

Revision to letter to patients with varicose veins

The medication that is injected to treat varicose veins is now available again. Patients with varicose veins should be aware of the following information regarding the use of this medication.

*Tromboject (sodium tetradecyl sulfate) is currently the only liquid sclerosant (medication for injection) available in Canada for sclerotherapy of large varicose veins. It has been available in the world for at least 50 years. Since July 2018, Health Canada has been concerned about the use of Tromboject due to a report of an insoluble particle in the vial. Health Canada recommends that Tromboject only be used for medically necessary indications where the benefits outweigh the risks of the procedure and there are no alternative treatments. Alternative treatments to sclerotherapy include compression hosiery alone, surgery and sometimes laser and VenoSeal. The serious risks of Tromboject sclerotherapy include phlebitis (inflammation of the vein), blood clots in the legs or lungs, an allergic reaction, and pulmonary granuloma which are benign nodules in the lungs. Besides inflammation of the vein, these risks are rare.*

*Health Canada now recommends that Tromboject should be injected using a special filter. The cost of that filter will be added to the medication cost of the procedure.*

Patients can call the office to book appointments for sclerotherapy at (519) 642-7131.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sharon Gilpin