

**FOAM SCLEROTHERAPY OF INSUFFICIENT PERFORATORS IN PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM LEG ULCERS**

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**Background:** Sclerotherapy is the method of treatment which has been applied since many years for venous disorders. Because its effectiveness have increased interest to use this simple method. The sclerosing foam (SF) is a mixture of four parts of oxygen and one part of the drug (sclerosant). The foam forms a coherent bolus that pass out the blood from the vessel. About 15% to 30% of venous leg ulcers depends upon the insufficiency either superficial or perforating veins. The possibility to eliminate insufficient veins during one session treatment in outpatient conditions change the policy of treatment in last years.

**Objective:** The objective of the study was to assess the effectiveness of elimination the venous reflux in incompetent perforating veins of the leg on ulcer healing in men.

**Material and method:** 51 patients (62 legs) have been treated due to chronic venous leg ulcers. The ultrasound Doppler examination confirm perforator insufficiency in all cases subjected to our study. Hemodynamic classification was according to Winczakiewicz/Borkiewicz method. All perforators were classified as class IV – insufficient. In all patients ambulatory venous pressure measurements have been carried out before and following sclerotherapy. Follow up period was five years. Patients were assessed every six months.

1 to 3 ml of polidocanol foam was injected into the insufficient veins. The concentration of polidocanol ranged between 2% and 3%. Mostly it has been used 3% (57 versus 5).

The injection was done in horizontal position with leg slightly elevated. The SF injection was guided with echo Doppler. After 10 minutes of the rest following injection second class compression stocking were applied.

**Results:** Cumulative efficacy of polidokanol foam obliteration of insufficient perforators following five years was 82,25% (51 legs). There was decrease in venous pressure from 57 mmHg before sclerotherapy to 35 mmHg after procedure.

**Discussion:** Insufficient leg perforators play an important role in venous hypertension and in about 10% to 15% of cases are the cause of chronic wounds. Ablation of insufficient veins with SF is very effective and simple method of treatment this confusing disease. When comparing to other invasive methods of treatment one should says that sclerotherapy is cheap, does not need hospitalization and anesthesia and may be done at the outpatient department.

**Conclusion:** For the patients with venous leg ulcers coexisting with perforator vein incompetence obliteration such veins carry a chance to cure their wounds quickly, safely and during every day activity.