

# Peripheral Arterial Disease & Varicose Veins

## 週邊動脈疾病和靜脈曲張

BChinMed IV – Fundamental of Surgical Diagnosis – Vascular Surgery

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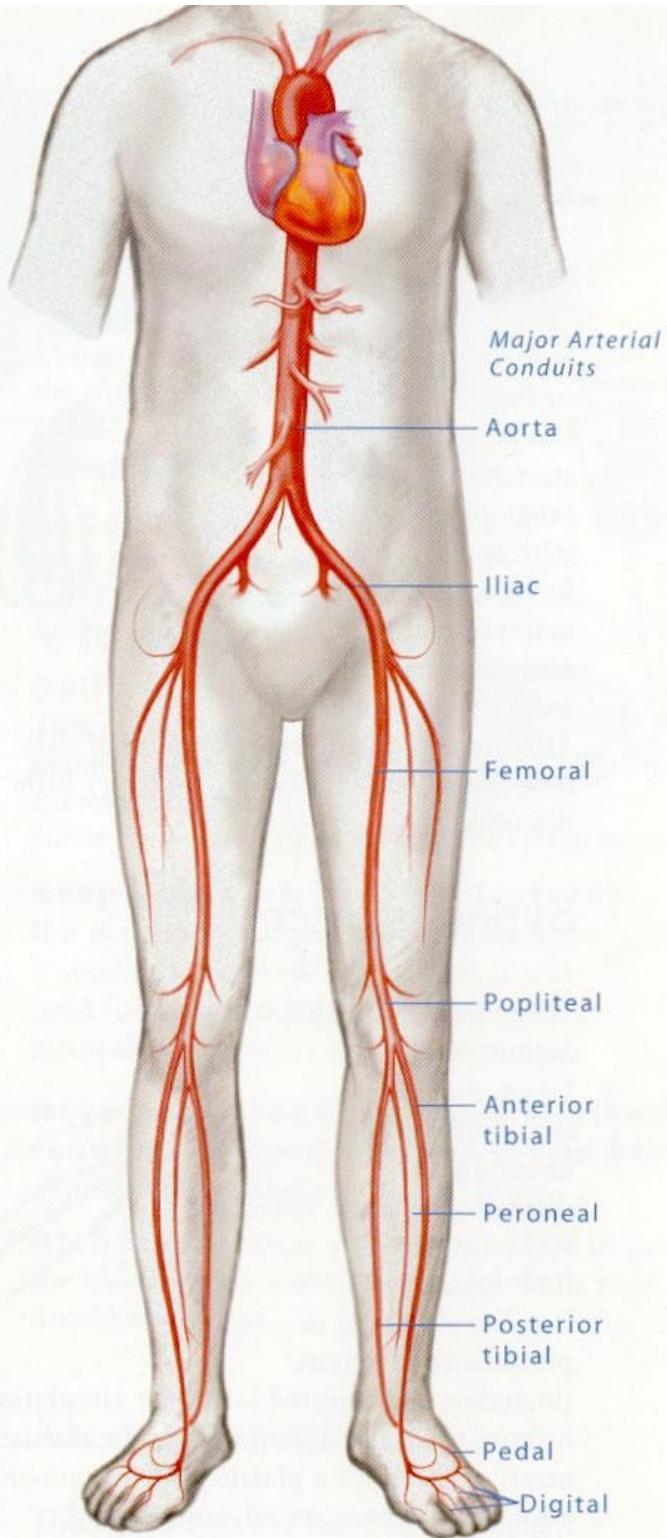
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# Peripheral Arterial Disease

## 週邊動脈疾病



# *Intermittent claudication*

間歇性跛行

- Pain in muscle groups (usually calf, but may affect thigh, buttock, arms)
- After walking some distance
- Worse hurrying, up / downhill, stairs
- Relieved by short rest

