



SKLERTHERAPIE BEI VARIKOSIS

Soweit in diesem Kontext personenbezogene Bezeichnungen nur in weiblicher oder nur in männlicher Form angeführt sind, beziehen sie sich generell auf Frauen und Männer in gleicher Weise.

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2 Fragestellung

Es soll die vorhandene Studienlage zu Sklerotherapie (flüssig und Schaum) zur Behandlung von venöser Varikose evaluiert werden.

Beantwortung auf HEN-Level.

3 Kurzbericht

Die Behandlung der Varikose oder auch Varikosis (Krampfadern) hat das Ziel, den venösen Reflux (Rückfluss) zu beseitigen. Dies geschieht durch den Verschluss derjenigen Venen, in denen ein solcher Reflux stattfindet und damit das Blut versackt (anstatt in die Hauptvenen zu gelangen und zum Herzen zurücktransportiert zu werden).

Der Verschluss (bzw. der Ausschluss des Reflux) kann durch die Entfernung der betroffenen Venen (Stripping OP), mittels eines Sklerosans (flüssig oder Schaum), thermisch (Laserobliteration, Radiofrequenzablation) oder mittels Ligation (Abbinden) erfolgen.

Hauptvoraussetzung der chirurgischen Sanierung der (primären) Varikose ist die nachgewiesene Durchgängigkeit und Funktionalität des tiefen Venensystems.

Die Unterscheidung zwischen primärer und sekundärer Varikose erfolgt nach dem Entstehungsgrund:

- primär: Erdanziehungskraft, genetische Disposition, Venenschwäche
- sekundär: (tiefe) Venenerkrankungen (z. B. tiefen Beinvenenthrombose), Entstehung eines Umgehungskreislaufs über das oberflächliche Venensystem

Der Schweregrad der Varikosis wird bestimmt durch die Höhe des Reflux und des Venendurchmessers.

Aufgrund der derzeitigen Evidenzlage kann keine Empfehlung abgegeben werden, welche Behandlungsform (Sklerotherapie oder Stripping Operation) bei primärer Varikose vorzuziehen ist. (Rigby 2004, Belcaro 2003, LBI HTA 2004).

Für die Sklerosierungstherapie sind die berichteten Ergebnisse nach Schaumsklerosierung besser als nach Sklerosierung mit flüssigem Sklerosans. (Rabe 2008, Rao 2005, Hamel-Desnos 2003)

Der Schweregrad der Varikose und die Art der bereits erfolgten Behandlung bestimmen Auswahl und Erfolg der Therapieform. So ist bei primärer Varikose mit geringerem Venendurchmesser als 1st Line Therapie die Sklerotherapie wirksam, bei sichtbaren Stamm- und Seitenvarizen und höherem Venendurchmesser jedoch umstritten. (Tisi 2006, LBI HTA 2004, Barrett 2004) Die Evidenz unterstützt den gegenwärtigen Platz der Sklerotherapie in der klinischen Anwendung, die üblicherweise limitiert ist auf die Behandlung der Krampfadern nach erfolgter Operation, und bei oberflächlichen Venen (Tisi 2006).

Die Erfolgsdauer der Behandlung wird für die

- Operation (Stripping) mit 55% (10 Jahre, Belcaro 2003) bis 92% (2 Jahre, de Roos 2003),
- Ligations OP mit 64,5% (4 Jahre, Miazaki 2005) bis 66% (10 Jahre, Belcaro 2003),
- Sklerotherapie mit Schaum zwischen 44% (10 Jahre, Belcaro 2003) und 84% (3 Wochen, Hamel-Desnos 2003),
- Sklerotherapie mit flüssigem Sklerosans zwischen 27% (3 Monate, Rabe 2008) und 40% (3 Wochen, Hamel-Desnos 2003)

angegeben.

In die Entscheidung für die jeweilige Methode sollte der Schweregrad der Varikose, der Vorteil der minimalen Invasivität (Sklerotherapie) gegenüber der OP, und das Risiko von Komplikationen (allergische Reaktionen auf Sklerosans; Blutungsrisiko bei OP) entsprechend abgewogen werden.

Übersicht über die Studien, aus denen diese Aussagen gewonnen wurden:

Studie	Vergleich	Ergebnis	
		OP versus Sklerotherapie	
Rigby 2004 (Cochrane Review)	Sklerosierung versus Striping OP bei primärer Variskose	OP bessere Langzeitergebnisse, Sklerosierung bessere Kurzzeitwirkung; Generell wenig vergleichbare Evidenz, um eine Empfehlung abzugeben	
Jia 2007 (systematic Review)	Sklerosierung (Schaum, Flüssig) versus OP mit Endpunkt kompletter Verschluss	OP > Schaumsklerotherapie > Fl. Sklerotherapie; Insuffiziente Evidenz für tatsächliche Aussage über minimal invasive Verfahren	
Michaels 2006 (RCT)	Standard OP und Schaumsklerosierung hinsichtlich Wirksamkeit und Kosteneffektivität	Standard OP wirksam + kosteneffektiv; für Schaumsklerotherapie keine Aussage möglich, "scheinbar ganz gut"	
Miazaki 2005 (RCT)	Stripping OP, Ligations OP, Sklerotherapie; Rückfallsfreiheit nach 4 Jahren	OP 80,7% Ligation 64,5%	
De Roos et al. 2003 (RCT)	Kompressionsklerotherapie versus ambulante Phlebektomie (n=86; je 49 Beine) Wiederauftreten der Varizen nach 1 Jahr	(OP) Phlebektomiegruppe 2% Sklerosierungsgruppe 25% Nach zwei Jahren 6 Rückfälle in der Sklerosierungsgruppe (=insg. 38%; Anm.) In der Phlebektomiegruppe signifikant mehr Komplikationen (Blasen, Teleangiectasien, Narbenbildung und Schwellungen durch die Bandagierung).	
Schaumsklerosierung versus Sklerosierung mit flüssigem Sklerosans			
Rabe 2008 (RCT)	Sklerotherapie Schaum versus flüssig; (n=106), 3 Monate follow up	Erfolg 69% (Schaum) und 27% (Flüssige Skl.) bei 1,3 (Schaum) und 1,6 (Fl) Eingriffen pro Patient	
Rao 2005	Polidocanol (POL) versus Natrium	gleich sicher und effektiv	
Gueax 2005	Sklerotherapie flüssig versus Schaum hinsichtlich Komplikationen	12/5434 (0,2%) Zwischenfälle mit Flüssigkeit; 37/6295 (0,5%) Zwischenfälle mit Schaum	
Hamel-Desnos et al. 2003 (RCT)	Sklerosierung mit Schaum versus Flüssigkeit hinsichtlich der Elimination von Reflux, Rekanalisationsrate, Nebenwirkungen (n=88) (45 Schaum, 43 Sklerosierung mit Flüssigkeit). Follow up 3 Wochen; 6 Monate	Refluxelimination (3Wo) Schaum 84% Fl. Sklerosans 40%, Rekanalisationen (6Mo) Schaum 4,5% Fl. Sklerosans 14%	
Sklerosierung nach Schweregrad und gegen Plazebo			
Barett 2004 (RCT)	Schaumsklerosierung bei Venendurchmesser <=10mm versus >10mm	Fehlerhafter Verschluss und Venendurchschnitt korrelieren	
Kahle et al. 2004 (RCT)	Aethoxysklerol (n=14) versus Plazebo (Salzlösungsinjektionen; n=11), 12 Wochen follow up;	Komplettverschluss Aethoxysklerol 76,8%; Der veno-arterielle Flow-Index sank von 1,5 auf 0,98; Plazebogruppe: Flow-Index stabil hoch.	
Langzeitvergleich sämtlicher Therapieverfahren der Varikosis			
Belcaro et al. 2003 (RCT)	verglichen 6 Therapieoptionen prospektiv über zehn Jahre A: Sclerotherapy; B: High-dose sclerotherapy; C: Multiple ligations; D: Stab avulsion; E: Foam-sclerotherapy; F: Surgery (ligation) followed by ambulatory venous pressure (AVP), refilling time (RT), presence of duplex-reflux, und number of recurrent or new incompetent venous sites.	Auftreten neuer Varizen (nach 5 Jahren) variierte zwischen 34% für Gruppe F (Ligation + Sklero) und Ligation (C), 44% für die Schaumsklerosierungsgruppe (E) und 48% für Gruppe A (1 Dosis Sklerosierung). Auftreten neuer Varizen (nach 10 Jahren) variierte zwischen 37% in Gruppe F und 56% in Gruppe A. Rückgang des AVP und der Anstieg der RT generell vergleichbar in allen Gruppen. Anzahl neuer Varizen nach 10 Jahren in allen Gruppen vergleichbar.	
Unterschiedliche Vergleiche			
Tisi 2006 (Cochrane)	Wahl des Sklerosants, Dosis, lokale Kompression	Sklerotherapie ist limitiert auf primäre Varizen und den Einsatz nach Varizen OP	
HTA LBI 2004	Sklerotherapie als first-line oder seconde-line Therapie	Sklerotherapie ist als first-line Therapie umstritten, als second-line Therapie zeigt sie gute Resultate; Komplikationen sind Allergien, Ulcusbildung; die Sklerotherapie hat eine 50%ige Erfolgsrate	
Lübke 2008 (systematic Review)	Radiofrequenzablation (RFA), endovenöse Laserobliteration (EVLA), Schaumsklerosierung	EVLA und Sklerotherapie sind gleich wirksam, RFA weniger; Sklerotherapie hat die höchste Wiederkehrtrate	
Labas et al. 2003 (RCT)	Kurz- und Langzeitergebnisse zwischen Sigg's Technik mit Aethoxysklerol, Fegan's Technik mit Fibrovein und Kombination beider Sklerosants. Follow up 6 Monate	mittlere Heilungsrate nach 6 Monaten 67,47% für Sigg, 83,6% für Fegan nach 5 Jahren 60,3% (Sigg) 78,54% (Fegan) Die Technik und nicht die Methode der Schaumsklerosierung bestimmt den Erfolg.	

Evidenz: Peer Review: Dr. Schiller-Frühwirth, Dr. Endel

Systematische Übersichtsarbeiten: Rigby 2004(Cochrane), Tisi 2003 (Cochrane), LBI-HTA Bericht 2004, Lübke 2008, Jia 2007

Vergleichsstudien: Labas 2003, Belcaro 2003, Kahle 2004, Baret 2004, Hamel-Desnos 2003, Gueax 2005, Rao 2005, Rabe 2008, de Roos 2003, Miazaki 2005, Michaels 2006

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4 Definitionen¹

Krampfadern (von althochdeutsch *krimpfan* "krümmen", lateinisch *varix*, Plural **Varices**) sind knotig-erweiterte (oberflächliche) Venen. Die Krankheit beim Vorliegen von Varizen heißt in der Fachsprache **Varikose** oder auch *Varikosis*.

Betroffen sind die oberflächlichen Venen der Beine inklusive deren Hauptstämmen, der Vena saphena magna und Vena saphena parva.

