

*If you have  
any questions,  
please ask your  
physician.*

## Venous Duplex Scan

A venous duplex scan uses sound waves to check how well the veins are returning blood to the heart. This vascular ultrasound exam can focus on the larger veins in either the upper or lower portion of the body.

- **Upper extremity scan** – looks at the veins in your neck and the area from your shoulder to your elbow. The scan examines both arms.
- **Lower extremity scan** – looks at the veins anywhere from your groin to your ankle. The scan examines both legs.

The test helps to find a blockage in blood flow (such as a blood clot) that may cause pain or swelling in the arms or legs.

A venous duplex scan is done in the Vascular Lab. It takes about 45 minutes.

### Before the test

There is no special preparation for this test.

On the day of the exam, plan to arrive 15 minutes before your test time. Be sure to bring:

- Your physician's written order for the test, if you have one
- A list of your allergies
- A list of all your current medications (prescription, over-the-counter and herbal)
- Photo ID
- Medical insurance information and card
- Medicare card (Medicare patients only)

For their own safety, children under 16 may not visit in the testing area. They may stay in the waiting room with a responsible adult.

Please come to Galter Pavilion, 201 East Huron Street, and check in at the 8th floor reception desk. Parking is available for patients and visitors in the garage at 222 East Huron Street, across from Feinberg and Galter pavilions.

For a discounted rate, bring your parking ticket with you. You can validate your ticket at the Customer Services Desks on the 1st and 2nd floor of Feinberg and Galter pavilions, and on the 1st floor of Prentice Women's Hospital.

## During the test

The technician (tech) will help you lie on your back on an exam table. They will apply a warm, clear gel to the skin in the area they are examining. Then the tech will move a small, handheld device (transducer) on the skin over the veins they are examining. The transducer will transmit sound waves to a monitor. The tech will see the images and save them for later review. During the test, the tech may ask you to take deep breaths. You may see the images on the monitor and hear some sounds as the tech records the blood flow.

## After the test

The tech will give you towels to help remove the gel. If they find a blood clot, the care team will call your physician right away to decide the next steps for your care.

If you do not have a blood clot, you may leave. You may resume your normal diet and activities.

Most often, your physician will receive the initial findings within 48 hours. A full report will follow in about 5 business days.

If you have questions about this test, please call the Vascular Lab at 312.926.5809 (TTY: 711).