

About deep vein thrombosis (DVT) scanning

Why scan for a deep vein thrombosis?

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is the formation of a blood clot (thrombosis) within one or more of the deep veins of the leg. These can be a serious threat to your health, and if a DVT is diagnosed treatment is required immediately.

Symptoms of a DVT include pain and swelling. The scan can show whether there are other problems that are not as serious as a DVT but cause the same symptoms.

Where do I go?

The Vascular Studies Unit on the 9th floor in the Department of Surgery.

Who will I see?

You will be seen by a clinical vascular scientist, who will perform and interpret an ultrasound scan of your veins.

How do I prepare for the test?

No preparation is required for the test.

What does the test involve?

You may need to remove some clothing and lie on a couch. The scientist puts gel on both sides of your leg(s) and then scans the region of interest.

The test takes upto 20 minutes, and is a safe, non-invasive and painless way of checking for a DVT.

What happens next?

The clinical scientist writes a report of the scan result and informs the doctor who requested it. The clinical scientist can comment on the findings, and you will be able to discuss the results more fully with the doctor at your next out-patient appointment.

For more information, contact the vascular unit on 020 7830 2862 during office hours.

If you would like a large print or audio version of this information, please ask a member of staff.