Venous Ultrasound
What is a Venous Ultrasound?
Ultrasound imaging, or sonography, uses sound waves to produce pictures of the inside of the body. Ultrasound exams do not use radiation. Ultrasound images are captured in real time so they can show the structure and movement of the body’s internal organs, as well as blood flowing through blood vessels. The most common reason for a venous ultrasound exam is to search for blood clots, especially in the veins of the leg. Please specify upper or lower extremities and right, left or both. You may want to order this as a hold-and-call exam.

CPT Code
93970 Bilateral
93971 Unilateral

Indications
Diagnose deep vein thrombosis (DVT), pain, swelling, edema, postpartum.

Contraindications
None.

How Does The Patient Prepare?
The patient should wear comfortable clothing around the area to be scanned. A gown may be provided if necessary.

What Happens During the Test?
The technologist (sonographer) will obtain a thorough medical history. The patient may be asked to remove clothing as appropriate, and will be provided a gown and blanket if needed. A clear gel is applied to the area of concern. The sonographer or radiologist will then press a small, hand-held device called a transducer against the skin and sweep it back and forth over the area. The procedure is quick and painless, and images are immediately available to the sonographer. The test takes approximately 30 minutes to complete.

After the Test
After the exam, the gel is wiped off. If the patient does have a DVT, the referring physician will be phoned immediately. If not, the patient may resume normal activities.

The Results
A radiologist will analyze the images and send a signed report to the referring physician within one business day.

(information adapted from www.radiologyinfo.org and Dr. Jill Westercamp)

This information is intended for use as merely a guideline for referring physicians and their staff members only. It contains information pertaining to the most commonly ordered exams and indications. However, Shawnee Mission Medical Center Radiology does not recommend any particular examination. Individual radiologist preference or patient circumstances may dictate ordering alternative studies. Although contrast codes are not needed to place an order, the following contrast codes may be used in placing orders:
CT Contrast Q9967, MRI contrast A9577 and A9579.