

Information for patients having a lower limb venous duplex

Your consultant has decided that he/she would like you to have a lower limb venous duplex.

What is it?

A lower limb venous duplex is a scan that uses ultrasound (sound waves) to produce mapping of the veins in your leg(s).

Why do I need it?

The test is used by doctors to assess your veins for many different reasons:

- Diagnosis of varicose veins
- Diagnosis of deep vein thrombosis
- Diagnosis of thrombophlebitis (inflamed or blocked vein)
- Assessing veins to see if they are a suitable size to use in either a heart or leg bypass

How is it done?

You will be taken into the scanning room by a member of the vascular laboratory team who will be performing your scan. You will be asked to remove any clothing from your legs and lie on or stand by a couch. An ultrasound probe and some gel are gently placed on your leg(s) and you will be asked to move your leg(s) in different positions. A member of the vascular laboratory team may squeeze your calf muscle using their hands or increase the pressure on the probe. Please do not be afraid to tell the operator if you feel any discomfort from the probe pressing on your leg. During the scan you may hear sounds coming from the machine, which represent blood flow through the leg veins. The probe will collect pictures from your veins and these are shown on the ultrasound machine and interpreted by the vascular laboratory team. The scan will take approximately 20–30 minutes.

At the end of the scan

Once the scan is complete, you can get dressed and take a seat in the waiting area. A member of the vascular laboratory team will write a report for the doctor who will then discuss the results with you. Please feel free to bring someone with you during your procedure. Please ask upon arrival if you would like someone from the hospital to be with you.

Please note that as this is a teaching hospital, occasionally a student may observe this appointment or undertake the test under supervision. If you do not wish a student to be present please let us know.

VASCULAR LABORATORY – Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham
Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2GW Tel: 0121 371 5482

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