

# What is a duplex scan?

## Leg Ulcer Management Team Patient Information Leaflet

### Introduction

This leaflet is for people who have been advised to have a duplex ultrasound scan. It gives you information about what the scan involves and how you need to prepare for the test.

### What is a duplex ultrasound scan?

It is an examination that uses sound waves to take images of blood vessels and blood flow. It allows detailed assessment of your major veins and arteries.

The duplex machine is large and it may be noisy.

### What are the benefits?

As the scan allows a detailed view of the arteries and veins, the healthcare professional can use it to see if the veins are damaged, or the arteries are narrowed.

The test will allow your consultant to decide what treatment is appropriate for you.

## Where will the scan be carried out?

It may take place in a vascular laboratory or in an X-ray department. However, it does not involve having an X-ray.

## How do I prepare for the test?

There is no special preparation for the scan. You should continue to take your usual medicines. You can eat and drink normally before the test.

As the healthcare professional will need to assess your legs, it is helpful if you wear clothes that are easy to take off. If this is necessary, we will give you a gown to wear.

## How long will it take?

The scan may take between 20 to 60 minutes.

## What happens during the test?

There is no anaesthetic or injection needed for the scan. Depending on what assessment you are having, we may ask you to stand while the scan takes place, or to lie on a couch. We may also monitor the blood pressure in your arms and ankles during the procedure.

We will put gel on the area of skin to be examined. This allows the signal from the blood vessels to be picked up through the ultrasound probe. The images from this will appear on a monitor.

It is important that you stay as still as possible while the scan is being carried out.

## What happens after the scan?

When the scan is finished, you can go home. We will interpret the results of the scan and send them to the doctor who referred you for the test.

If this is a hospital doctor, we will contact you to arrange an appointment for you to get your results. If the results are sent to your GP, you will need to contact your GP surgery for an appointment.

## Can I find out more?

You can find out more about leg ulcers from the following website:

### **NHS Choices**

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Leg-ulcer-venous/Pages/diagnosis.aspx>

### **Leg Ulcer Management Team contact details**

**01384 321425** (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

Leg Ulcer Management Team  
Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre  
Venture Way  
Brierley Hill  
DY5 1RU

Russells Hall Hospital switchboard number: 01384 456111

#### **This leaflet can be downloaded or printed from:**

<http://dudleygroup.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/patient-information-leaflets/>

If you have any feedback on this patient information leaflet, please email [patient.information@dgh.nhs.uk](mailto:patient.information@dgh.nhs.uk)

**This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.**

للحصول على هذه النشرة بحجم أكبر، وعلى شكل إصدار صوتي و بلغات أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال بالرقم 08000730510.

此宣传单可提供大字版本、音频版本和其它语言版本，请拨打电话：0800 073 0510。

Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

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Aceasta broșura poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru va rugăm sunați la 0800 073 0510.

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