

## **VENOUS DUPLEX FOR DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS (DVT) INFORMATION SHEET**

### **What is a Venous Duplex (for DVT) and why do I need one?**

A venous duplex ultrasound scan for DVT, sometimes known as a venous doppler, is an ultrasound scan of the deep veins (ie veins within the muscles) of the legs.

It is a pain-less, non-invasive examination, similar to pregnancy scans, to assess the deep veins for any clots of blood in the deep veins.

Clotting can cause swelling and pain in the leg but can also occur without any symptoms.

These symptoms can be unrelated to deep vein thrombosis and the scan by an experienced vascular scientist will confirm or exclude any clots.

### **How is the Venous Duplex (for DVT) performed?**

- You will need to remove your trousers, dress or skirt (you can leave on your underwear and any tops) to allow easy access to the legs and groins. You will also need to remove your socks and shoes.
- You will lie down on an ultrasound couch for the first part of the examination and will sit on the couch with your legs dependant for the second part.
- A probe as well as lubricating gel is placed on your leg. The gel is hypo-allergenic, and is primarily a slightly saline gel allowing easy movement of the sound waves into the body. Either one or both legs will be examined depending on your symptoms and what your referrer has requested. Occasionally it will be necessary to also scan the veins in your pelvis and abdomen if requested.
- High frequency sound waves pass through the skin. The probe picks up returning sound waves reflected from tissue and moving blood corpuscles and displays them as a duplex ultrasound image, a real-time, highly detailed display of the deep veins, their walls, the blood flow through them and the tissue surrounding the arteries.
- The examination takes about 30-45 minutes

### **Do I need to prepare for this examination?**

You do not need any special preparation for this examination. You can eat and drink normally before and after the examination. Continue to take your usual medication.

### **Is a Venous Duplex (for DVT) a safe examination?**

Deep Vein Thrombosis Duplex ultrasound is extremely safe. There are no known risks from the clinical use of ultrasound for this examination.