

VENOUS DUPLEX ASSESSMENT BY SR ANNETTE ANDERSON (M.CUR)

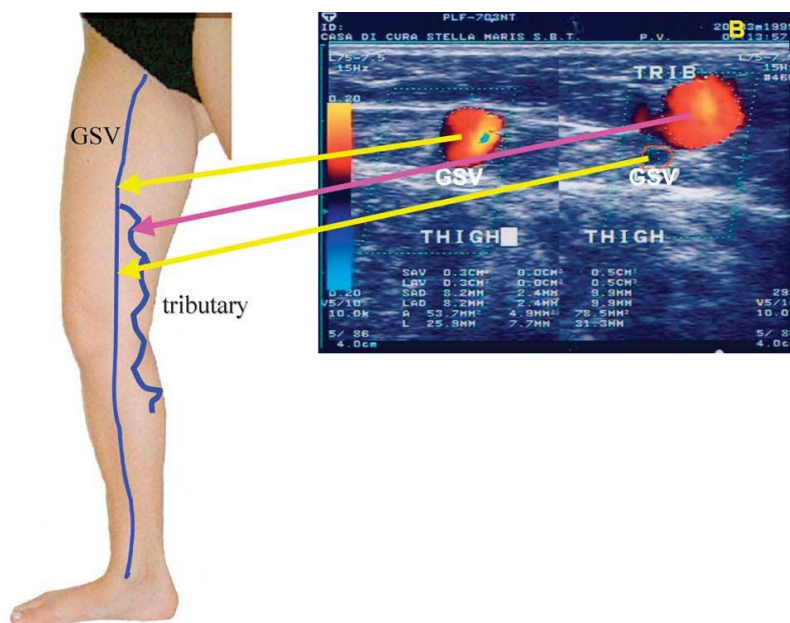
Venous duplex assessment is a special investigation which uses ultrasound to look for clots, faulty vein valves, damaged veins and assess the extent of varicose veins. This test is painless and safe. No preparation is necessary except for wearing loose clothes which can be moved out of the way for the test. Men wearing shorts or boxers and ladies wearing loose dresses or skirts are helpful to prevent full exposure when the test is conducted.

The venous duplex assessment includes both doppler (sound of blood moving) and imaging of the structure of the blood vessels and veins to determine the cause of swelling, pain or varicose veins.

Venous duplex assessment is also used for deep vein thrombosis (DVT) which causes pain and swelling in your calf. A DVT can be life-threatening, if the clot breaks off and travels to your heart (heart attack), brain (stroke) or lungs (Pulmonary embolism).

A venous duplex assessment is also used for diagnosing venous insufficiency, by identifying faulty valves in the veins, which result in blood pooling in the lower legs and feet, causing swelling, leg pain and varicose veins.

Mapping the extent and severity of varicose veins is important for planning surgical interventions such as varicose vein surgery, bypass surgery or dialysis access.



Picture credited to Veinsurg.com