4.1.1 Je nach Entstehung unterteilt man folgende Krankheitsbilder:

- Primäre (idiopathische) Varikosis, verursacht durch die Gravitation (Erdschwerkraft) und durch genetische Disposition für eine Venenwandschwäche
- Sekundäre Varikosis infolge anderer Venenerkrankungen wie z. B. der tiefen Beinvenenthrombose, mit Entstehung eines Umgehungskreislaufs über das oberflächliche Venensystem

4.1.2 Symptome:

- Spannungs- oder Schweregefühl in den Beinen
- Juckreiz der Haut
- nächtliche Wadenkrämpfe
- verdickte Venen in typischer geschlängelter und verästelter Form
- Ödeme
- Pigmentveränderungen
- Seltener: Auftreten von Pilzerkrankungen der Haut oder der Zehennägel
- Schmerzen

4.1.3 Unterschiedliche Formen:

- Stammvarikose: Funktionsstörung der großen und der kleinen oberflächlichen Stammvene (Vena saphena magna, Vena saphena parva)
- Seitenastvarikose: funktionsgestörte Seitenäste der großen Stammvenen
- Perforansvarikose: funktionsgestörte Verbindungsvenen zwischen dem oberflächlichen und tiefen Venensystem
- Retikuläre Varikose: funktionsgestörte kleine Venen unmittelbar unter der Haut (1 - 3 mm Durchmesser)
- Besenreiser Varikose: funktionsgestörte kleinste Venen in der Haut

4.1.4 Komplikationen:

- Beinschwellung, Schweregefühl, Juckreiz oder nächtlichen Wadenkrämpfen
- Vernarbung von Haut, Subkutis und Faszie
- Ablagerung von Hämosiderin im Rahmen einer Stauungsdermatitis (Stauungsekzem)
- Entzündung der oberflächlichen Venen (Thrombophlebitis) bis hin zum Ulcus cruris varicosum („offenes Bein“)
- Gefahr einer Thrombose mit konsekutiver Lungenembolie
- lebensbedrohliche Varizenblutung nach Bagatellverletzung

4.1.5 Diagnostikverfahren

- Photoplethysmographie (PPG) und Lichtreflexionsrheographie (LRR)
- Venenverschlussplethysmographie (VVP)
- Phlebodynamometrie (PD)

4.1.6 Therapieverfahren:

Hauptvoraussetzung der chirurgischen Sanierung der Varikose ist die nachgewiesene Durchgängigkeit und Funktionalität des tiefen Venensystems.

- minimal invasive operative Verfahren, wobei zwischen Methoden der Unterbindung, der Entfernung und der Sklerosierung (Verklebung) von Venen unterschieden werden kann
- operative Therapien wie „Stripping“ – das „Ziehen“ der Krampfadern - inklusive Crossektomie. Die betroffenen Venen werden dabei operativ entfernt. Beim Kryostripping erfolgt die Entfernung mit Hilfe einer Kältesonde.
- endovenöse Lasertherapie, der endovenöse Radiofrequenztherapie, Sklerotherapie: es wird die Innenauskleidung der betroffenen Venen (Endothel) thermisch oder chemisch zerstört, so dass der Blutstrom unterbunden ist. Die Venen selbst werden nicht entfernt.
- CHIVA-Methode (wenig verbreitet) - Venen werden gezielt an einzelnen Stellen abgebunden, so dass die für die Krampfadern verantwortlichen krankhaften Rückflüsse vermieden werden.
- idealerweise werden in spezialisierten Einrichtungen mehrere der oben angeführten Verfahren angeboten, um dem Patienten eine möglichst auf seine Form der Varikose zugeschnittene ideale Therapie zukommen zu lassen, denn nicht jedes Verfahren kann bei jedem Patienten in gleicher Weise angewendet werden.

5 Suchstrategie

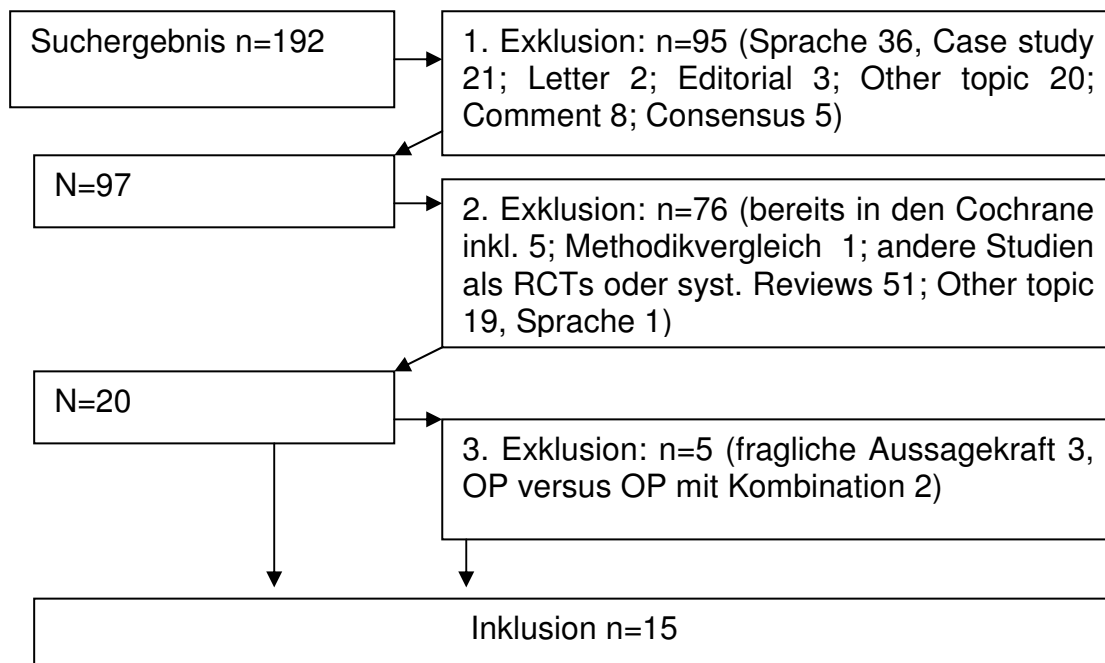
Der erste Suchteil erfolgte in der Cochrane Database for Systematic Reviews, sowie in den Berichten des Ludwig Boltzmann Instituts für HTA in Wien. Aufgrund der in diese Reviews inkludierten Studien bis 2002, wurde die Suche im Pubmed nach neueren Studien zum Thema erst ab 2002 begrenzt.

Suchstrategie im Pubmed

Search	Most Recent Queries	Time	Result
#6	Search (#2) AND (#4) Limits: Entrez Date from 2002/10/01 to 2008/10/13, Humans	04:38:48	192
#5	Search (#2) AND (#4)	04:37:53	481
#4	Search „ Sclerotherapy “ [Mesh]	04:37:13	3285
#2	Search „ Varicose Veins “ [Mesh]	04:36:34	12694

13.10.2008 10.00 h

Flow Chart der Inklusion/ Exklusion:



Listung der Studien zur Exklusion:

