

Your Venogram

WHAT IS A VENOGRAM?

A venogram is an x-ray of the veins in your legs. Veins cannot be seen on x-ray unless they are injected with contrast material (x-ray dye). This is usually done in a small vein in the foot.

WHY AM I HAVING A VENOGRAM?

Your doctor has scheduled you for a venogram because you have some symptoms that may be related to problems with the veins in your leg. Symptoms may include pain, swelling or numbness in your leg. This x-ray gives your doctor information that may help in your diagnosis and treatment. Please let someone know if you may be pregnant; x-ray may harm an unborn child.

HOW DO I GET READY FOR MY VENOGRAM?

There is no special preparation for this exam. Your doctor may or may not restrict your diet to clear liquids just before the exam. You may want to bring a sweater and something to read or handwork to do while you wait.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE X-RAY ROOM?

You will be asked to put on a hospital gown.

The x-ray staff and doctor will explain more about your venogram. They will answer any questions you may have. You will be asked to sign a consent form and asked about any allergies you have to medicines or x-ray dyes.

You will be assisted onto a special x-ray table. Your feet will be against a footboard. A strap will be placed across the middle of your body to help you feel secure when the table is tilted upright.

In this upright position, the doctor will clean your foot with iodine. Then a small needle will be used to inject the dye into a vein in your foot. You may feel a warm sensation in your leg at this time. Several pictures will be taken with the x-ray machine in different positions. Each time a picture is taken, you will be asked to hold your breath and remain as still as possible.

After all the pictures have been taken, the doctor will remove the needle and hold pressure on the site until the bleeding stops. A bandaid will be placed where the needle was.

WHAT DO I DO AFTER MY VENOGRAM?

After your exam, you can return to your normal diet and activities unless your doctor orders otherwise. The x-ray dye will pass through your urine but will not change the color of the urine. Ask your doctor if you should drink extra fluids after the exam.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

Including waiting time, your visit for a venogram will take about 1 1/2 hours. Please understand that you may have to wait a few minutes during your x-ray while films are being checked. It is important that the films contain all the necessary information.

The information on this Website is provided for general informational purposes only and **SHOULD NOT** be relied upon as a substitute for sound professional medical advice, evaluation or care from your physician or other qualified healthcare provider. If you have a medical problem or a health-related question, consult your physician or call Health On-Call at 336-716-2255 or 1-800-446-2255.

Copyright: Wake Forest University School of Medicine / Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center
Division of Radiologic Sciences
All rights reserved.
Medical Center Boulevard
Winston-Salem, NC 27157
(336) 716-5053