solution directly into the vein. The sclerotherapy solution causes the vein to scar, forcing blood to reroute through healthier veins. The collapsed vein is reabsorbed into local tissue and eventually fades. After sclerotherapy, treated veins tend to fade within a few weeks. The main risks are punctate scarring, small white skin scars, or texture change as well as the possibility of recurrence. Multiple treatments may be required.

### **What Laser treatments are available?**

Vascular lasers, such as the Cutera® Excel V and Candela Vbeam® are typically used for vessels on the face and other areas of the body. These work by targeting the red blood cells in the vessel to heat and collapse it. The number of treatments vary depending on the condition.

### **What can I expect following Laser treatment and what is the downtime?**

After the treatment, the skin usually appears red and there can be mild to moderate swelling for several days. Larger vessels (i.e. on the nose) can turn slightly purple but this rarely lasts more than a few days. On occasion, a slight whitish discoloration or a small crust can occur over the treated vessel for several days. Any severe blisters should be reported to your Cosmetic Provider; contact Pima Dermatology. Usually the treatments are very well-tolerated. Many conditions require two or more treatment sessions to obtain optimal improvement. The great advantage is that with most treatments, there is little significant skin reaction and little downtime from daily activities. These Lasers are also available in our office on a once or twice monthly basis.

*Please see reverse side of page.*

### **What are the risks of the procedure?**

The most common side effects involve bruising and temporary swelling of the skin for a number of days after treatment. Some temporary skin discoloration can occur for a short time after the treatment, but usually this clears with skin bleaching creams and time. Infection following the procedure is rare, as is the risk of scarring. Repeat blisters and/or scabs are not common and should be reported to your Cosmetic Provider.

### **What is the cost of the treatment and does my insurance pay for it?**

The cost of the treatment varies with the number and location of the vessels treated, the complexity of the condition, as well as the time allotted for treatment. Elective/Cosmetic procedures are not considered medically necessary. These procedures are not covered benefits under your insurance. Payment for the procedure will be discussed prior to the procedure and payment will be expected prior to the time of service.

A consultation is required prior to any Laser or treatment scheduling. Please contact our office for a consultation at **520.795.7729**. For more information, please visit **[www.pimaderm.com](http://www.pimaderm.com)**.