1. Exklusion

TITEL	AUTOR	LA	PMID	SOURCE	Exklusionsgrund
Ask the doctors. I have prominent varicose veins on both	Francis GS ; Bhatt DL	eng	12625273	Heart Advis. 2003 Feb;60	Case Reports
Balloon sclerotherapy: a new method for the treatment of	Leu AJ ; Inderbitzi R	eng	18622967	Vasa. 2008 May;37(2):16	Case Reports
Ectopic varices leading to occult haemorrhage in portal hy	Andrabi SI ; Ahmad J ; Clements WB	eng	18551155	N Z Med J. 2008 Jun 6;132	Case Reports
Endovenous laser closure of the perforating vein of the leg	Uchino IJ	eng	18268855	Phlebology. 2007;22(2):8	Case Reports
Complete eradication of duodenal varices after endoscopic	Seo YS ; Kwon YD ; Park S ; Keum B ; Park BJ ; Ki	eng	18206152	Gastrointest Endosc. 2008	Case Reports
Anaphylactoid reaction after the use of sodium tetradecyl	Brzoza Z ; Kasperska-Zajac A ; Rogala E ; Rogala B	eng	18024951	Angiology. 2007 Oct-Nov	Case Reports
Stomal varices: a rare cause of stomal hemorrhage. A repor	Kabeer MA ; Jackson L ; Widdison AL ; Maskell G	eng	17726209	Ostomy Wound Manage. 2007	Case Reports
Inadvertent arterial injury secondary to treatment of venous	Nitecki SS ; Bass A	eng	17382056	Vascular. 2007 Jan-Feb;1	Case Reports
A patient with diabetes mellitus and recurrent peristomal b	van der Wouden EJ ; Westerveld BD	eng	16990697	Neth J Med. 2006 Sep;64	Case Reports
Successful treatment of giant rectal varices by modified pe	Okazaki H ; Higuchi K ; Shiba M ; Nakamura S ; W	eng	16981280	World J Gastroenterol. 20	Case Reports
Laparoscopic sclerotherapy in a case of pelvic congestion s	Ghosh A ; Shafe-Pour H ; Ayers KJ	eng	16637903	BJOG. 2006 May;113(5):	Case Reports
Stroke after varicose vein foam injection sclerotherapy.	Fortlee MV ; Grouden M ; Moore DJ ; Shanik G	eng	16414404	J Vasc Surg. 2006 Jan;43	Case Reports
Portal hypertensive hemorrhage from a left gastroepiploic v	Sze DY ; Magsamen KE ; McClenathan JH ; Keefe	eng	15713931	J Vasc Interv Radiol. 200	Case Reports
Stroke following variceal sclerotherapy.	Hanisch F ; Muller T ; Krivokuca M ; Winterholler N	eng	15257884	Eur J Med Res. 2004 May	Case Reports
(Nicotian) livedoid dermatitis after sclerotherapy of varicose	Trinh-Khac JP ; Roux A ; Djandji A ; Aractingi S	fre	15235539	Ann Dermatol Venerol. 200	Case Reports
Perforans varicosis: treatment of the incompetent perforatin	van Neer PA	eng	15099319	Dermatol Surg. 2004 May	Case Reports
(Sclerotherapy of female varicocele)	Pisco JM ; Alpendre J ; Santos DD ; Branco J ; Jorge	por	12828000	Acta Med Port. 2003 Jan	Case Reports
Bleeding duodenal varices after gastroesophageal varices li	Wu WC ; Wang LY ; Yu FJ ; Wang WM ; Chen SC	eng	12513021	Kaohsiung J Med Sci. 200	Case Reports
Trichophytia and hypertrichosis: a side effect of foam scler	Kalodiki E ; Azzam M ; Geroulakos G	eng	17145449	J Vasc Surg. 2006 Dec;44	Case Reports
Localized reitform purpura after accidental intra-arterial in	Yebenes M ; Glaberte M ; Toll A ; Barranco C ; Pu	eng	16191871	Acta Derm Venereol. 200	Case Reports
Endoscopic injection sclerotherapy with N-butyl-2-cyanoac	Ryu SH ; Moon JS ; Kim I ; Kim YS ; Lee JH	eng	16185988	Gastrointest Endosc. 200	Case Reports
Commentary on "Sclerotherapy: a truly minimally invasive	Johnson C	eng	18388006	Perspect Vasc Surg Endov	Comment
Commentary on "Office-based treatment of venous disease"	Dalsing M	eng	17351196	Perspect Vasc Surg Endov	Comment
Varicose veins: more than simply an esthetic problem.	Markel A	eng	17348484	Isr Med Assoc J. 2007 Feb	Comment
More on microembolism and foam sclerotherapy.	Rush JE ; Wright DD	eng	18687653	N Engl J Med. 2008 Aug	Comment
(Echo-guided compression sclerotherapy using foam: an in	van den Broek TA ; Vos GA	dut	17205638	Ned Tijdschr Geneesk. 2	Comment
Regarding "Stroke after varicose vein foam injection sclero	Eckmann DM ; Kobayashi S	eng	16828455	J Vasc Surg. 2006 Jul;44	Comment
Regarding "Stroke after varicose vein foam injection sclero	Morrison N ; Cavezzi A ; Bergan J ; Partsch H	eng	16828453	J Vasc Surg. 2006 Jul;44	Comment
Invited Commentary re: Comparison of 1% and 3% Polidoc	Cavezzi A	eng	17888692	Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg	Comment
Duplex ultrasound and efficacy criteria in foam sclerothera	Breu FX ; Guggenbichler S ; Wollmann JC	eng	18512547	Vasa. 2008 Feb;37(1):90	Consensus Development
2nd European Consensus Meeting on Foam Sclerotherapy.	Breu FX ; Guggenbichler S ; Wollmann JC	eng	18426039	Vasa. 2008 Feb;37 Suppl	Consensus Development
Management of chronic venous disorders of the lower limb	Nicolaidis AN ; Allegra C ; Bergan J ; Bradbury A ;	eng	18277340	Int Angiol. 2008 Feb;27(1)	Consensus Development
Development of a research agenda for endovenous treatme	Vedantham S ; Rundback JH ; Khilnani NM ; Gloci	eng	16371520	J Vasc Interv Radiol. 200	Consensus Development
European Consensus Meeting on Foam Sclerotherapy, Apr	Breu FX ; Guggenbichler S	eng	15099312	Dermatol Surg. 2004 May	Consensus Development
Diagnosis and management of venous ulcers.	Carr SC	eng	18388013	Perspect Vasc Surg Endov	Diagnosis and management of venous ulcers.
Varicose veins: highlighting the confusion over how and w	Gohel MS ; Davies AH	eng	18485761	Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg	Editorial
Endovenous ablation of varicose veins: medicolegal claim	Scurr JR ; Scurr JH	eng	18268859	Phlebology. 2007;22(3):9	Editorial
Venous therapy in 2008.	Gloviczki P	eng	18212682	J Cardiovasc Surg (Torin	Editorial
(State of the greater saphenous vein following intraoperati	Konstantinova GD ; Gavrilenko AV ; Donskaia ED ;	rus	18382402	Angiol Sosud Khir. 2007;	language
(Assessing efficacy of combined use of endovascular laser	Guzhkov ON	rus	18382401	Angiol Sosud Khir. 2007;	language
(A differentiated approach to management of small-pelvis v	Neimark AI ; Karpenko AA ; Shelkovich NV ; Ti	rus	18382398	Angiol Sosud Khir. 2007;	language
(Endovenous treatment modalities for great saphenous vein	Baekgaard N ; Broholm R ; Jensen LP	dan	18208682	Ugeskr Laeger. 2007 Dec	language
(The use of echo-foam-sclerotherapy for pathological refu	Belentsov SM	rus	18004260	Angiol Sosud Khir. 2007;	language
(Treatment of varicose veins and telangiectasias)	Noel B	fre	17552271	Rev Med Suisse. 2007 Mar	language
(Treatment of extra-esophageal variceal bleeding with cyan	Pecsi G ; Karasz T ; Racz I	hun	17350922	Orv Hetil. 2007 Mar 18;1	language
(Injection sclerotherapy for varicosities of the lower limb: 2	Bihari I	hun	17344119	Orv Hetil. 2007 Jan 14;14	language
(Foam echosclerotherapy by puncture-direct injection: tech	Hamel-Desnos C ; Guias B ; Jousse S ; Desnos P ; B	fre	17088786	J Mal Vasc. 2006 Sep;31	language
(Chronic venous insufficiency. Varicose veins)	Becker F	fre	17002076	Rev Prat. 2006 Sep 15;56	language
(Echo-guided compression sclerotherapy using foam: an in	Kockaert MA ; de Roos KP ; Neumann HA	dut	16948234	Ned Tijdschr Geneesk. 2	language
(Classical surgery versus 3-S saphenotomy in the treatme	Arenas-Ricart J ; Selles-Dechent R ; Ballester-Ibanez	spa	16769002	Cir Esp. 2006 Jun;79(6):3	language
(Hemorrhagic shock due to rupture of duodenal varices)	Akasaka O ; Iwase S ; Kaneko T ; Nakanishi M ; Anal	jpn	16734259	Nippon Shokakubyo Gakk	language
(Contra indications of sclerotherapy, update 2005)	Guex JJ	fre	16142178	J Mal Vasc. 2005 Jul;30	language
(Sclerotherapy of high venovenous blood reflux in patients	Sukovatykh BS ; Belikov LN ; Rodionov OA ; She	rus	16044118	Khirurgia (Mosk). 2005;	language
(The treatment of lower limb varicosity under outpatient co	Zatonskikh Bla ; Banas NB	rus	16037815	Angiol Sosud Khir. 2005;	language
(Catheter balloon sclerotherapy as a new modality of scl	Askerkhanov GR ; Kazakmurzaev MA ; Adil'khanov	rus	16034328	Angiol Sosud Khir. 2005;	language
(How I treat...varicosities by sclerotherapy)	Mostinckx S ; Dezfoulian B ; Richert B ; de la Brass	fre	15819368	Rev Med Liege. 2005 Feb	language
(Strategy of treatment for bleeding of portal genesis)	Andreev G ; Turmakhonov ST ; Liubinskii VL ; Kad	rus	15757314	Vestn Khir Im I I Grek. 2	language
(The principles of action and use of phlebotropic agents)	Kharkevich DA	rus	15656390	Klin Med (Mosk). 2004;8	language
(Optimization of the injection-sclerosing therapy of varicos	Sukovatykh BS ; Belikov LN ; Sheherbakov AN ; Za	rus	15626070	Vestn Khir Im I I Grek. 2	language
(Pulmonary thromboembolism after sclerotherapy of a vari	Abad C ; Antunez M ; Cabrero A	spa	15373736	An Med Interna. 2004 Au	language
(Sclerotherapy of small pelvis varicosis)	Sukovatykh BS ; Belikov LN ; Rodionov OA ; Rodi	rus	15163996	Angiol Sosud Khir. 2004;	language
(Comparison of variceal surgery methods)	Gavrilenko AV ; Vakhrat'ian PE ; Shtatov VA ; Gor	rus	15163994	Angiol Sosud Khir. 2004;	language
(Percutaneous sclerotherapy for the treatment of soft-tissu	Blum L ; Gallas S ; Cottier JP ; Sonier Vimikoff CB ;	fre	15094624	J Radiol. 2004 Feb;85(2)	language
(Venotropic (phlebotropic) agents)	Kharkevich DA	rus	15079914	Eksp Klin Farmakol. 2004	language
(Complex treatment of varicosity of the lower extremities)	Shul'tko AM ; Krylov Alu ; Nagovitsyn ES ; Osman	rus	12645199	Khirurgia (Mosk). 2003;	language
(Formation of compressive bandage after sclerotherapy for	Zatonskikh Bla ; Banas NB	rus	14657915	Angiol Sosud Khir. 2003;	language
(Phleboscclerosing treatment of lower extremity varicosity u	Bogachev Vlu ; Zolotukhin IA ; Briushkov Alu ; Zh	rus	12811379	Angiol Sosud Khir. 2003;	language
(Diagnosis and treatment of postoperative recurrences of ve	Ignat'ev IM ; Bredikhin RA ; Safullina LI ; Obukho	rus	12811378	Angiol Sosud Khir. 2003;	language
(The 14th World Congress of Venous Surgeons: a scientific	Stoiko IuM ; Shaidakov EV ; Gavrilov EK	rus	12765154	Vestn Khir Im I I Grek. 2	language
(Sclerotherapy of varicose veins of the leg)	Defouilloy I ; Lok C	fre	12746680	Ann Dermatol Venerol. 2	language
(Correction of venous hypertension in venous dysplasias)	Vercellio G ; Baraldini V ; Cipolat L ; Coletti M	ita	12629485	Minerva Cardioangiol. 20	language
(Importance of the CEAP classification)	Borsetto M	ita	12629482	Minerva Cardioangiol. 20	language
(Favorable results with duplex-guided compression sclero	Bullens-Goessens YI ; Heij JF ; Veraart JC	dut	12577772	Ned Tijdschr Geneesk. 2	language
(Endoscopic sclerotherapy and ligation of varicose veins of	Borisov AE ; Kashchenko VA ; Vasiukova EL ; Ras	rus	12389499	Khirurgia (Mosk). 2002;	language
Microembolism during foam sclerotherapy of varicose vein	Ceulen RP ; Sommer A ; Vermoooy K	dut	18385510	N Engl J Med. 2008 Apr	Letter
A convenient source of carbon dioxide for sclerosant foams	Parsi K ; Exner T ; Connor DE ; Joseph JE ; Fung DJ	eng	17199670	Dermatol Surg. 2006 Dec	Letter
Microthrombectomy reduces postsclerotherapy pigmentati	Scultetus AH ; Villavicencio JL ; Kao TC ; Gillespie	eng	14603191	J Vasc Surg. 2003 Nov;38	not the aim
Percutaneous treatment of pelvic congestion syndrome.	Pieri S ; Agresti P ; Morucci M ; de' Medici L	eng ; ita	12700549	Radiol Med (Torino). 200	not the aim
Posteroateral thigh perforator varicosities in 12 patients: a	van Neer P ; Veraart JC ; Neumann H	eng	17083586	Dermatol Surg. 2006 Nov	not the aim
Prophylaxis of first variceal bleeding.	Nevens F	eng	15149087	Acta Gastroenterol Belg.	not the aim
The effect of endovenous laser ablation on restless legs syn	Hayes CA ; Kingsley JR ; Hamby KR ; Carlow J	eng	18467618	Phlebology. 2008;23(3):1	not the aim
Sciatic nerve varices.	Ricci S ; Georgiev M ; Jawien A ; Zamboni P	eng	15570277	Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg	not the aim
The pelvic venous syndromes: analysis of our experience w	Scultetus AH ; Villavicencio JL ; Gillespie DL ; Kao	eng	12422096	J Vasc Surg. 2002 Nov;36	not the aim
The use of a 5-microm filter hub increases foam stability w	Shirazi AR ; Goldman M	eng	18053041	Dermatol Surg. 2008 Jan	not the aim
Vein imaging: a new method of near infrared imaging, whe	Miyake RK ; Zeman HD ; Duarte FH ; Kikuchi R ; R	eng	16918565	Dermatol Surg. 2006 Aug	not the aim
Venous leg ulcer treatment and practices -Part 4: Surgery an	Rajendran S ; Ripby AJ ; Anand SC	eng	17444380	J Wound Care. 2007 Apr	not the aim
Venous ulcers: pathophysiology and treatment options.	Trent JT ; Falabella A ; Eaglstein WH ; Kirsner RS	eng	16014984	Ostomy Wound Manage. 200	not the aim
What you need to know about ... varicose veins.		eng	12501524	Nurs Times. 2002 Nov 26	not the aim
Urgent situations in phlebology-variceal bleeding and it's	Labas P ; Cambal M ; Ohradka B	eng	16457046	Bratisl Lek Listy. 2005;11	not the aim
Ultrasound-guided foam sclerotherapy in patients with Kii	Nitecki S ; Bass A	eng	17348474	Isr Med Assoc J. 2007 Feb	not the aim
Bleeding stomal varices: case series and systematic review	Spier BJ ; Fayyad AA ; Lucey MR ; Johnson EA ; W	eng	18328439	Clin Gastroenterol Hepato	not the aim
Rapid healing of chronic venous ulcers following ultrasound	Hertzman PA ; Owens R	eng	18265552	Phlebology. 2007;22(1):3	not the aim
Epidemiological and phylogenetic evidence for patient-to-	de Ledinghen V ; Trimoulet P ; Cazajous G ; Bernar	eng	15834864	J Med Virol. 2005 Jun;76	not the aim
Endovascular radiofrequency ablation: a novel treatment of	Frasier K ; Giangola G ; Rosen R ; Gnat DT	eng	18514850	J Vasc Surg. 2008 Jun;47	not the aim
Laser ablation of unwanted hand veins.	Shamma AR ; Guy RJ	eng	18090768	Plast Reconstr Surg. 2007	not the aim

