

Venous Ultrasound

Appointment Information

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

About

A venous ultrasound exam is used to identify abnormalities in the veins. A venous ultrasound exam is a noninvasive and painless procedure. The most common reason for a venous ultrasound exam is to search for blood clots in the veins of the leg. This condition is often referred to as deep vein thrombosis or DVT. These clots may break off and pass into the lungs, where they can cause a dangerous condition called pulmonary embolism. If the blood clot in the leg is found early enough, treatment can be started to prevent it from passing to the lung.

A venous ultrasound study is also performed to:

- determine the cause of long-standing leg swelling. In people with a common condition called varicose veins, the valves that keep blood flowing back to the heart in the right direction may be damaged, and venous ultrasound can help the radiologist decide how best to deal with this condition.
- aid in the placement of a needle or catheter into a vein. Ultrasound can help locate the exact site of the vein and avoid complications, such as bleeding.
- map out the veins in the leg or arm so that pieces of vein may be removed and used to bypass a narrowed or blocked blood vessel. An example is using pieces of vein from the leg to surgically bypass narrowed heart (coronary) arteries.
- examine a blood vessel graft used for dialysis if it is not working as expected; for example, the graft may be narrowed or blocked.

Preparations

You should wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing on the day of your venous ultrasound exam. You may need to remove all clothing and jewelry in the area to be examined. There are no diet restrictions and you should continue taking all your regular medications.