



## LOWER LIMB DEEP VENOUS THROMBOSIS

### WHAT IS VASCULAR ULTRASOUND?

Ultrasound is a non-invasive test that helps your doctor diagnose and treat your medical problem. By using very high frequency sound waves the ultrasound machine can form images of the inside of your body. For vascular ultrasound this involves creating images of the blood vessels within your body.

### WHY?

Your doctor may ask you to have a scan of the veins in your legs to check for thrombus for many reasons. Symptoms of deep vein thrombosis can vary widely however a typical case will involve sudden leg swelling and discomfort, usually in the muscles below your knee. Often people who have been immobile for a period of time are at higher risk of a deep vein thrombosis.

### WHAT CLOTHES DO I HAVE TO TAKE OFF?

For this scan we will need to be able to access the skin from groin to your toes. You will need to remove your trousers/skirt, shoes and socks but you must keep your underwear on.

### WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AND WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE SCAN?

We are checking the veins that return the blood from your legs back to your abdomen. There are two sets of veins in the legs that we will investigate, the first and most important are the deep veins and the second are the superficial veins. These veins can become blocked or partially blocked with thrombus and this is what the doctors can be concerned about. In order to identify the thrombus the sonographer will have to push firmly on the veins throughout the leg and unfortunately this can be uncomfortable if your legs are already tender. The sonographer will do their best to keep any discomfort to a minimum.

### HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

About 20-30 minutes per leg.