2. Exklusion

TI	AU	PMID	SO	Exklusionsgrund
Randomized clinical trial comparing sclerotherapy with laser treatment for varicose veins	Dissehoff BC ; der Kinderen DJ ; Kelder JC ; Moll FL	18763255	Br J Surg. 2008 Oct;95(10):1232-8.	EVLA and cryostripping
A review of current treatment options for varicose veins	Badri H ; Bhattacharya V	18537763	Recent Patents Cardiovasc Drug Discov. 2008 Jun;2(2):101-10.	no sclero
Current management of varicose veins	Sadat U ; Gaunt M	18444346	Br J Hosp Med (Lond). 2008 Apr;69(4):214-7.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Endovenous laser ablation of varicose veins: a meta-analysis	Thevacumar NS ; Dellagrammaticas D ; Mavor AI ; Gough MJ	18440756	J Vasc Surg. 2008 Jul;48(1):173-8. Epub 2008 Jun 11.	Endovenous laser ablation
Sclerotherapy: a truly minimally invasive procedure	Bergan J	18403470	Perspect Vasc Surg Endovasc Ther. 2008 Mar;20(3):151-6.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Mid term results of ultrasound-guided foam sclerotherapy for varicose veins	O'Hare JL ; Parkin D ; Vandenbroeck CP ; Earnshaw WJ	18313336	Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg. 2008 Jul;36(1):109-13.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Catheter-directed foam sclerotherapy for varicose veins	Kolbel T ; Hinchcliffe RJ ; Lindblad B	18269073	Phlebology. 2007;22(5):219-22.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Options in the management of varicose veins	Hirsch SA ; Dillavou E	18212684	J Cardiovasc Surg (Torino). 2008 Feb;49(1):19-22.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Foam sclerotherapy for the treatment of varicose veins	Bergan J ; Cheng V	17976326	Vascular. 2007 Sep-Oct;15(5):269-72.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Pathogenesis of varicose veins	Naoum JJ ; Hunter GC	17976322	Vascular. 2007 Sep-Oct;15(5):242-9.	Pathogenesis of varicose veins
Sclerotherapy: introduction	Dietzek CL	17966153	Perspect Vasc Surg Endovasc Ther. 2007 Sep;19(3):151-6.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Single-center experience with sclerotherapy for varicose veins	Uurto I ; Hannukainen J ; Aarnio P	17958585	Dermatol Surg. 2007 Nov;33(11):1334-9; discussion 1335.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Foam sclerotherapy for the treatment of varicose veins	Gibson KD ; Ferris BL ; Pepper D	17936487	Surg Clin North Am. 2007 Oct;87(5):1285-95.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Comparison of 1% and 3% polidocanol for the treatment of varicose veins	Hamel-Desnos C ; Ouvre P ; Benigni JP ; Boitelle G ; Godeau P	17884623	Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg. 2007 Dec;34(6):723-6.	Comparison of 1% and 3% polidocanol
Foam sclerotherapy--a possible alternative to laser treatment	Kendler M ; Wetzig T ; Simon JC	17659037	J Dtsch Dermatol Ges. 2007 Aug;5(8):648-54.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Radiofrequency minimally invasive treatment of varicose veins	Zan S ; Contessa L ; Varetto G ; Barra C ; Conforti R	17653021	Minerva Cardioangiol. 2007 Aug;55(4):443-58.	Radiofrequency endovascular treatment
Clinical and hemodynamical findings in varicose veins	Saarinne JP ; Heikkinen MA ; Rasku K ; Salenius JP	17653009	J Cardiovasc Surg (Torino). 2007 Aug;48(4):483-6.	Clinical and hemodynamical findings
Echo-sclerosis hemodynamic study of varicose veins	Bernardini E ; Piccioli R ; De Rango P ; Bisacci C ; Pagnanelli G	17512163	Ann Vasc Surg. 2007 Jul;21(4):535-43. Epub 2007 Jun 11.	Echo-sclerosis hemodynamic conservative
Profuse bleeding in patients with varicose veins	Labas P ; Cambal M	17353890	Int Angiol. 2007 Mar;26(1):64-6.	Profuse bleeding
Office-based treatment of varicose veins	McLafferty RB	17351195	Perspect Vasc Surg Endovasc Ther. 2006 Dec;18(4):211-6.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Complications of sclerotherapy	Munavalli GS ; Weiss RA	17349559	Semin Cutan Med Surg. 2007 Mar;26(1):22-8.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Treatment of incompetent perforating veins	Bush RG ; Hammond K	17349373	Ann Vasc Surg. 2007 Mar;21(2):245-8.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Adjuvantive proximal vein ligation for the treatment of varicose veins	Gragdman WS	17349355	Ann Vasc Surg. 2007 Mar;21(2):155-8.	endovenous obliteration
The treatment of varicose veins	Subramonia S ; Lees TA	17346396	Ann R Coll Surg Engl. 2007 Mar;89(2):96-100.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Comparison of recurrence rates after sclerotherapy and laser treatment	Hirai M ; Iwata H ; Sawazaki N	17323294	Vasa. 2007 Feb;36(1):23-7.	recurrence rate and hemodynamic effect
Advances in the treatment of varicose veins	Sadick NS	17249300	Adv Dermatol. 2006;22:139-56.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Initial experience in endovenous laser treatment of varicose veins	Thevacumar NS ; Beale RJ ; Mavor AI ; Gough MJ	17227716	Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg. 2007 May;33(5):614-8.	endovenous laser ablation (EVLA)
Foam sclerotherapy combined with laser treatment for varicose veins	Creton D ; Uhl JF	17224284	Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg. 2007 May;33(5):619-22.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Injection sclerotherapy for varicose veins	Tisi PV ; Beverley C ; Rees A	17054141	Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2006 Oct 18;(4):CD63.	Cochrane - already included
Outbreak of hepatitis C virus infection in patients with varicose veins	de Ledinghen V ; Trimoulet P ; Mannant PR ; Dumortier H	17030451	J Hepatol. 2007 Jan;46(1):19-25. Epub 2006 Dec 11.	other topic
Varicose veins.	Tisi P	16973012	Clin Evid. 2006 Jun;(15):286-94.	Cochrane - already included
Invasive therapeutic options for varicose veins	Hach-Wunderle V ; Hach W	16941404	Vasa. 2006 Aug;35(3):157-66.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Varicose veins and their management	Campbell B	16888305	BMJ. 2006 Aug 5;333(7562):287-92.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Combined endovenous laser treatment and sclerotherapy for varicose veins	Mekako A ; Hatfield J ; Bryce J ; Heng M ; Lee D ; Matheron R	16863696	Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg. 2006 Dec;32(6):723-6.	Combined endovenous laser therapy
The contemporary treatment of varicose veins	Nitecki S ; Kantarovskiy A ; Portnov I ; Bass A	16833171	Isr Med Assoc J. 2006 Jun;8(6):411-5.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Radiofrequency ablation and sclerotherapy for varicose veins	Almeida JJ ; Raines JC	16791452	Ann Vasc Surg. 2006 Jul;20(4):547-52.	Radiofrequency ablation and laser ablation
Effectiveness and safety of sclerotherapy for varicose veins	Kakkos SK ; Bountouroglou DG ; Azzam M ; Kalodiki E	16784324	J Endovasc Ther. 2006 Jun;13(3):357-64.	Radiofrequency ablation and laser ablation
Endovascular treatment of varicose veins	Stirling M ; Shoutell CK	16782517	Semin Vasc Surg. 2006 Jun;19(2):109-15.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Chronic venous disease treatment	Smith PC	16782367	Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg. 2006 Nov;32(5):573-6.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Ultrasound-guided foam sclerotherapy for varicose veins	Darke SG ; Baker SJ	16739097	Br J Surg. 2006 Aug;93(8):969-74.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Current management of varicose veins	Carr SC	16721119	Clin Obstet Gynecol. 2006 Jun;49(2):414-26.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Venous disorders: treatment options	Bergan J ; Pascarella L ; Mekenas L	16344941	J Cardiovasc Surg (Torino). 2006 Feb;47(1):9-12.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Microfoam sclerotherapy.	Redondo P ; Cabrera J	16387261	Semin Cutan Med Surg. 2005 Dec;24(4):175-8.	no RCT, no syst. Review
[Sclerotherapy for varicose veins]	Pannier F ; Rabe E	16362388	Hautarzt. 2006 Jan;57(1):19-20, 22-5.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Sclerotherapy of benign oral varicose veins	Johann AC ; Aguiar MC ; do Carmo MA ; Gomez RS	16243243	Oral Surg Oral Med Oral Pathol Oral Radiol Endod. 2005 Dec;102(6):723-6.	benign oral vascular lesion
Advances in the treatment of varicose veins	Sadick NS	16039425	Dermatol Clin. 2005 Jul;23(3):443-55, vi.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of varicose veins	Agus GB ; Allegra C ; Antignani PL ; Arpaia G ; Bianchi S	15997218	Int Angiol. 2005 Jun;24(2):107-68.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Treatment options for primary varicose veins	Beale RJ ; Gough MJ	15933989	Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg. 2005 Jul;30(1):83-9.	no RCT, no syst. Review
[Modern aspects of varicose veins]	Rass K	15887052	Hautarzt. 2005 May;56(5):448-56.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Varicose veins.	Tisi P	15865640	Clin Evid. 2004 Dec;(12):309-16.	Cochrane - already included
Varicose veins: newer, better treatments	Bartholomew JR ; King T ; Sahgal A ; Vidimos AT	15850243	Cleve Clin J Med. 2005 Apr;72(4):312-4, 319-20.	no RCT, no syst. Review
[Therapy of large varicose veins]	Stiefelhagen P	15832751	MMW Fortschr Med. 2005 Mar 31;147(13):4-6.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Saphenous ablation: sclerotherapy	Coleridge Smith P	15791549	Semin Vasc Surg. 2005 Mar;18(1):19-24.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Endovenous therapy--2005	Bergan JJ ; Rattner Z	15790197	Acta Chir Belg. 2005 Feb;105(1):12-5.	no RCT, no syst. Review
[Anti-aging. The pretty leg]	Steger H	15761695	Hautarzt. 2005 Apr;56(4):347-8, 350-2.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Stability of foam in sclerotherapy	Rao J ; Goldman MP	15720090	Dermatol Surg. 2005 Jan;31(1):19-22.	RCT - methods
Varicose veins.	Tisi P	15652005	Clin Evid. 2004 Jun;(11):300-6.	Cochrane - already included
Sodium tetradecyl sulfate for the treatment of varicose veins	Goldman MP	15606731	Dermatol Surg. 2004 Dec;30(12 Pt 1):1454-6.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Laser treatment of leg veins	Sadick NS	15550993	Skin Therapy Lett. 2004 Nov;9(9):6-9.	Laser treatment of leg veins.
Surgery versus sclerotherapy for varicose veins	Rigby KA ; Palfreyman SJ ; Beverley C ; Michaels JA	15495134	Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2004 Oct 18;(4):CD63.	Cochrane - already included
Sclerotherapy for varicose veins	Fitzgerald A ; Turner-Brown AD ; Roddel J ; Sheldis S	15315063	Adv Nurse Pract. 2004 Jul;12(7):65-8.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Guidelines for sclerotherapy	Rabe E ; Pannier-Fischer F ; Gerlach H ; Breu FX ; Godeau P	15099309	Dermatol Surg. 2004 May;30(5):687-93; discussion 689.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Varicose veins--an old dog and a new trick	Garner JP ; Gerrard DJ	15015794	J R Army Med Corps. 2003 Dec;149(4):248-54.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Microfoam ultrasound-guided sclerotherapy for varicose veins	Barrett JM ; Allen B ; Ockelford A ; Goldman MP	14692919	Dermatol Surg. 2004 Jan;30(1):6-12.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Treatment of varicose veins	Iwamoto S ; Ikeda M ; Kawasaki T ; Monden M	12704548	Ann Vasc Surg. 2003 May;17(3):290-5. Epub 2003 Apr 11.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Clinical inquiries. What treatment options are available for varicose veins?	Hagen MD ; Johnson ED ; Adelman A	12681095	J Fam Pract. 2003 Apr;52(4):329-31.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Sclerotherapy treatment of varicose veins	Zimmer SE	14614695	Tech Vasc Interv Radiol. 2003 Sep;6(3):116-20.	no RCT, no syst. Review
[Current status of sclerotherapy]	Schadeck M	14593464	Hautarzt. 2003 Nov;54(11):1065-72.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Varicose veins.		12967361	Clin Evid. 2003 Jun;(9):262-7.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Venae perforantes: a clinical entity	van Neer PA ; Veraart JC ; Neumann HA	12930336	Dermatol Surg. 2003 Sep;29(9):931-42; discussion 932.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Modern management of chronic venous disease	Bradbury AW	12925285	Asian J Surg. 2003 Jul;26(3):129-32.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Varicose veins. Treatment options	Zurat KM	12807052	Adv Nurse Pract. 2003 Jun;11(6):28-33; quiz 34.	no RCT, no syst. Review
The treatment of venous leg ulcers	Labas P ; Ohradka B ; Cambal M ; Martinicky D	12585364	Bratisl Lek Listy. 2002;103(11):442-6.	venous leg ulcers
Sclerotherapy of varicose veins	Kern P	12515979	Int Angiol. 2002 Jun;21(2 Suppl 1):40-5.	no RCT, no syst. Review
Lower-extremity varicosities	Min RJ ; Khilnani NM	12455132	Semin Roentgenol. 2002 Oct;37(4):354-60.	no RCT, no syst. Review
[Kneipp hydrotherapy, sclerotherapy]	Diehm C ; Diehm N	12380351	MMW Fortschr Med. 2002 Sep 5;144(35-36):21-4.	no RCT, no syst. Review

