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POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS AND RISKS OF LASER VEIN TREATMENT

1. **DISCOMFORT:** Some discomfort may be experienced during the laser treatment, which is minimized by applying cool gels during the treatment. Also, the laser handpiece cools and soothes as it glides along your skin. Some areas are more sensitive than others, so occasionally an anesthetic cream may be required before the treatment commences. You may also take (2) extra-strength Tylenol one hour before your treatment.
2. **HEALING:** A very small percentage of patients may notice some blistering, crustiness, or flaking of the treated areas that may require 1-3 weeks to heal. Once healing has occurred, the area may be pink and sensitive to the sun for an additional amount of time.
3. **SWELLING, BRUISING, REDNESS:** The veins may have a red, raised reaction, similar to a "cat scratch" appearance, for a couple of weeks or longer. Swelling can occur after the procedure and last for a few days. Bruising can last for weeks and, occasionally, for months. The blood vessels may appear slightly more obvious or a bit darker after treatment, but will fade.
4. **HEMOSIDERIN (HYPERPIGMENTATION):** Very occasionally, stain from an iron-based pigment, which is a by-product of hemoglobin in the blood, gets released and trapped under the skin. This almost always resolves on its own, but can take up to 1-2 years. It is imperative to keep this area out of the sun.
5. **INFECTION:** A skin infection is a rare but possible complication.
6. **SCARRING:** Permanent scarring from the treatment is extremely rare, but is a possibility when the skin's surface is disrupted. Strict adherence to the aftercare guidelines minimizes the chances of these complications.
7. **EYE EXPOSURE:** Protective eyewear will be provided during the procedure and is extremely important to keep on at all times during the treatment. This will protect your eyes from accidental laser exposure, which could result in permanent eye damage.

