

New Bristle needle brings advantage to thermocoagulation of spider veins

By Jeffrey H. Miller, MD

I thought it was a marketing ploy! VeinGogh announces the development of a new needle, the Bristle, for thermocoagulation of tiny spider veins. My suspicion arose when I found that this new needle is more expensive. "Hah," I told my staff, "can't be any different than the old needle. The concept is the same and thus it's just a way for a company to make more money."

Oh, was I wrong!

The only way to appreciate the difference is to demo the new needle. I noticed the difference immediately. Veins just seemed to disappear quicker and easier with the use of the new Bristle needle. Please understand that this is just my opinion and it's not evidence-based. I have not put a study together comparing the Bristle needle to the older Ballet needle of VeinGogh, nor the VeinWave

device. This is just my view, based on my real world experience.

VeinGogh needles deliver microbursts of high-frequency electrical energy into the vessel via a hair-thin needle. The resistivity of the vessels converts the energy to heat instantly, coagulating the blood and collapsing the vessel wall while leaving the outer layers of the skin unaffected.

The new Bristle needle is 27-gauge and is insulated except for the distal 1 mm, which allows more targeted energy to be deployed to vessels without damaging surrounding tissue. At the same time, less energy needs to be used giving the operator the ability to safely retreat a vessel that does not blanch.

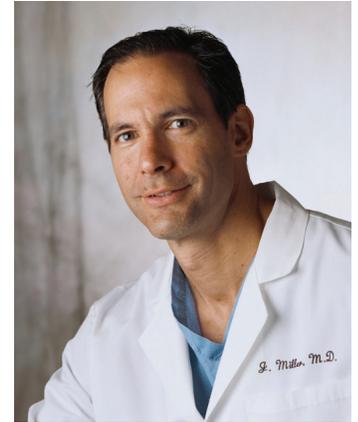
Using an ice pack in a proposed treatment zone for 10 to 20 seconds just before treatment enhances comfort. You can place the needle perpendicular or angled to the skin

surface. I have noticed you can treat a longer area of vein with an angle, but it's probably insignificant.

Keep in mind that neither VeinGogh nor Veinwave are standalone devices for the treatment of spider or reticular veins. We have found neither device useful for reticular veins. But both are excellent adjuncts to sclerotherapy for the tiny veins.

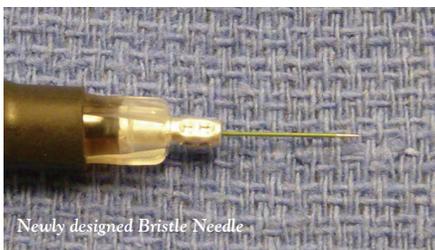
With this in mind, I have to give two thumbs up to the new Bristle needle for treating telangiectasias.

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Dr. Jeffrey Miller

Jeffrey H. Miller, MD, is the founder of Novi Vein in Novi, Mich., which opened in September of 2006 with the help of Linda Miller, RN, BSN (no relation). There are now two Novi Vein sites, one in Novi and the other in Troy Mich., with plans for a third site in 2011. He can be contacted through his website: NoviVein.com.



Photography courtesy of Dr. Ronald Bush