

## What are spider veins?

Spider veins are small, thin veins that lie close to the surface of the skin and are usually red or blue in color. They commonly occur on the legs, but are also found on the face or other areas of the body. These dilated blood vessels may be short, unconnected lines, each about the size of a large hair, or connected in a “sunburst” pattern. They may look like a spider web or a tree with branches. Spider veins can occur in a small area where they are not very noticeable, or they can cover a large area of skin and be very unattractive.

## What causes them?

The cause of spider veins is not completely known. Heredity seems to play a large part, but there are other possible factors such as sun exposure, hormone changes, pregnancy and weight gain. They may also appear in areas where tight clothing is worn repeatedly, especially if it is held in place by strong elastic material.

## How is the treatment performed?

Brief but intense emissions of light from the laser will be used to remove the superficial blood vessels at precisely controlled levels of penetration.

## How long does it take?

The amount of time varies from fifteen minutes to one hour or more, depending on the size of the area being treated and the severity of the problem.

## Is it painful?

You may feel a slight burning or stinging sensation similar to the snapping of a rubber band as the laser penetrates your skin. Anesthesia is not required.

## What are the after effects?

You will experience some redness and swelling of the treated area that normally disappears within a few days. The veins usually will turn a purple color that resembles a small bruise, and then gradually fade within five days to a few weeks. Your Reveal™ provider will advise you on ways to minimize after effects.

## How long does it take for them to disappear?

Recovery times depend on the extent of the treatment and the individual's capacity to heal. Some redness or purple discoloration may persist for several weeks, or longer. The redness will gradually lighten to a pink tone, and then to a lighter, more natural color. Most individuals will need multiple treatments to achieve good long-term reduction in the appearance of veins within any one area.

## Are the results permanent?

Even though very powerful energy levels are used for laser vein treatments, the body still may have the ability to heal and recover some of those vessels. Once a vein has disappeared after a treatment and not returned for six to eight weeks, it more than likely is gone for good. However, the genetic factors that caused those veins to appear in the first place still exists, and it is not uncommon for people to continue to form new veins in different spots over time.