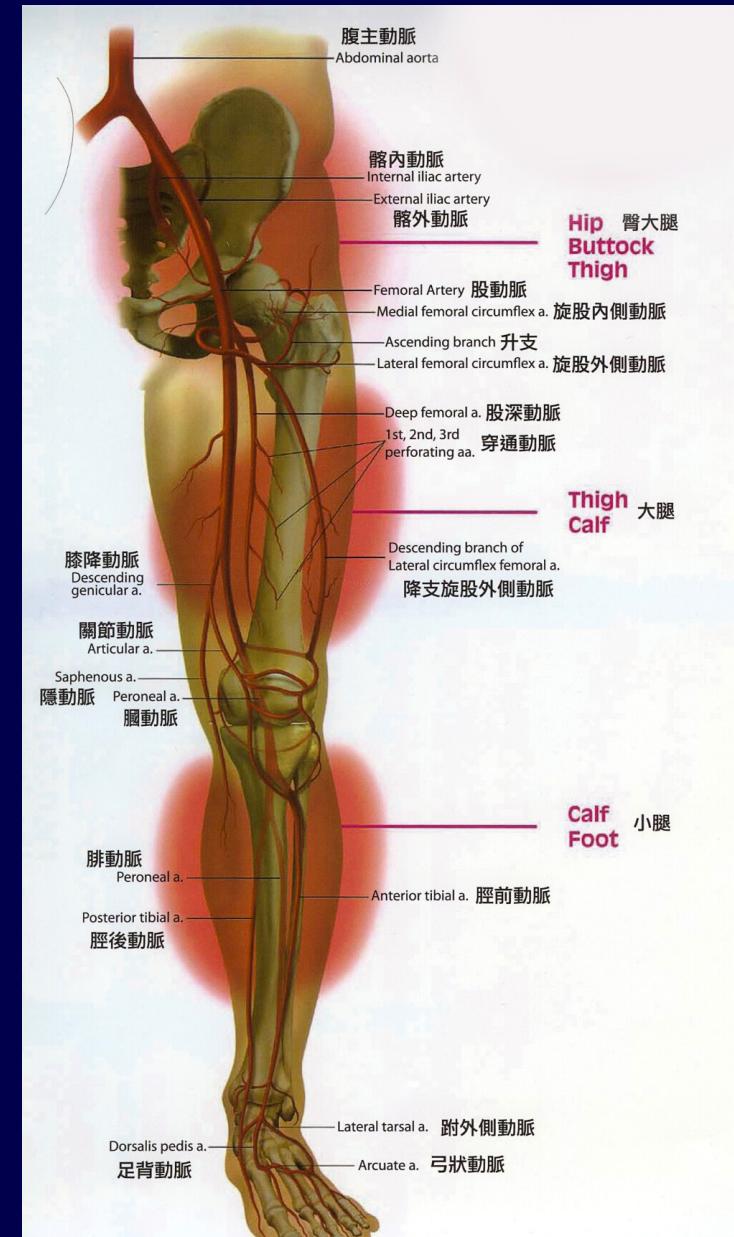
In general:

*single-level stenosis* 狹窄 / *occlusion* 閉塞 will cause claudication,

*multi-level stenosis/ occlusion* will cause rest pain/ tissue loss

# *History of Intermittent Claudication*

- *Speed of onset*
  - May reflect aetiology 病因 (embolism 栓塞 vs thrombosis in-situ 血栓形成 / atherosclerosis 動脈粥樣硬化)
- *Which muscle groups*
  - May indicate the level of arterial stenosis/occlusion



# *Ischaemic Rest pain*

缺血性靜息痛

- Pain in the forefoot, toes, or ankle
- Aggravated by elevating the leg
- Improved by placing the leg in dependent position
- Caused by hypoxia 缺氧 of the cutaneous nerves

# *Ischaemic Rest pain*

- *Frequently worse at night*
  - Lack of gravity-induced increase in arterial blood flow
  - Lower mean arterial pressure/ perfusion pressure during sleep
- *Patients may need to sleep in a chair to keep the foot in dependent position*

# *Ischaemic ulcers / gangrene*

缺血性潰瘍 / 壞疽



- Usually in toes/ heel/ pressure points
- Ulcers are unhealthy with punched out edges
- Lack of granulation tissues
- Painful (apart from diabetics)



# *Ischaemic ulcers/ gangrene in Diabetics*

- *Peripheral arterial disease*
  - *Macrovascular (usually infra-popliteal disease)*
  - *Microvascular*
- *Peripheral neuropathy*
- *Prone to sepsis*
- *Poor healing*
- *Poor glycaemic control*

