



Melbourne Vascular Imaging

VENOUS THROMBOSIS

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is a common occurrence in hospital patients such as major trauma and surgical cases, who require bed confinement for long periods DVT is also common in medically treated patients and the victims of malignant disease. Symptoms include inflammation, localised pain and swelling in the leg. If the vein does not fully recanalise (re-open) chronic swelling can occur.

Sometimes the valves of the deep veins are damaged by the thrombus causing skin changes and ulceration in the calf. If the thrombus extends above the knee there is significant chance of a pulmonary embolism.

Venous catheters are also a common cause for central vein thrombus in the axillary, subclavian, and jugular veins.

Patients often present to Casualty with leg swelling after knee surgery, trauma, or long distance plane flights. The Vascular Lab has a 24 hour on-call service to deal with these, or any other urgent after hours scans.