

# MIGRAINE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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## **Varicose Vein Warning**

A so called 'breakthrough' treatment for varicose veins is causing serious side effects and the public should consider this new information carefully before making treatment decisions.

The latest research data from the French Neurological Institute, *Cabinet de Neurologie*, has found that a new varicose vein treatment known as *Polidocanol Foam* is triggering migraine attacks in women who have never previously suffered with the condition.

According to Dr Shevel South Africa's migraine surgery pioneer and medical director at The Headache Clinic, "Patients experienced a blurring of vision followed by excruciating headache pain approximately three minutes after receiving the *Polidoconal Foam*" The International Headache Society classifies this cascade of events as Migraine with Aura.

Palidocanol Foam is administered by injection into the offending varicose vein. The fact that the treatment is causing migraine attacks in people who have never suffered with migraine before is "of serious concern" according to Dr Shevel. "When you consider that studies have shown the quality of life of the migraine sufferer to be on par or worse than people suffering with arthritis

and diabetes, and comparable to the level of dysfunction seen with myocardial infarction or congestive heart failure, this warning should be taken very seriously.”

The data was published in *Cephalagia*, the official medical journal of the International Headache Society. This is a highly technical journal and unfortunately, with out the assistance of the media, will not be seen or read by the public.

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