# *Examination of Patients with peripheral vascular disease*

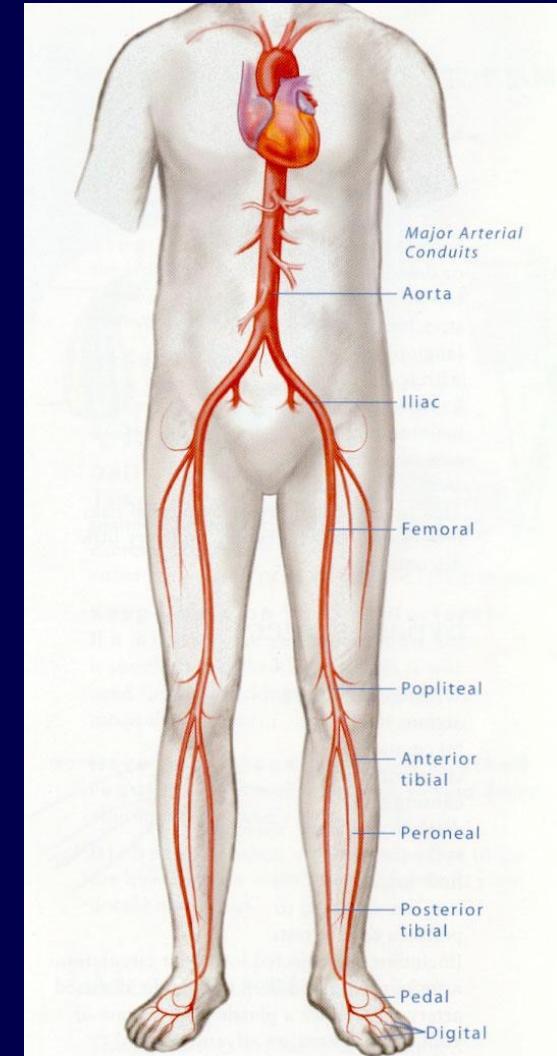
- *Inspection*
  - Patients with intermittent claudication may have no clinical signs on inspection
  - Patients with severe lower limb ischaemia
    - Thin atrophic nails/ skin
    - Previous toe amputation
    - Ulcers: toes, heel, pressure points of foot/ ankle
    - Previous surgical scars for bypass surgery
    - Pale on elevation and dependency hyperaemia (Buerger's test)



**Figure 2.2** Sunset red foot due to dilated capillaries caused by critical (limb-threatening) ischaemia. Elevation of the foot will result in pallor (Buerger's or Ratshow's test positive).

# *Examination of Patients with peripheral vascular disease*

- *Palpation*
  - Capillary return of toes
  - Temperature
  - Pulses
    - Femorals
    - Popliteals
    - Pedal pulses





**Figure 2.6** Palpation of the femoral pulse may require both hands except in the thin patient. One hand pushes the lower abdomen out of the way and the other palpates the femoral artery/pulse.



**Figure 2.7** A popliteal pulse is best felt using both hands with the leg relaxed in slight flexion.

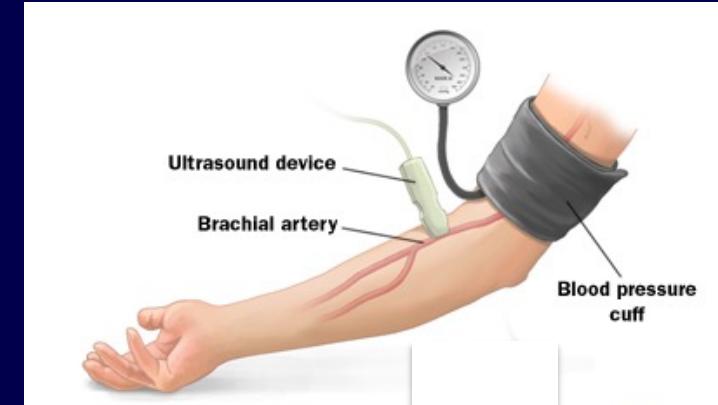
# *Examination of Patients with peripheral vascular disease*

- *Auscultation*
  - *Bruits*
  - *Carotid bruits*
  - *Cardiac murmur*
  - *Abdominal or femoral bruits*

