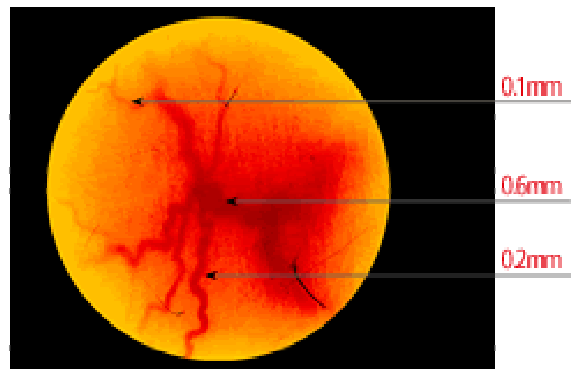


## Article 4

### Sclerotherapy

This involves using a tiny needle to inject small amounts of solution directly into a vein causing it to scar and disappear. This is used to treat cosmetically displeasing spider veins after venous insufficiency is addressed. The solution which we use is Polidocanol. It is, by far, the safest of the available sclerosant agents. Polidocanol is also an anesthetic, making injections relatively painless. We use a special fiber optic light to “transilluminate” the tissues around the vein (see figure 1). This allows more accurate visualization and targeting of the vein in question. Most patients require three to four 20 minute injection sessions to achieve the desired results. Also, it takes 6-weeks to see the final result after each session. In the interim, redness and minor swelling around the injection sites is quite common.

Sometimes, sclerotherapy is used to eliminate refluxing veins. This is usually done by directing a small needle into the vein using ultrasound guidance. Incompetent perforator veins, or veins that connect directly to the deep veins, are treated with this technique.



Patented Side-Transillumination provides uniform illumination and images of unprecedented clarity