



Vascular Surgery

Thread Veins

What are thread veins?

Thread veins or spider veins are small dilated blue, purple or red veins visible just under the skin. They are not medically dangerous, however many patients find them to be very unsightly and affect self-confidence.

Treatments for thread veins:

The majority of thread veins are best treated using **microsclerotherapy**, a virtually painless injection technique which causes the treated veins to shrivel up and disappear over a period of six to twelve weeks. The procedure is performed in outpatients over a number of sessions depending on the extent of your thread veins, and you can drive home afterwards. You will need to wear a bandage or support stocking on your leg for about 24 hours after each session.

Thread veins that are too small for injections may be successfully treated using **laser or photoderm therapy**. These are treatments that use light energy to shrivel up the thread vein and your consultant will be able to advise you as to the most appropriate form of treatment for your particular thread vein.

What should I do if I am concerned about thread veins?

Seek medical advice. The key to successful treatment is careful assessment and advice given to you by a venous specialist, including an ultrasound scan of the legs.

Or more information or to book an appointment with Mr Higman

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