

Lower Limb Venous Incompetence/Insufficiency Ultrasound

What:

An ultrasound scan to assess the veins and the direction of blood flow within the leg veins. This test should take 1 hour.

Why:

Our veins return blood to the heart and contain one-way valves which prevent the blood flowing back down the body or the legs. These one-way valves can fail allowing blood to flow the wrong way down the leg (venous reflux) which can cause varicose veins, skin changes and ulceration in the lower legs. The ultrasound scan will identify which veins are working and which veins are letting the blood flow down the leg

Involves:

- The scan is performed in a private ultrasound room where a sonographer will explain the scan and answer any questions you may have.
- You will be asked to remove any clothing covering the lower legs, i.e. shorts/pants. Underwear is kept on.
- The examination will take place with you standing on a set of steps holding on to a handrail for support or sitting on the edge of a raised bed.
- An ultrasound probe and gel will be placed on the legs and run along the path of the veins. The sonographer will need to give your calf a gentle squeeze at certain points in the exam to test the direction of blood flow.
- At these points you may hear the sound of the blood flow coming from ultrasound machine.

The results will be sent to the referring Doctor who will discuss and explain the outcome to you.