

Signs of vein damage from leg and groin injecting

Unless injecting stops – vein damage becomes worse. Don't ignore any of these signs.

Thread Veins:

are an early sign of vein damage. Surface veins become bigger and more visible.



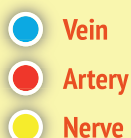
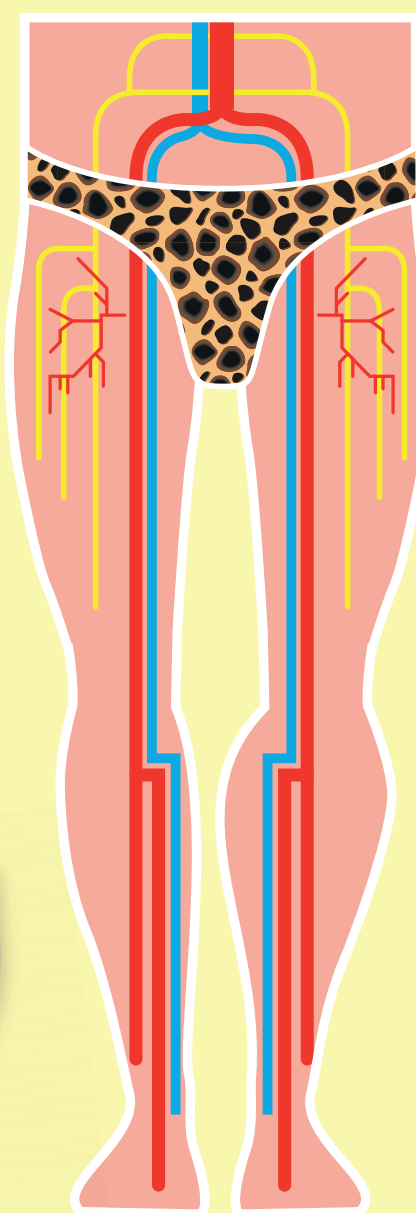
Varicose veins:

look wider, bulging, and twisted. They can be painful, itchy and bleed easily.



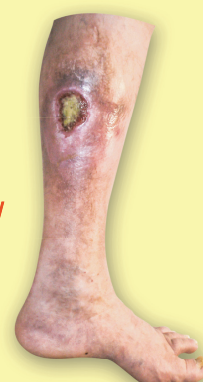
Skin staining:

means the skin turns brown and feels hard and woody. Deep vein damage is causing the veins to leak and the discolouration.



Leg ulceration:

is the final stage of vein damage – open wounds. They are usually painful, can be smelly, leaky and embarrassing. They take a long time to heal.



'Champagne bottle leg':

The calf becomes wider and the ankle becomes longer and slimmer. Just like an upturned champagne bottle.



Ankle flare:

are dilated veins at the ankle caused by pressure or a blockage higher up the leg such as deep vein thrombosis (DVT), clots or narrowing of the femoral vein.



Don't ignore any of these signs. If you have vein damage, please speak to your Drugs Worker, GP or Pharmacist and think about how you might stop injecting.