3. Exklusion

Exkludiert wegen fraglicher Aussagekraft			
Bountouroglou et al. 2006 (RCT)	OP versus Sklerotherapie (n=60)	Schaumsklerotherapie in Kombination mit LigationsOP hat besten Erfolg	Keine Aussage zum Vergleich
Abela 2008 (RCT)	Schaumsklerotherapie+LigationsOP versus Stripping OP versus InvaginationsOP (n=90; je 30), 2 Wochen follow up	Weniger Blutverlust für Methode 1 (Schaum+Ligation)	Kombination von OP in allen 3 Gruppen
O'Hare 2007 (RCT)	Befragung nach Anwendung und Wirksamkeit der Sklerotherapie bei Chirurgen	48% Rücklaufquote des Fragebogens; 25% davon wenden Sklerotherapie an (ohne schwere Komplikationen)	Anwendungsbefragung
Myers 2007	Ultraschall gezielte Sklerotherapie	Patientenzufriedenheit ok, wenn akzeptiert wird, dass mehr als 1 Behandlung notwendig ist	Keine Aussage hinsichtlich Therapieerfolg
Miyazaki et al. 2003 (RCT)	Stripping OP mit Varicektomie versus Stripping OP mit Schaumsklerosierung bei primärer Varikose (n=186; 220 Beine) hinsichtlich Recurrenz-freier Rate	Rekurrenz freie Rate nach einem Jahr 97% und 91,4%, nach drei Jahren 93,5% und 88,6% ohne statistische Signifikanz.	Stripping OP in beiden Gruppen

6 Ergebnisse

6.1 Cochrane Reviews

In der Cochrane Database for Systematic Reviews wurden zu dem Suchbegriff *Sclerotherapy AND varicose veins* zwei Ergebnisse gefunden, die im Folgenden kurz zitiert werden.

Rigby et al. 2004²

Background

Varicose veins are a relatively common condition and account for around 54,000 in-patient hospital episodes per year. The two most common interventions for varicose veins are surgery and sclerotherapy. However, there is little comparative data regarding their effectiveness.

Objectives

To identify whether the use of surgery or sclerotherapy should be recommended for the management of primary varicose veins.

Authors' conclusions

There was insufficient evidence to preferentially recommend the use of sclerotherapy or surgery. There needs to be more research that specifically examines both costs and outcomes for surgery and sclerotherapy.

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

Sclerotherapy (injection of a substance into the vein) shows greater benefits than surgery in the short term but surgery has greater benefits in the longer term. Varicose veins are a relatively common problem. Two treatments available are surgery and sclerotherapy. Both involve removal of the vein either by stripping it out (surgery) or by injecting it with a solution that causes it to collapse and be absorbed into the surrounding tissues (sclerotherapy). Neither treatment adversely affects blood flow through the limb. This review found that sclerotherapy was better than surgery in terms of treatment success, complication rate and cost at one year, but surgery was better after five years. However, the evidence was not of very good quality and more research is needed.

Suche inkludiert bis 2002.

Tisi et al. 2006³

Background

Injection sclerotherapy is widely used for superficial varicose veins. The treatment aims to obliterate the lumen of varicose veins or thread veins. There is limited evidence regarding its efficacy.

Objectives

To determine whether sclerotherapy is effective in improving symptoms and cosmetic appearance and has an acceptable complication rate; to define rates of symptomatic or cosmetic varicose vein recurrence following sclerotherapy.

Authors' conclusions

Evidence from RCTs suggests that the choice of sclerosant, dose, formulation (foam versus liquid), local pressure dressing, degree and length of compression have no significant effect on the efficacy of sclerotherapy for varicose veins. The evidence supports the current place of sclerotherapy in modern clinical practice, which is usually limited to treatment of recurrent varicose veins following surgery and thread veins. Surgery versus sclerotherapy is the subject of a further Cochrane Review.

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

Injection sclerotherapy for varicose veins Varicose veins are enlarged, visibly lumpy knotted veins, usually in the legs. They can cause pain, burning discomfort, aching and itching as well as generalised aching, heaviness or swelling in the legs, cramps at night and restless leg syndrome. There is also little correlation between these symptoms and the extent or size of the varicose veins which, like minor venous abnormalities thread veins or venous flares, can be cosmetically unattractive. Wearing graduated compression stockings is one treatment option. Injection sclerotherapy can be used for superficial varicose veins, residual or recurring varicose veins following surgery and thread veins to obliterate the varicose vein. An irritant liquid such as sodium tetradecyl sulphate (STD) is injected into the faulty blood vessel. Pressure pad dressings at the injection site and compression bandages may then be applied, options including crepe bandaging, proprietary elastic bandaging or compression stockings. Bandaging can cause discomfort and foot swelling and may slip. Possible complications of sclerotherapy include formation of blood clots, skin staining, inflammation, ulcers and tissue damage and reactions to the sclerosing agent. Seventeen randomised controlled trials involving over 3,300 people were included in the review. One study comparing sclerotherapy to compression stockings in pregnancy found that sclerotherapy improved symptoms and cosmetic appearance. There was no overall benefit from using alternative agents to STD (four trials), or any evidence that a foam is superior to liquid (two trials). Adding local anaesthetic to the sclerosing agent did reduce the pain of injection in one study. Neither the type, nor duration of elastic compression (seven studies) or type of pressure pad (one study) after sclerotherapy had any clear effect on the

effectiveness of sclerotherapy, on varicose vein recurrence rates, cosmetic appearance or symptomatic improvement, or on complications. Many of the included studies took place in the 1980s and there is very limited evidence on which to assess the merits of sclerotherapy for treatment of varicose veins or comparing graduated compression stockings to sclerotherapy. There were no controlled trials comparing sclerotherapy for thread veins with either laser treatment or simple observation; hypertonic dextrose had similar efficacy in terms of sclerosis to STD in one study.

Suche bis Okt 2006

6.2 HTA Assessment aus Österreich

Im Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Health Technology Assessment existiert eine Recherche zu Sklerotherapie aus dem Jahr 2004.

LBI HTA⁴

Die Sklerotherapie wird seit den 60iger Jahren als Alternative oder Zusatz zur operativen Entfernung von Varizen eingesetzt. Über Ergebnisse der Varizenchirurgie sind bislang nur wenige Studien publiziert. Ein rezentes HTA aus Kanada (2004⁵) evaluierte Sklerotherapien bei Beinvarizen. Ergebnis: Die Standard-Sklerotherapie erscheint wirksam bei netzförmigen Krampfadern (sog. retikulären Varizen mit einem Durchmesser von 2-4 mm) und Besenreisern. Kurzzeitig potentiell sichere und effektive Verödungsmittel sind Polidocanol, Sodium Tetradecyl Sulfate und hypertonsche Salzlösungen. Ein Standard-Protokoll für deren Gebrauch besteht jedoch nicht. Sklerotherapie bleibt als 1st line Therapie bei verborgenen oder sichtbaren Stamm- und Seitenastvarizen umstritten. Nach Operationen, als 2nd line Therapie, bietet die Sklerotherapie durchaus gute Resultate, um restliche Varizen zu entfernen. Langfristig können Verödungsmittel allergische Reaktionen auslösen oder zur Ulcusbildung (Geschwüre) führen. Neue Methoden wie ultraschallassistierte Sklerotherapie, Schaumverödung oder Endosklerotherapie sollen die Sicherheit und Wirksamkeit der Standard Methode verbessern: innerhalb von 5 Jahren nach der Verödung treten etwa 50% der Varizen wieder auf. Es besteht im Allgemeinen keine eindeutige Evidenz für oder gegen den Einsatz einer Sklerotherapie bei symptomatischen Varizen, auch ist die Frage nach der geeignetsten Patientengruppe noch offen. Das Assessment zeigt auf, dass keine konsensualen Antworten bez. Indikationsstellung (eindeutige Definition von symptomatisch oder asymptomatisch), optimale Diagnostik und Behandlungsstrategien basierend auf dem Varizentyp vorliegen.