# *Ankle Brachial Pressure Index*

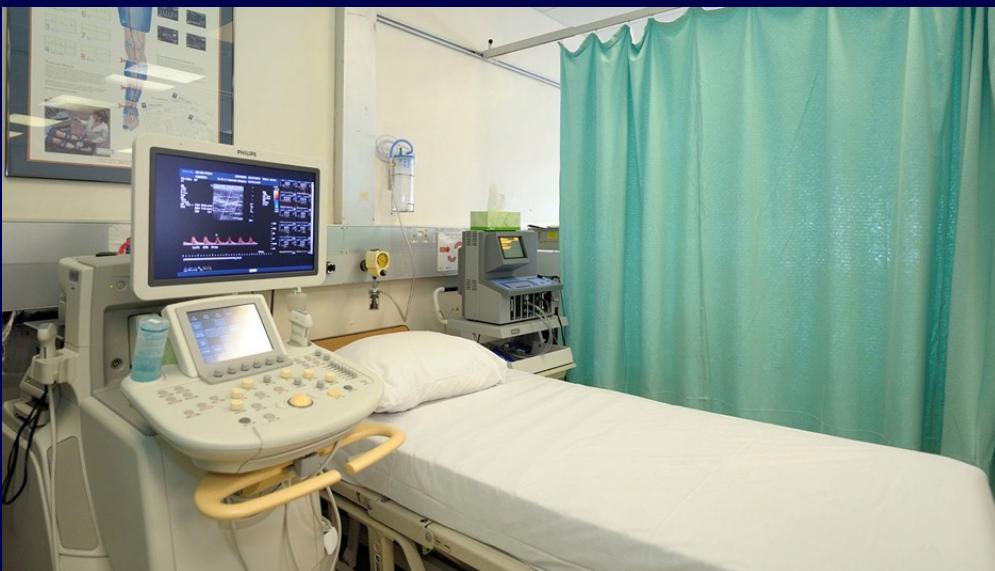
踝肱動脈血壓指數

- Normal ABI is 1.0 to 1.1
- Progressive lower values corresponding to worsening arterial disease
- Claudication    0.6 +/- 0.2
- Rest pain                0.3 +/- 0.1
- Tissue necrosis 0.1 +/- 0.1



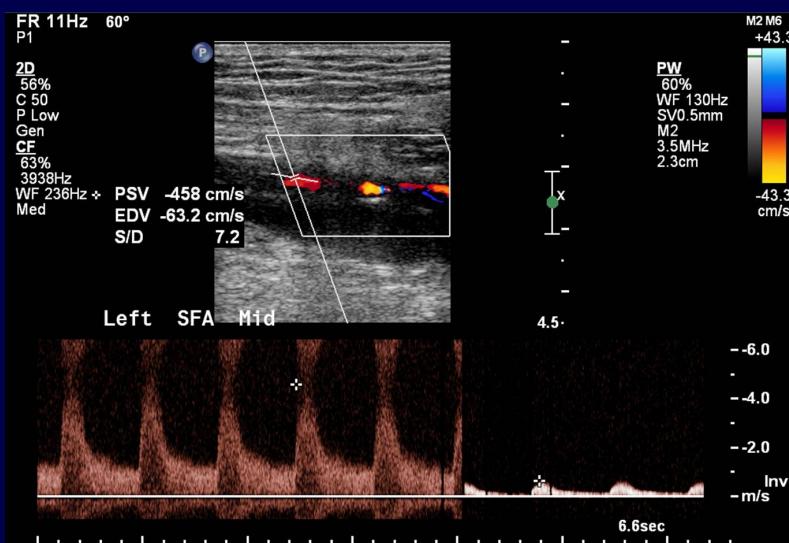
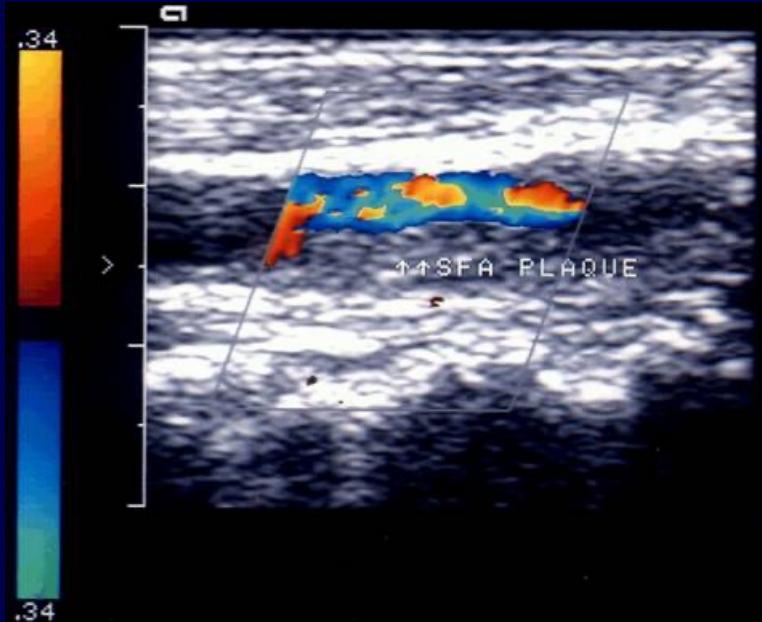
# *Investigations*

