

Veinlite – A New Tool for Sclerotherapy

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Even experienced sclerotherapists know this problem during cauterization of spider veins: The small feeder veins are often hard to identify and equally difficult to localize. Yet it is just these feeder veins that are of prime importance for a secure and permanent sclerosation.

The latest anatomical studies show that in the majority of spider vein fields are fed only by a single or just a few feeder veins (Wienert, 2001, publication in preparation).

Only when these are identified and closed during the procedure one can expect a successful and permanent therapy. If the feeder veins are not reached, a reopening of the spider veins is pre-

programmed.

A new American device greatly simplifies this task. The Veinlite is a spin-off from a nevoscope. It comprises a light source, a light fiber and a ring light with an access opening. The light intensity is infinitely variable by a rheostat. During treatment, the ring light is gently pressed against the skin. In principle, the emitted light penetrates through the epidermis and is reflected by the deeper skin layers. Thereby, the veins are backlit, appear full of contrast and are easily visualized.



Fig. 1: The complete Veinlite device

The actual obliteration is done in the standard method, and an opening in the ring allows for ample access of the needle. During the injection, the backflow of the obliteration fluid is clearly visible in this backlit area. With the patient lying down, even side arms of larger caliber, in their collapsed state, can easily be found and literally pin-pointed with the help of the Veinlite. Thus, one can eliminate the entire process of pin-pointing of the vein while standing with the subsequent transfer of the patient.

In the beginning, this new method surely requires a little more time. With some practice, this device becomes a valuable tool for sclerotherapy. At this time it cannot be said whether the regular use of this device will result in a more exact obliteration of feeder veins, improved long-term results or fewer returns of the disease.

Only the experience of a larger number of colleagues will lead to conclusions, although we cannot expect that real studies will be conducted comparing the new method to the old ways.

Currently, the device is not available in Germany. However, it can be ordered directly from the USA. More detailed information can be found at www.veinlite.com. Contact and ordering are easily done by email. Conveniently, the device is well-equipped for the European markets: It ships with a 220V plug, fully operational right out of the box.

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Fig. 2.: Visualization of spider veins



Fig. 3.: Even deeper-lying reticular veins are easily visualized



Fig. 4.: Sclerotherapy with access through the opening in the ring light