6.3 Andere systematische Reviews

Luebke et al 2008⁶

AIM: Radiofrequency obliteration (RFO), endovenous laser therapy (EVLT) and foam sclerotherapy (FS) are potential treatments for varicose veins. A systematic review was undertaken to assess their safety and effectiveness and to compare these endoluminal therapeutic options with conventional ligation and vein stripping. **METHODS:** An electronic health database search was performed on all studies published between 1970 and 2007 describing RFO, EVLT, and FS for treating varicose veins. **RESULTS:** Twenty-nine EVLT studies, 32 RFO studies and 22 FS trials were included. RFO was associated with the worst short and long-term safety and efficacy results compared to EVLT and FS regarding “complete occlusion at the end of follow-up”, “phlebitis”, “deep vein thrombosis”, and “paraesthesia”. EVLT had the best results concerning the long-term effectiveness parameters for “occlusion at the end of follow-up” and “recanalization, recurrence or development of new veins”, compared to RFO and FS. Foam sclerotherapy of varicose veins is associated with a higher recurrence rate in patients with saphenofemoral incompetence compared to the rates after EVLT or RFO treatment. **CONCLUSION:** EVLT, RFO, and FS seem to be safe and effective modalities with good short and mid-term **RESULTS:** Acquisition of comparative long-term and very long-term data on clinical efficacy (particularly with regard to the formation of recurrent varicose veins), safety, quality of life outcomes and costs is needed by large high-quality prospective randomized trials of endovenous techniques versus each other and versus surgery before considering endovenous techniques as the standard treatment.

Jia et al. 2007⁷

BACKGROUND AND METHOD: Foam sclerotherapy is a potential treatment for varicose veins. A systematic review was undertaken to assess its safety and efficacy. **RESULTS:** Sixty-nine studies were included. The median rates of serious adverse events, including pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis, were less than 1 per cent. The median rate of visual disturbance was 1.4 per cent, headache 4.2 per cent, thrombophlebitis 4.7 per cent, matting/skin staining/pigmentation 17.8 per cent and pain at the site of injection 25.6 per cent. The median rate of complete occlusion of treated veins was 87.0 per cent and for recurrence or development of new veins it was 8.1 per cent. Meta-analysis for complete occlusion suggests that foam sclerotherapy is less effective than surgery (relative risk (RR) 0.86 (95 per cent confidence interval (c.i.) 0.67 to 1.10)) but more effective than liquid sclerotherapy (RR 1.39 (95 per cent c.i. 0.91 to 2.11)), although there was substantial heterogeneity between studies. **CONCLUSION:** Serious adverse events associated with foam sclerotherapy are rare. There is insufficient evidence to allow a meaningful comparison of the effectiveness of this treatment with that of other minimally invasive therapies or surgery.

6.4 RCTs

Rabe et al. 2008⁸

AIM: To assess the safety and efficacy of sclerotherapy of the great saphenous vein (GSV) comparing standardised polidocanol foam to liquid polidocanol in a randomised controlled trial (RCT). **METHODS:** A multicentre randomised controlled clinical trial was carried out in which saphenous trunks were treated by sclerotherapy. 106 patients with primary varicose veins due to an incompetent GSV were treated with either standardised 3% polidocanol foam or 3% liquid polidocanol. The primary efficacy criterion was elimination of reflux (<0.5 sec) measured 3 cm below the sapheno-femoral junction (SFJ) by duplex ultrasonography 3 months after the last injection. **RESULTS:** A significantly greater number of patients were successfully treated by foam sclerotherapy resulting in 69% elimination of reflux compared to 27% patients treated with liquid sclerosant. The secondary endpoints of vein occlusion, reflux time, refilling time and patient satisfaction also improved significantly more in the foam group. The mean number of treatment sessions was 1.3 in the foam group compared to 1.6 in the liquid group. Differences between study centres occurred with a mean of 96% reflux elimination in 6 centres versus 39% in 4 other centres. Centres with a high response rate injected a higher mean volume (4.3 vs. 3.6 ml) in the first session in a vein with a smaller diameter (7.5 mm vs. 8.4 mm). No difference in adverse drug reactions was observed between treatment groups. **CONCLUSIONS:** Standardised 3% polidocanol foam is more efficient and equally safe compared to 3% liquid polidocanol for treatment of GSV. In comparison to other studies a relatively small volume was injected into relatively large veins.

Michaels et al. 2006⁹

OBJECTIVES: To establish the cost-effectiveness of surgery and sclerotherapy for the treatment of varicose veins. **DESIGN:** Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) were carried out for conservative treatment, sclerotherapy and surgery for varicose veins. An economic analysis was carried out alongside the randomised trial. Economic modelling was undertaken based on the primary data collection and a literature review (database searches undertaken in April 2000 and updated in March 2001). **SETTING:** Primary data collection was from a large district general hospital and a teaching hospital both in England over a 2-year period from January 1999. Cost-effectiveness analysis and economic modelling were carried out using an NHS perspective. **PARTICIPANTS:** A total of 1009 patients were recruited. **INTERVENTIONS:** Thirty-four patients were randomised in Group 1 (minor varicose veins with no reflux, randomised between conservative treatment and sclerotherapy), 77 in Group 2 (moderate varicose veins with reflux, randomised between surgery and sclerotherapy) and 246 in Group 3 (severe varicose veins with reflux, randomised between conservative treatment and surgery). The remaining 652 patients formed the observational part of the study. **MAIN OUTCOME MEASURES:** The cost-effectiveness analysis was based on NHS treatment costs for the 2002--3 financial year, and utilities based on the Short Form 6D (SF-6D) preference-based health

measure. For the clinical trial, the outcome measures were health-related quality of life (HRQoL) [Short Form with 36 Items (SF-36), EuroQol quality of life questionnaire (EQ-5D), visual analogue scale (VAS) and standard gamble], symptomatic relief, anatomical extent (for which a new classification was developed and validated), patient satisfaction and the incidence of complications. RESULTS: Of the RCTs, only the Group 3 trial was large enough to provide clear results. This showed that surgical treatment produced better results than conservative treatment in terms of HRQoL, symptomatic relief, anatomical extent and patient satisfaction. Clinical outcomes of surgery and sclerotherapy showed significant improvement in the extent of varicose veins, symptomatic and HRQoL parameters. Cost-effectiveness analysis based on the Group 3 trial showed that the surgery produced an estimated discounted benefit of 0.054 quality-adjusted life-year (QALY) over a 2-year period, with an additional discounted cost of pound 387.45, giving an incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER) of pound 7175 per QALY. Economic modelling suggested that surgery produced a still greater benefit when considered with a 10-year time horizon, with an ICER of pound 1936 per QALY. Injection sclerotherapy produced an incremental benefit of approximately 0.044 QALY at a cost of pound 155 when compared with conservative treatment, giving an ICER of pound 3500 per QALY. When surgery was compared with sclerotherapy, surgery produced greater benefit with a lower ICER (showing extended dominance). CONCLUSIONS: Standard surgical treatment of varicose veins by saphenofemoral ligation, stripping and multiple phlebectomies is a clinically effective and cost-effective treatment for varicose veins, with an ICER well below the threshold normally considered appropriate for the funding of treatments within the NHS. Injection sclerotherapy also appears to be cost-effective, but produces less overall benefit, with a higher ICER than surgery for patients with superficial venous reflux. In minor varicose veins without reflux, sclerotherapy is likely to provide a small average benefit with acceptable cost-effectiveness. Research is needed into methods for accurate and acceptable utility evaluations for conditions with relatively minor effect on HRQoL and also for a validated and standardised method of classification for varicose veins.

Miyazaki et al. 2005¹⁰

AIM: The purpose of this study was to determine the long-term recurrence rates of greater saphenous vein (GSV) insufficiency after treatments for primary varicose veins, and to elucidate risk factors for recurrence. METHODS: This was a multicenter retrospective analysis of 376 limbs of 296 patients treated for primary varicose veins due to GSV insufficiency from January 1996 to December 1997. The recurrence-free rates after stripping surgery, saphenofemoral ligation, and sclerotherapy were estimated. The risk factors for the recurrence of primary varicose veins were estimated by multiple regression analysis. RESULTS: The follow-up period was 3.1+/-1.3 (mean+/-SD) years. The recurrence-free rates at 4 years after stripping, saphenofemoral ligation and sclerotherapy were 80.7%, 64.5%, and 51.3%, respectively. The saphenofemoral ligation group and sclerotherapy group had significantly higher recurrence rates than the stripping group (P=0.002, P<0.001, respectively). There was no difference in recurrence rates between the

saphenofemoral ligation group and sclerotherapy group ($P=0.074$). Logistic regression analysis revealed that being female ($P<0.029$) and treatment without stripping ($P<0.001$) increased the recurrence rate. **CONCLUSIONS:** Stripping surgery may be the treatment of first choice for patients with varicose veins due to GSV insufficiency. Patients who have not received stripping surgery and female patients require closer follow-up.

Rao et al. 2005¹¹

BACKGROUND: Twenty subjects were treated with either polidocanol (POL) or sodium tetradecyl sulfate (STS) to compare the efficacy and adverse sequelae of each agent. **OBJECTIVE:** To determine the safety and efficacy of two widely used sclerosing agents. **METHODS:** After the exclusion of saphenofemoral junction incompetency, each subject's leg veins were categorized by size (< 1, 1-3, and 3-6 mm in diameter). Each leg was then randomized to be treated with 0.5%, 1%, or 1% foam of POL or 0.25%, 0.5%, or 0.5% foam of STS according to vein size. An independent panel of four physicians, blinded to treatment, performed randomized photographic evaluations obtained pretreatment and 12 weeks post-treatment. Subject satisfaction index and overall clinical improvement assessment were also obtained. **RESULTS:** An average 83% improvement was noted for all vein sizes in all subjects with both POL and STS after a single treatment. Subjects were satisfied with treatment, regardless of the sclerosing agent used or the vein size treated. There was no statistically significant difference in adverse effects between each group. **CONCLUSION:** Both POL and STS are safe and effective sclerosing agents in the treatment of varicose and telangiectatic leg veins. Both are very tolerable and demonstrate similar post-treatment sequelae.

Gueax et al. 2005¹²

BACKGROUND: Growing interest in sclerotherapy has emphasized the need for complete knowledge of all aspects of this method. **OBJECTIVE:** To precisely delineate the actual incidence of immediate and delayed untoward events of daily sclerotherapy. **METHODS:** A multicenter prospective registry was established in 22 phlebology clinics to report their activity and complications. **RESULTS:** During the study period, 12,173 sessions of sclerotherapy were carried out, 5,434 with liquid, 6,395 with foam, and 344 using both. Four thousand eighty-eight (33.9%) sessions were carried out with ultrasound guidance. Forty-nine incidents or accidents (0.4%) occurred, of which 12 were with liquid and 37 with foam. These were reported during the time of the study and an additional 1-month follow-up. Most numerous were 20 cases of visual disturbances (in 19 cases, foam or air block was used); all resolved shortly, without any after-effects. A femoral vein thrombosis was the only severe adverse event in this study. **CONCLUSIONS:** This study demonstrates that sclerotherapy is a safe technique.

