

Varithena® (polidocanol injectable foam) 1% What to Expect from Treatment

Overview

Your doctor has suggested treatment with Varithena® (polidocanol injectable foam) because you have varicose veins. Varicose veins are enlarged, bulging veins usually found in the legs. They can cause uncomfortable symptoms such as swelling and achiness. Untreated varicose veins tend to get worse over time and can lead to serious problems that might require hospitalization.

Varithena® is a prescription medicine used to treat varicose veins caused by problems with the great saphenous vein (GSV) and other related veins in the leg's GSV system. Varithena® helps improve the symptoms of heaviness, achiness, swelling, throbbing and itching (HASTI™ symptoms) related to or caused by varicose veins, and the appearance of varicose veins. Treatment is a nonsurgical procedure (no incision is required). For further information, please visit Varithena.com.

How Varithena® Works

Treatment with Varithena® is a nonsurgical procedure (no incision is required). Your doctor will fill the problem area of your vein with a small amount of Varithena® using a small tube called a catheter or with an injection. Varithena® is a foam that flows into the area and causes the problem vein to collapse. This allows your blood flow to shift to nearby healthy veins.

Before Your Treatment

Doctors usually numb the injection site, but no additional anesthesia is needed.

After Your Treatment

Usually treatment with Varithena® takes less than 1 hour. You may resume light activities as quickly as the same day of treatment. Your doctor will advise you to follow these instructions:

- Keep a dry bandage on for the next 48 hours: make sure to keep the bandage dry at all times
- Wear a compression stocking on the treated leg for 2 weeks—your doctor will recommend either thigh-high or knee-high stockings, depending on the location of your treatment

- Avoid heavy exercise for 1 week after your treatment
- Walk at least 10 minutes a day for 1 month and avoid long periods of inactivity

Your doctor will probably schedule a follow-up visit to see how you are doing. Some patients need only a single treatment with Varithena®. Additional treatments may be needed depending on the number and size of veins to be treated.

Possible Side Effects

Like all medical procedures, treatment with Varithena® may cause side effects in some patients. The most common side effect seen with Varithena® is leg pain or discomfort. In the majority of cases, leg pain stops within 1 week.

The other common side effects are injection site bruising or pain, and potentially serious blood clots in the leg veins. These are not all of the possible side effects of Varithena®. Tell your doctor about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

What to Expect from Your Insurance Carrier

Your insurance may cover this treatment. Coverage may depend on the severity of your varicose veins and your symptoms. Your doctor's office will contact your insurance provider to determine whether you are eligible.

If You Have Questions

Please talk with your doctor if you have questions about Varithena® or your treatment. You can also visit Varithena.com to learn more.

INDICATIONS

Varithena® (polidocanol injectable foam) is a prescription medicine used to treat varicose veins caused by problems with the great saphenous vein (GSV) and other related veins in the leg's GSV system. Varithena® improves symptoms related to or caused by varicose veins, and the appearance of varicose veins.

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IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION TO SHARE WITH PATIENTS

You should not be treated with Varithena® if you are allergic to polidocanol or have clots in your blood vessels.

Severe allergic reactions have been reported in people treated with liquid forms of polidocanol and some patients have died from these reactions. Varithena® is a foam made from polidocanol. A healthcare professional will observe you for signs of allergic reactions for at least 10 minutes after you are treated with Varithena®.

Tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you

- have arterial disease (a disease of the blood vessels)
- have reduced mobility
- have a history of blood clots in the veins or lungs
- have had major surgery in the past 3 months
- have recently had a long hospital stay
- are pregnant or have recently been pregnant

The most common side effects seen with Varithena® are leg pain or discomfort, injection site bruising or pain, and potentially serious blood clots in the leg veins. These are not all of the possible side effects of Varithena®. Tell your healthcare provider about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. You can also report side effects to the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

Varithena® is administered by your doctor. Doctors using Varithena® must be experienced in vein procedures and trained in using Varithena®.

See Full Prescribing Information for Varithena® available at Varithena.com.

Reference:

Varithena® (polidocanol injectable foam) [prescribing information]. London, England: Provensis Ltd, a BTG International group company: 2014.

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