

How long will the procedure take?

A DVT ultrasound will usually take 20-30 minutes to complete.

What are the potential risks?

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.

Disclaimer:

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Radiology Department

Swan Hill District Health

48 Splatt Street

Swan Hill, VIC, 3585

Phone: (03) 5033 9286

Email: radiology@shdh.org.au

Web: www.shdh.org.au

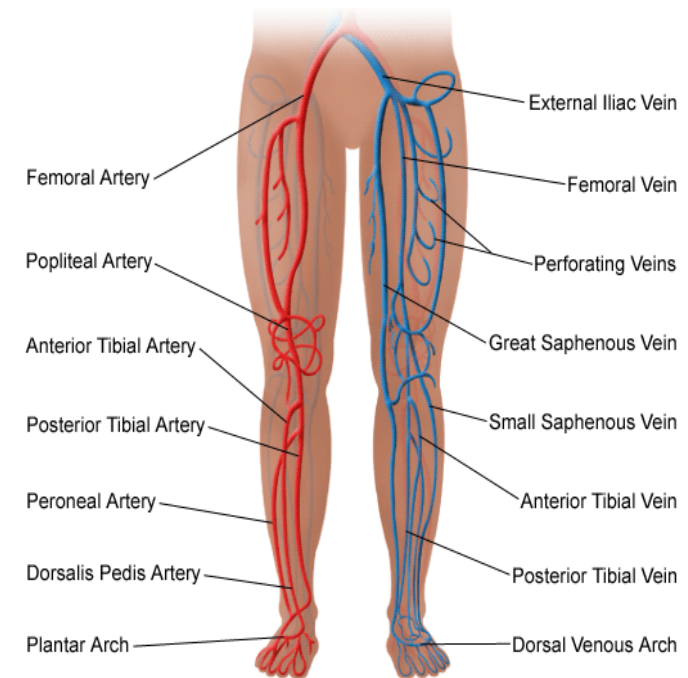
Fax: (03) 5033 9255

Please bring your Medicare card and any Healthcare, Pension or Concession cards if applicable.

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



DVT Ultrasound



Radiology Department

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 blood flow through a blood vessel, including the body's major arteries and veins in the abdomen, arms, legs and neck.

Before the procedure

There is usually no preparation for this examination, however, you should wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing for your ultrasound exam. You may need to remove all clothing and jewellery in the area to be examined.

If your abdominal vessels are being examined, unless the examination is performed on an urgent basis, it is often best to fast before the procedure.

If needed, fasting instructions will be provided to you when you book your appointment.

During the procedure

You will be asked to lie on the 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.

There is usually no discomfort from the pressure as the transducer is pressed against your skin.

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 pitch 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.