Barrett et al. 2004¹³

OBJECTIVE: The objective was to analyze the effectiveness of foam ultrasound-

guided sclerotherapy treatment in saphenous veins and tributary veins with a diameter at the saphenofemoral or saphenopopliteal junction of $>$ or $=10$ mm and compare these results with a subgroup of veins with diameters of < 10 mm. METHODS: A subgroup of 17 saphenous veins with a diameter at the saphenofemoral or saphenopopliteal junction of $>$ or $=10$ mm were compared with a subgroup of 98 saphenous veins with a diameter of < 10 mm at the saphenofemoral or saphenopopliteal junction for clinical efficacy and patient satisfaction at a mean 2-year follow-up. RESULTS: A mean number of 2.15 treatments utilizing an average of 8.37 mL of foam sclerosing solution (3% sodium tetradecyl sulfate) were required to close all incompetent varicose veins in the < 10 -mm group versus a mean of 2.8 treatments and 13.9 mL foam (3% sodium tetradecyl sulfate) for the $>$ or $=10$ -mm group. A total of 27.5% of saphenous veins of < 10 mm and 37.5% of saphenous veins $>$ or $= 10$ mm required a second treatment at 3 months. One-hundred percent of patients believed that their legs were successfully treated at 2-year follow-up in both groups with 94% of the < 10 -mm group noting improvements in quality of life and 100% in the $>$ or $=10$ -mm group. CONCLUSIONS: Ultrasound-guided foam sclerotherapy is effective in treating all sizes of varicose veins with high patient satisfaction and improvement in quality of life. Duplex ultrasound findings demonstrated a small increase in failure to close the saphenofemoral or saphenopopliteal junction with increasing size of junction diameter, but this does not significantly alter the results with respect to clearance of visible varicosities and patient satisfaction with results.

Kahle et al. 2004¹⁴

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this study was to investigate the efficacy of sclerotherapy for varicose veins in a randomized blinded study. METHODS: Twenty-five patients with varicose veins (C(2-4), E(P), A(SP), P(R)) were included. Fourteen subjects received polidocanol (Aethoxysklerol) and 11 patients received normal saline injections. Compression was applied for 1 week. One, 4, and 12 weeks later controls were performed using duplex ultrasonography. The quotient of venous by arterial volume flow was used as quantitative hemodynamic pattern. Patients and the examiner were unaware of which liquid had been injected. RESULTS: In comparison to group 2, 76.8% of the veins treated with polidocanol were completely occluded ($p<0.0001$). In group 1 the venoarterial flow index decreased from 1.45 ± 0.66 to 1.06 ± 0.2 ($p=0.05$). In 11 occluded veins of 14 (group 1), the venoarterial flow index decreased from 1.5 ± 0.07 to 0.98 ± 0.12 ($p<0.05$), which is a level found in competent veins. In group 2, the venoarterial flow index remained stable increased. CONCLUSIONS: Injection sclerotherapy using polidocanol (Aethoxysklerol) is efficient to obliterate varicose veins and to improve venous hemodynamics.

Hamel-Desnos et al. 2003¹⁵

BACKGROUND: Foamed sclerosing agents have been used with enthusiasm by phlebologists for more than 5 decades. Any type of varicose veins can and has been treated with this technique. Numerous publications have stressed the advantages of foamed sclerosing agents on the basis of empiric and experimental criteria and have

described various individual techniques to prepare foams. Until now, however, no comparative study for the treatment of large varicose veins with foam or liquid exists. **OBJECTIVE:** The purpose of this first randomized, prospective, multicenter trial was to study the elimination of reflux, the rate of recanalization, and possible side effects of foam sclerotherapy (FS) compared with conventional liquid sclerotherapy for the greater saphenous vein (GSV). **METHODS:** Eighty-eight patients were randomized into two groups: One group was treated with sclerosing foam (45 patients) and the other with sclerosing liquid (43 cases). Sclerotherapy was performed with direct puncture of the vessel under duplex guidance. The reference sclerosing agent was polidocanol in a 3% solution. The foam was prepared using the Double Syringe System (DSS) method. Only one injection of 2.0 or 2.5 mL liquid or foam was allowed, depending on the diameter of the GSV. Results were assessed according to the protocol. **RESULTS:** Follow-up after 3 weeks showed 84% elimination of reflux in the GSV with DSS foam versus 40% with liquid sclerosant ($P < 0.01$). At 6 months, six recanalizations were found in the liquid group versus two in the foam group. After 1 year, no additional recanalization was observed with either foam or liquid. Longer term studies are underway. Side effects did not differ between both groups. **CONCLUSION:** The efficacy of sclerosing foam (DSS) compared with sclerosing liquid in therapy of the GSV is superior, a finding that had already gained empirical recognition but for which there has not been any clinical evidence to date.

Labas et al. 2003¹⁶

AIMS: To compare the short and long term results of different techniques of compression sclerotherapy. **PATIENTS AND METHODS:** In the past 10 years the authors treated 1622 pts due to chronic venous insufficiency. There were 3 groups of patients: 1) Pts treated by Sigg's technique using Aethoxysclerol, 2) Pts treated by Fegan's technique with Fibrovein, and 3) Pts treated by Fegan's procedure, but using a combination of both sclerosants. In all cases, the techniques of empty vein, bubble air, uninterrupted 6-week compression and forced mobilisation were used. **RESULTS:** In the group of pats. treated by Sigg's procedure, the average cure rate was 67.47% after 6 months, 60.3% after 5 years of follow-up. In Fegan's group this rate was 83.6% after 6 months and 78.54% after 5 year assessment. Statistically, significant differences were found only by the disappearance of varices and reduction of pain in favour of Fegan's technique. In the group of pts treated by Fegan's (Aethoxysclerol + Fibrovein) this rate after 5 years was 86%. The only statistically significant difference was found by the disappearance of varices in favour of Fegan's technique using a combination of 2 detergent sclerosants. **CONCLUSIONS:** Sclerotherapy is effective when properly executed in any length of vein no matter how dilated it has become. The recurrences are attributed more to inadequate technique than to the shortcoming of the procedure. Sclerotherapy is miniinvasive, with few complications, and can be repeated on out-patient basis. (Tab. 1, Ref. 22.).

Belcaro et al. 2003¹⁷

The study compared, by a prospective, randomized method, 6 treatment options: A: Sclerotherapy; B: High-dose sclerotherapy; C: Multiple ligations; D: Stab avulsion; E:

Foam-sclerotherapy; F: Surgery (ligation) followed by sclerotherapy. Results were analyzed 10 years after inclusion and initial treatment. Endpoints of the study were variations in ambulatory venous pressure (AVP), refilling time (RT), presence of duplex-reflux, and number of recurrent or new incompetent venous sites. The number of patients, limbs, and treated venous segments were comparable in the 6 treatment groups, also comparable for age and sex distribution. The occurrence of new varicose veins at 5 years varied from 34% for group F (surgery + sclero) and ligation (C) to 44% for the foam + sclero group (E) and 48% for group A (dose 1 sclero). At 10 years the occurrence of new veins varied from 37% in F to 56% in A. At inclusion AVP was comparable in the different groups. At 10 years the decrease in AVP and the increase in RT (indicating decrease in reflux), was generally comparable in the different groups. Also at 10 years the number of new points of major incompetence was comparable in all treatment groups. These results indicate that, when correctly performed, all treatments may be similarly effective. "Standard," low-dose sclerotherapy appears to be less effective than high-dose sclero and foam-sclerotherapy which may obtain, in selected subjects, results comparable to surgery.

De Roos et al. 2003 ¹⁸

BACKGROUND: Although no randomized controlled trial has assessed the effects of either compression sclerotherapy or ambulatory phlebectomy, both techniques are used to treat varicose veins worldwide. We performed a randomized controlled trial to compare recurrence rates of varicose veins and complications after compression sclerotherapy and ambulatory phlebectomy. **METHODS:** From September 1996 to October 1998, we randomly allocated 49 legs to compression sclerotherapy and 49 legs to ambulatory phlebectomy. Our primary outcome parameters were as follows: recurrence rates at 1 and 2 years and complications related to therapy. Eighty-two patients were included, of whom 16 were included with both of their legs. The number of treated legs was therefore 98, but two patients were lost to follow-up. **RESULTS:** One year recurrence amounted to 1 out of 48 for phlebectomy and 12 out of 48 for compression sclerotherapy ($P < 0.001$); at 2 years, six additional recurrences were found, but then solely for compression sclerotherapy ($P < 0.001$). Significant differences in complications occurring more in phlebectomy than in compression sclerotherapy therapy were blisters, teleangiectatic matting, scar formation, and bruising from bandaging. **CONCLUSION:** Our results show that ambulatory phlebectomy is an effective therapy for varicose veins of the leg. Recurrence rates are significantly lower than for compression sclerotherapy therapy. If varicose veins persist 4 weeks after compression sclerotherapy, it can be argued that to reduce the risk of future recurrence ambulatory phlebectomy should be considered as the better treatment option.

7 Zusammenfassung

Der Cochrane Review von Rigby et al (2004) berichtet insuffiziente Evidenz, um eine der beiden Therapieformen für primäre Varikosis der Beinvenen, *Sklerotherapie oder Operation (Stripping)*, vor der anderen empfehlen zu können. Sklerotherapie zeigt bessere Kurzzeitergebnisse, Operation bessere Langzeiteffekte. Generell sei die Evidenz von nicht sehr guter Qualität.

Der Cochrane Review von Tisi et al. (2006) interpretiert die Evidenz aus randomisierten kontrollierten Studien dahingehend, dass die Wahl des Sklerosans, die Dosis und die Art (Schaum oder Flüssigkeit), die lokale Kompressionsform, sowie Grad und Länge der Kompressionsbehandlung keinen signifikanten Effekt auf die Wirksamkeit der Sklerotherapie bei venösen Beinvarizen haben. Die Evidenz unterstützt den gegenwärtigen Platz der Sklerotherapie in der klinischen Anwendung, die üblicherweise limitiert ist auf die Behandlung der Krampfadern nach erfolgter Operation, und bei oberflächlichen Venen.

Laut HTA Bericht der Akademie der Wissenschaften (Wien, 2004; heute LBI-HTA, Anm.) erscheint die Standard-Sklerotherapie wirksam bei netzförmigen Krampfadern (sog. retikulären Varizen mit einem Durchmesser von 2-4 mm) und Besenreisern. Kurzzeitig potentiell sichere und effektive Verödungsmittel sind Polidocanol, Natrium Tetradecyl Sulfate und hypertonische Salzlösungen. Ein Standard-Protokoll für deren Gebrauch besteht jedoch nicht. Sklerotherapie bleibt als 1st line Therapie bei verborgenen oder sichtbaren Stamm- und Seitenastvarizen umstritten. Nach Operationen, als 2nd line Therapie, bietet die Sklerotherapie durchaus gute Resultate, um restliche Varizen zu entfernen. Langfristig können Verödungsmittel allergische Reaktionen auslösen oder zur Ulcusbildung (Geschwüre) führen. Neue Methoden wie Ultraschallassistierte Sklerotherapie, Schaumverödung oder Endosklerotherapie sollen die Sicherheit und Wirksamkeit der Standard Methode verbessern. Innerhalb von 5 Jahren nach der Verödung treten etwa 50% der Varizen wieder auf. Es besteht im Allgemeinen keine eindeutige Evidenz für oder gegen den Einsatz einer Sklerotherapie bei symptomatischen Varizen, auch ist die Frage nach der geeignetsten Patientengruppe noch offen. Das Assessment zeigt auf, dass keine konsensualen Antworten bez. Indikationsstellung (eindeutige Definition von symptomatisch oder asymptomatisch), optimale Diagnostik und Behandlungsstrategien basierend auf dem Varizentyp vorliegen.

