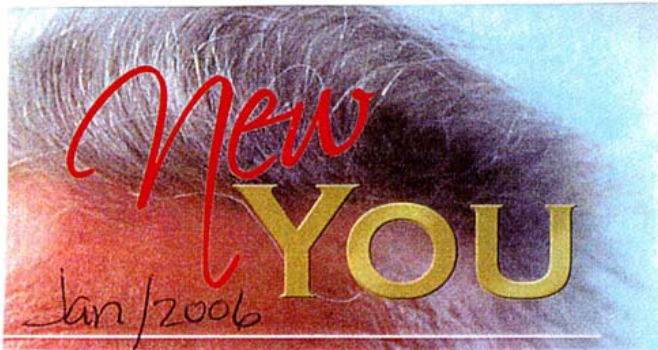


Easily treated and virtually painless, problem veins can be improved in a matter of minutes.

For facial veins, the preferred method of treatment is laser. Along with genetics, sun exposure is another major reason for facial spider veins. "Nowadays, we are using Intense Pulse Light - or IPL - a great deal for these facial veins because it also gets rid of the brown spots," says Dr. Weksberg. "It also makes pores smaller and improves skin texture. This is the so-called photofacial or photorejuvenation type of treatment."

Although the number of treatments necessary will vary depending on the individual, dramatic improvements can be seen after one treatment, leaving your skin clearer and more youthful in appearance. •



By Julianne McCall

They're very common, often unsightly, and sometimes downright painful. Ranging in size and colour, varicose, reticular and spider veins can make our skin resemble the most detailed of road maps. While attributed to a variety of reasons -standing for too long, wearing high heels, girdles and crossing your legs - the main reasons for unsightly veins are still genetics, aging and pregnancy. Easily treated and virtually painless, problem veins can be improved in a matter of minutes.

Debra, an active mother of three, started noticing small veins while pregnant with her first child. By her second pregnancy, she developed a large, bulging varicose vein, which not only drew unwanted attention from others, but caused her some discomfort. Dr. Fred Weksberg, the owner and medical director of the Toronto Vein Clinic, advised Debra to continue her current regime of exercise, and return once the baby was born.

After Debra's varicose vein was surgically removed, she continued with sclerotherapy to treat the remaining small spider veins. A solution, usually consisting of salt and sugar, is injected directly into the spider vein, causing it to clot, close down and disappear. "We're working on superficial veins so causing a little clot to close off these veins, is absolutely normal and absolutely safe," advises Dr. Weksberg. "It hasn't any of the implications that a deep blood clot has; they're totally different. Debra is representative of the average individual that comes in," says Dr. Weksberg. "She's a very athletic, young woman who started to develop a lot of veins." Now under control, Debra returns twice a year to treat the occasional spider vein that appears. "She's a perfect example of how starting early to get a good handle on the cosmetic issues, can become a preventative measure, as well," adds Dr. Weksberg.

Interestingly, men make up for approximately 40% of the patients seen in consultation for problem veins,



Actual patient - Before EVLA

