



About the Institute

Allegheny General Hospital has long been renowned for its visionary approach to treating cardiovascular disease. Now, with the creation of the Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute, the hospital brings its heart and vascular specialists and services together — in one convenient location. This state-of-the-art facility includes customized areas for patient examinations, consultations, laboratory testing and diagnostic procedures, as well as scheduling, registration, nursing support and lifestyle management programs.

Allegheny General Hospital is a 724-bed academic medical center serving Pittsburgh and the surrounding five-state area.

Founded in 1885 on Pittsburgh's historic North Side, the hospital has earned an international reputation for excellence and innovation in the care of patients, medical education and research. Allegheny General has been recognized by *U.S. News & World Report* magazine as one of "America's Best Hospitals" for a number of clinical specialties. The hospital has also been lauded as one of America's top 25 medical centers by the AARP's *Modern Maturity* magazine.

Allegheny General Hospital—and its Suburban Campus in nearby Bellevue—annually admits 31,500 patients and logs about 60,000 emergency visits and more than 26,000 surgical procedures. Nearly 1,000 physicians and approximately 4,500 employees share the hospital's commitment to excellence.

A member of the West Penn Allegheny Health System, Allegheny General Hospital is a western Pennsylvania campus for the Philadelphia-based Drexel University College of Medicine; third- and fourth-year medical students receive clinical training at the hospital.



The Gerald McGinnis
Cardiovascular Institute
Allegheny General Hospital
West Penn Allegheny Health System

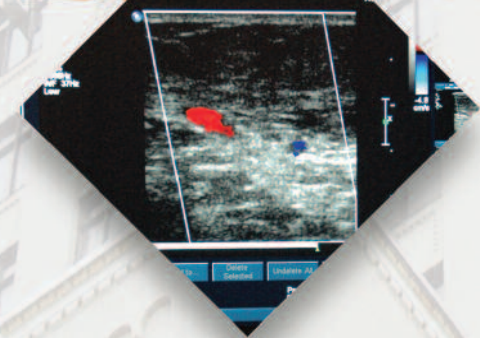
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Vein Disease Treatment

The Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute
Allegheny General Hospital



Sclerotherapy is highly effective in treating spider veins and can be performed on an outpatient basis.

Sclerotherapy Treatment for Vein Disease

One of the newest procedures available at the Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute, sclerotherapy is a low-risk, outpatient treatment used to treat spider or varicose veins that appear on the thighs, calves or ankles.

Spider veins — caused by genetics, pregnancy, weight gain, activity requiring prolonged standing or sitting, or for no apparent reason — are a cluster of super-fine, red, blue or purple veins that lie close to the surface of the skin. Varicose veins, which tend to be larger than spider veins, are darker in color and bulge out. They also can cause discomfort and may be related to an underlying condition.

Allegheny General's Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute offers patients with vein disease a comprehensive treatment plan. One of the center's vascular surgeons will examine the patient to determine if spider veins or varicose veins are being caused by an underlying condition, such as deep vein thrombosis. A specialist will then determine which combination of treatment modalities is most appropriate for that patient.

What to Expect

If sclerotherapy is recommended for the patient, a sclerosing agent is injected into the affected veins, causing them to collapse and gradually disappear. The procedure takes only 15 to 45 minutes to complete, requires local anesthesia and is relatively pain-free.

Following a sclerotherapy session, patients may experience slight bruising at the injection site and feel minor cramping for the first 24 to 48 hours. In some cases, the skin may have residual brownish pigmentation that may take up to a year to completely fade away. However, most patients feel comfortable wearing shorts or a swimsuit within two weeks.

In some cases, two or more sclerotherapy sessions may be needed to permanently obliterate a spider vein. And, while sclerotherapy will eliminate bothersome spider and varicose veins, additional treatment will be necessary to remove any new veins that surface in the future.

Sclerotherapy treatment performed for cosmetic reasons is not covered by medical insurance companies. However, insurance does typically provide reimbursement when the procedure is medically necessary. Check with your physician and insurance company for more details.

For More Information

To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 1-877-97-HEART.

Directions and Parking Information

The Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute is located on the first floor of Allegheny General Hospital, in the Northwest Wing. Enter the hospital through the Sandusky Street Entrance and follow the signs. Patients may valet park at the Sandusky entrance, or park in the main patient parking facility, the James Street Garage.

Registration

Patients may register in the lobby, immediately upon entering the Sandusky Entrance of Allegheny General Hospital. Registration services are also available within the Gerald McGinnis Cardiovascular Institute.