

## INCOMPETENCY/ VARICOSE VEIN ULTRASOUND

### Appointment

Date:

Time:

Patient Preparation:

Nil

Time For Examination:

40 mins

Please Bring:

Referral

Previous imaging

### Locations:

Gold Coast Radiology,  
Suite 1 & 2 Harbour Point

10 Santa Barbara Road,  
Hope Island, QLD 4212

Phone: 07 55142555

Fax: 07 55142511

[www.gcradiology.com.au](http://www.gcradiology.com.au)

**Undercover parking is  
available.**

Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to generate an image. There are no known side effects. It has the ability to image in real time, allowing structures and movement to be seen and recorded. This makes it a good modality to view arteries and veins and record blood flow.

All ultrasound examinations use a hypo allergenic gel on the probe(hand held device)so it can slide over the skin and provide a medium for the sound waves to pass through to the body. Doppler ultrasound(special application ultrasound)measures the direction and speed of blood cells as they pass through the vessel. You will hear pulse like sounds that change in pitch as blood flow is monitored and measured.

You may be required to change into a gown.

When you are taken into the room questions regarding previous surgery or injections will be asked and a visual assessment of your leg will be made. This aids the exam by seeing where visible veins start or go to, if skin discolouration or any ulcers are present.

Varicose vein studies are performed mostly with the patient standing and then sitting with legs lowered over the side of the couch, this allow for gravity/pressure to affect the valves of the vein being tested increasing accuracy of assessment. The calf, foot or back of the knee will be squeezed at intervals to push the blood through the level of vein being interrogated, this can be watched on the screen & the efficiency of the valves are observed. Blood should travel *to* the heart. The veins are systematically assessed from groin to ankle. Sometimes it may be necessary to go higher into the pelvis if the varicosed veins start higher up.

In presence of ulcers dressings will be removed as much as possible to get close enough to see if there is a particular vein that is responsible for the ulcer.

At the end of all examinations gel will be wiped off and you will be asked to dress while the films are reviewed and a worksheet is prepared.

Our Radiology Doctor will review the images & worksheet and send a report back to your referring doctor.