

Deep vein thrombosis-DVT scan

What is it?

An ultrasound scan of your veins may also be called a duplex or Doppler of your veins. This test uses ultrasound to produce images of the veins in your legs. This test is safe and an effective way to assess if there are any clots in the veins of the leg. These blood clots are called deep vein thrombosis or DVT. If there is a blood clot, the ultrasound scan can show where the clot is. This will help the doctors or nurses plan your treatment. If you have a clot in your superficial veins this is called a thrombophlebitis. This is not a DVT. There are no risks associated with this scan.

Why am I having this test?

Your doctor has requested this scan because they suspect you may have a blood clot in your veins. You may have symptoms such as leg swelling, leg pain or redness.

How is the DVT ultrasound performed?

There is no preparation needed for the scan. A clinical scientist or trainee scientist (who may be male or female) will perform an interpret your ultrasound scan. You will be asked to remove your shoes and trousers/skirt and tissue will be placed to protect your clothing from the gel. The lights will be dimmed so that the screen is better visualised. The scan will be performed with you led then sat upright on the scanning couch. Gel is applied to your leg from groin to ankle to see if there is any clot in the veins. The scientist will also press



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down on your thigh and calf during the scan. This shouldn't be painful but if it is please let us know. The scan will take approximately 30-45 minutes.



What happens next?

The clinical scientist or trainee scientist will comment on the findings and will write a report which will be available for the doctor or nurse who requested the scan. You will be able to discuss the results of the investigation fully with the referring team directly after your ultrasound scan. If you require treatment this will be arranged during your visit.



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