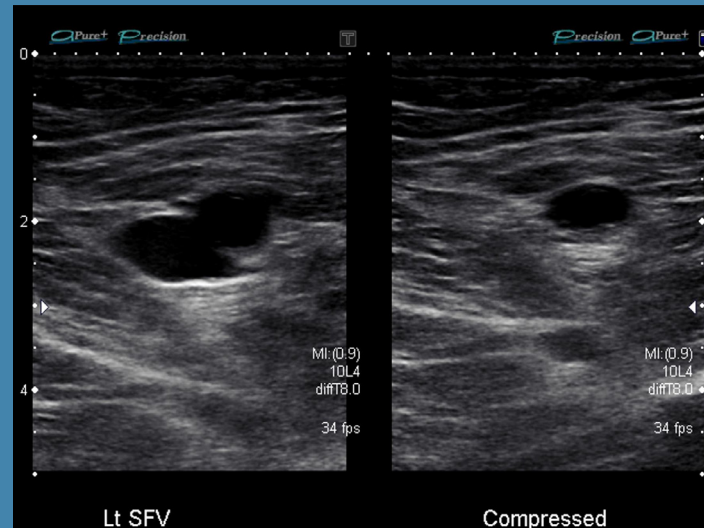


# DVT Ultrasound

## How long will the procedure take?

A DVT ultrasound will usually take 20 minutes to complete.

## Image of a DVT Ultrasound



The superficial femoral vein showing normal patency on the left and compressed on the right.

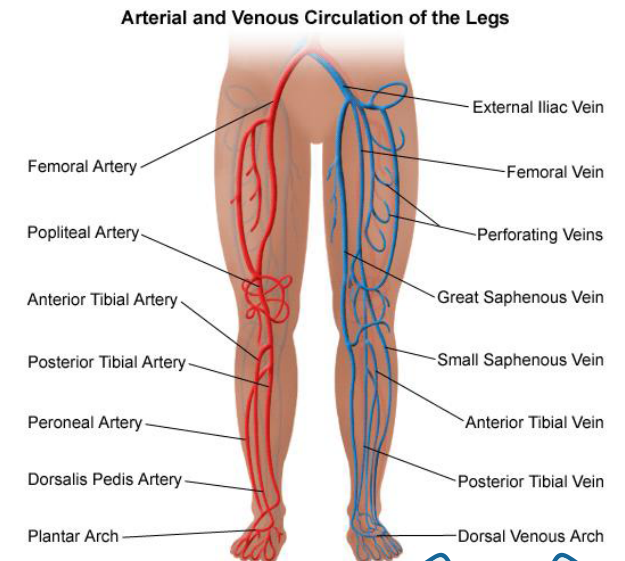
If you have any related previous images from another provider please bring them on the day.

### Disclaimer:

The information contained in this brochure is intended as a guide only. If patients require more specific information please contact your referring Doctor.

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Publication Date: February 2013



# Radiology



**Swan Hill  
District Health**

*my hospital*

## What is a DVT Ultrasound?

A DVT ultrasound is performed to detect blood clots (deep venous thrombosis - DVT) in the legs or arms.

A Doppler ultrasound study may be part of a DVT ultrasound examination. A Doppler ultrasound is a special ultrasound technique that evaluates the movement of blood flow through a blood vessel.

## Preparation

There is usually no preparation for this examination.

You will be required to remove your pants to gain access to the leg, or shirt to access the arm.

## Procedure

You will be asked to lie on a bed for the examination.

Gel is applied to the skin and an ultrasound probe (called a transducer) is placed on your skin and gently moved around to examine the area.

Pressure will be applied with the transducer to compress the veins. This technique assesses the patency of the vein. On most occasions the pressure will not be significant enough to cause discomfort however areas of increased sensitivity may feel some pain.

When a sound wave strikes an object, it bounces back, or echoes. By measuring these echo waves it is possible to determine how far away the object is and its size, shape, and consistency (whether the object is solid, filled with fluid, or both).

Doppler ultrasound, a special application of ultrasound, measures the direction and speed of blood cells as they move through vessels. The movement of blood cells causes a change in frequency of the reflected sound waves (called the Doppler effect). A computer collects and processes the sounds and creates graphs or colour pictures that represent the flow of blood through the blood vessels.

## Risks of Procedure

For standard diagnostic ultrasound there are no known harmful effects on humans.

Some of the benefits are:

- Most ultrasound scanning is non-invasive (no needles or injections) and is usually painless.
- Ultrasound imaging does not use any ionizing radiation.
- Ultrasound scanning gives a clear picture of soft tissues that do not show up well on x-ray images.