Radiofrequenzablation (RFA) ist assoziiert mit den am wenigsten guten Ergebnissen zu Kurzzeit- und Langzeitsicherheit und –wirksamkeit verglichen mit endovenöser Laserobliteration (EVLT) und Schaumsklerotherapie (SSkl) hinsichtlich des Outcomes *kompletter Verschluss am Ende der Beobachtungszeit, Phlebitis, tiefe Beinvenenthrombose und Parästhesien*. Endovenöse Laserobliteration hatte die besten Ergebnisse hinsichtlich Langzeitwirksamkeit gemessen als *Verschluss am Ende der Beobachtungszeit und Rekanalisation, Wiederkehr oder Neuentwicklung der Vene*, verglichen mit Radiofrequenzablation und Schaumsklerosierung. Schaumsklerosierung der varikösen Venen ist assoziiert mit höherer Wiederkehrrate

bei Patienten mit saphenofemorale Insuffizienz im Vergleich zu den Raten nach Radiofrequenzablation und endovenöser Laserobliteration. Die Follow-up Zeiten waren für die EVLT zwischen 1 Monat und 12 Jahren (29 inkludierte Studien), für die RFA 6 Wochen bis 60 Monate (32 inkludierte Studien) und für die SSKl ein Monat bis 3 Jahre (22 inkludierte Studien). (Luebke et al. 2008, syst. Review)

Aus 69 Studien (RCTs, Vergleichsstudien, Fallserien, Fallstudien, Registerdaten) waren die medianen Raten für schwere Komplikationen der Schaumsklerotherapie (Lungenembolie und tiefe Beinvenenthrombose) weniger als 1%. Die medianen Raten für Sehstörungen waren 1,4%, Kopfschmerzen 4,2%, Thrombophlebitis 4,7%, Farbveränderung der Haut 17,8%, und Schmerzen bei der Injektionsstelle 25,6%. Die mediane Rate für kompletten Verschluss der behandelten Venen war 87% und für Wiederkehr oder Neuentwicklung der Vene 8,1% (alle follow-up Zeiten wurden zusammengenommen). Die Metaanalyse für den kompletten Verschluss als Endpunkt legt nahe, dass die Schaumsklerosierung weniger effektiv ist als die Operation (relatives Risiko 0,86), aber effektiver als Sklerotherapie mit flüssigem Sklerosans (RR 1,39), allerdings mit großer Heterogenität der Studien. Die Autoren schließen auf insuffiziente Evidenz für einen aussagekräftigen Vergleich der Wirksamkeiten für minimalinvasive oder operative Therapien. Die Follow-up Zeiten waren bei acht Studien mehr als 3 Jahre. (Jia et al. 2007, syst. Review)

Rabe et al 2008 (RCT) verglichen Schaum- versus flüssige Sklerotherapie an 106 Patienten zur Behandlung der Varikosis der großen Vena saphena mit Endpunkt Verschluss 3 Monate nach Eingriff. 69% wurden mit Schaumsklerosans erfolgreich behandelt, 27% mit flüssigem Sklerosans bei einer mittleren Behandlungsfrequenz von 1,3 pro Patient in der Gruppe mit Schaum- und 1,6 in der Gruppe mit Flüssigkeitssklerotherapie. Die Autoren schließen auf höhere Effizienz für Schaumsklerosierung bei gleicher Sicherheit der Behandlung im Vergleich zu flüssigem Sklerosans.

Michaels et al. 2006 (RCT) untersuchten von 1999 bis 2001 an 1009 Patienten, wobei 34 Patienten in Gruppe 1 (mit geringer Varikosis ohne Reflux), 77 Patienten in Gruppe 2 (moderate Varikosis mit Reflux, randomisiert zu Sklerotherapie oder Operation) und 246 Patienten in Gruppe 3 (schwere Varikosis mit Reflux, randomisiert zu konservativer Therapie oder Operation) randomisiert wurden. Die verbleibenden 652 Patienten formten die Beobachtungsgruppe. Endpunkt war die Cost-effectiveness gemessen am SF-6D (präferenzbasierte Gesundheitsskala), HRQoL (health-related quality of life), Kurzform des SF 36 mit 36 Items, EuroQoL, Lebensqualitätfragebogen (EQ-5D), Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) und Standard Gamble, Symptomverbesserung, anatomische Auswirkungen (evaluiert mit einer neu kreierten Methode), Patientenzufriedenheit und Inzidenz an Komplikationen. Nur die Ergebnisse für Gruppe 3 zeigten klare Ergebnisse, nämlich dass die Standard Operation (saphenofemorale Ligation, Stripping und multiple Phlebektomie) klinisch wirksam und kosteneffektiv für die Behandlung der Beinvarizen ist. Injektionssklerotherapie erscheint kosteneffektiv, produziert aber weniger generellen Nutzen. Bei leichten Varizen ohne Reflux scheint die Sklerotherapie geringe Vorteile

mit annehmbarer Kosteneffektivität zu bieten.

Miazaki et al 2005 (RCT) untersuchten retrospektiv 376 Extremitäten von 296 Patienten nach Varizen Operation oder Sklerosierungstherapie hinsichtlich der Langzeiterfolge (Rückfallsrate) nach durchschnittlich 3,1 Jahren. Die Rate der Rückfallsfreiheit nach 4 Jahren betrug für Stripping OP 80,7%, für die saphenofemorale Ligation 64,5% und für die Sklerotherapie 51,3%, wobei die Unterschiede zur Stripping OP signifikant waren, die zwischen saphenofemorale Ligation und Sklerotherapie nicht. In diese Multicenterstudie wurden Patienten mit primärer Varikose verursacht durch Insuffizienz der großen Saphenavene inkludiert.

Rao et al. 2005 (RCT) beschreiben Polidocanol (POL) und Sodium Tetradecyl Sulfate (STS) als gleich sicher und effektiv bei der Behandlung von Beinvarizen.

Gueax et al. 2005 (RCT) untersuchten die Sklerotherapie hinsichtlich ihrer Sicherheit bei 5434 Sklerosierungen mit Flüssigkeit und 6395 Sklerosierungen mit Schaum. Sie berichten 49 Zwischenfälle (0,4%), 12 mit Flüssigkeit und 37 mit Schaum innerhalb eines Monats nach Behandlung. Am häufigsten waren bei 20 Fällen optische Störungen (19 davon hatten Schaumsklerosierung), die sich alle zurückbildeten. Ein Fall von tiefer Beinvenenthrombose trat auf.

Barrett et al. 2004 (RCT) ermittelten die Effektivität der Schaumsklerosierung bei unterschiedlichem Venendurchmesser an 98 Patienten mit geringem (<10mm), und an 17 Patienten mit großem (\geq 10mm) Durchmesser (DM) mit einem Follow up von 2 Jahren. Es wurden im Mittel 2,15 Behandlungen benötigt, um alle insuffizienten Venen in der Gruppe <10mm DM zu verschließen, und im Mittel 2,8 Behandlungen in der Gruppe mit DM \geq 10mm. 100% der Patienten glaubten nach zwei Jahren, dass die Behandlung erfolgreich war, 94% der <10mm-Gruppe und 100% in der \geq 10mm-Gruppe berichteten eine Verbesserung der Lebensqualität. Die Ultraschallkontrollen zeigten eine Zunahme der fehlerhaften Verschlussrate mit zunehmender Gefäßgröße.

Kahle et al. 2004 (RCT) testeten an 25 Patienten mit Varikose Aethoxysklerol (n=14) und Placebo (Salzlösungsinjektionen; n=11). Nach 12 Wochen waren 76,8% der mit Aethoxysklerol behandelten Venen komplett verschlossen, der veno-arterielle Flow-Index sank von 1,5 auf 0,98; in der Placebogruppe blieb der Flow-Index stabil hoch.

Hamel-Desnos et al. 2003 (RCT) verglichen die Sklerosierung mit Schaum versus Flüssigkeit hinsichtlich der Elimination von Reflux, der Rekanalisationsrate und möglicher Nebenwirkungen an 88 Patienten (45 Schaum, 43 Sklerosierung mit Flüssigkeit). Nach drei Wochen war die Refluxelimination bei Schaum 84% und bei flüssigem Sklerosans 40%, nach sechs Monaten wurden 6 Rekanalisationen (14%) in der Flüssigkeitsgruppe versus 2 (4,5%) in der Schaumgruppe beobachtet. (inkludiert in Jia et al. 2007)

Labas et al. 2003 (RCT) verglichen Kurz- und Langzeitergebnisse zwischen Sigg's Technik mit Aethoxysklerol, Fegan's Technik mit Fibrovein und Kombination beider Sklerosans. Nach 6 Monaten war die mittlere Heilungsrate 67,47% für Sigg, 83,6%

für Fegan und nach 5 Jahren 60,3% (Sigg) und 78,54%. Die Autoren schließen daraus, dass die Technik und nicht die Methode der Schaumsklerosierung den Erfolg bestimmt.

Belcaro et al. 2003 (RCT) verglichen 6 Therapieoptionen prospektiv über zehn Jahre (A: Sclerotherapy; B: High-dose sclerotherapy; C: Multiple ligations; D: Stab avulsion; E: Foam-sclerotherapy; F: Surgery (ligation) followed by sclerotherapy) hinsichtlich ambulatory venous pressure (AVP), refilling time (RT), presence of duplex-reflux, und number of recurrent or new incompetent venous sites. Das Auftreten neuer Varizen nach 5 Jahren variierte zwischen 34% für Gruppe F (Ligation + Sklero) und Ligation (C), 44% für die Schaumklerosierungsgruppe (E) und 48% für Gruppe A (1 Dosis Sklerosierung). Nach 10 Jahren variierte das Auftreten neuer Varizen zwischen 37% in Gruppe F und 56% in Gruppe A. Zu Studienbeginn war der AVP vergleichbar in allen Gruppen. Nach 10 Jahren waren der Rückgang des AVP und der Anstieg der RT generell vergleichbar in allen Gruppen. Auch die Anzahl neuer Varizen war nach 10 Jahren in allen Gruppen vergleichbar. Die Autoren schließen daraus, dass – wenn korrekt angewandt – alle Arten der Varizenbehandlung ähnlich effektiv sind. Standard-Sklerotherapie mit niedriger Dosis scheint weniger wirksam zu sein als hochdosierte Sklerosierung und Schaumsklerosierung, die vergleichbar mit der OP sind. (inkludiert in Jia et al. 2007)

De Roos et al. 2003 (RCT) verglichen Kompressionsklerotherapie (Sklerotherapie und Kompression) gegen ambulante Phlebektomie zwischen 1996 und 1998 an je 49 Beinen an 86 Patienten. Nach einem Jahr war das Wiederauftreten der Varizen bei 1/48 (2%) in der Phlebektomiegruppe und bei 12/48 (25%) aus der Sklerosierungsgruppe. Nach zwei Jahren waren weitere 6 Rückfälle in der Sklerosierungsgruppe zu beachten. (=insg. 18/48; 38%; Anm.) In der Phlebektomiegruppe traten signifikant mehr Komplikationen auf (Blasen, Teleangiektasien, Narbenbildung und Schwellungen durch die Bandagierung).

8 Referenzen

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