- *Special vascular tests*
  - *Non-invasive*
  - *Invasive*



# *Limitations of Arterial Duplex Ultrasound*

多普勒超聲波

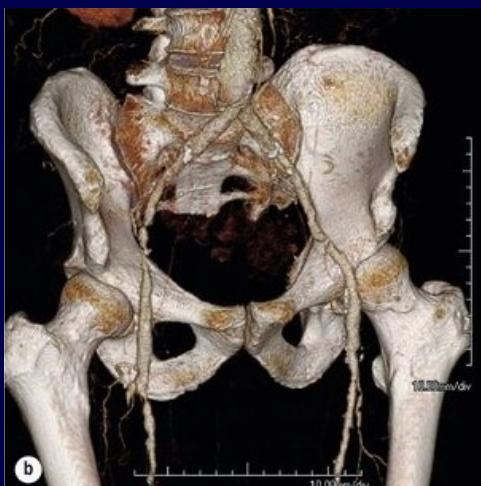


- User dependent, machine dependent
  - Credited scanners, properly trained
- Calcified plaques
- Obscured by dressings / surgical wounds
- Time consuming

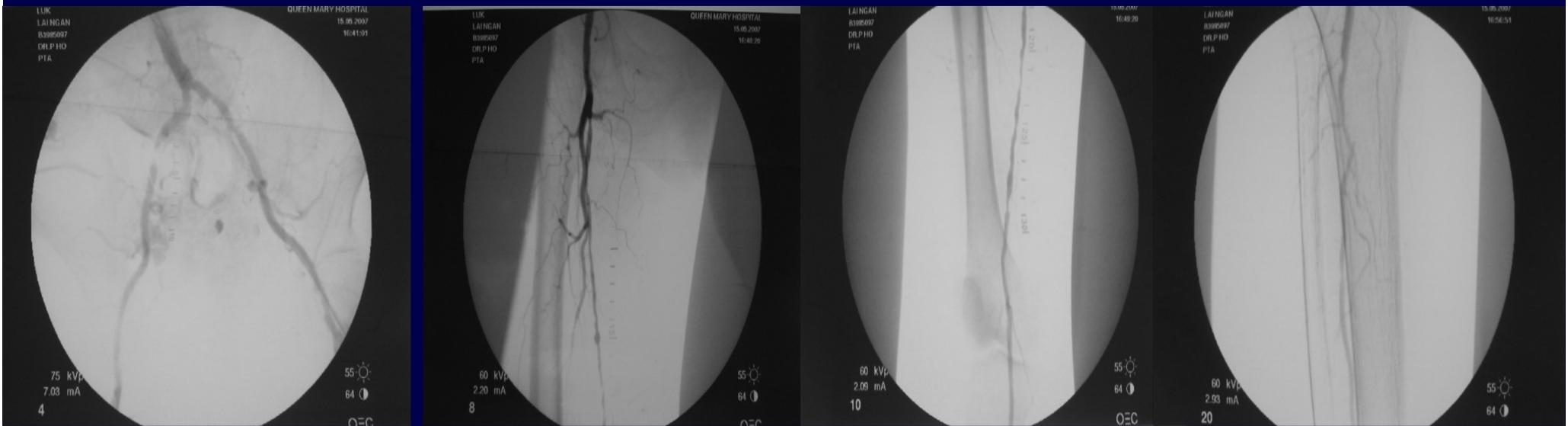
# *Angiogram*

動脈造影

- Intra-arterial digital subtracted angiogram (IADSA)
- CT angiogram
- MR angiogram



# IADSA

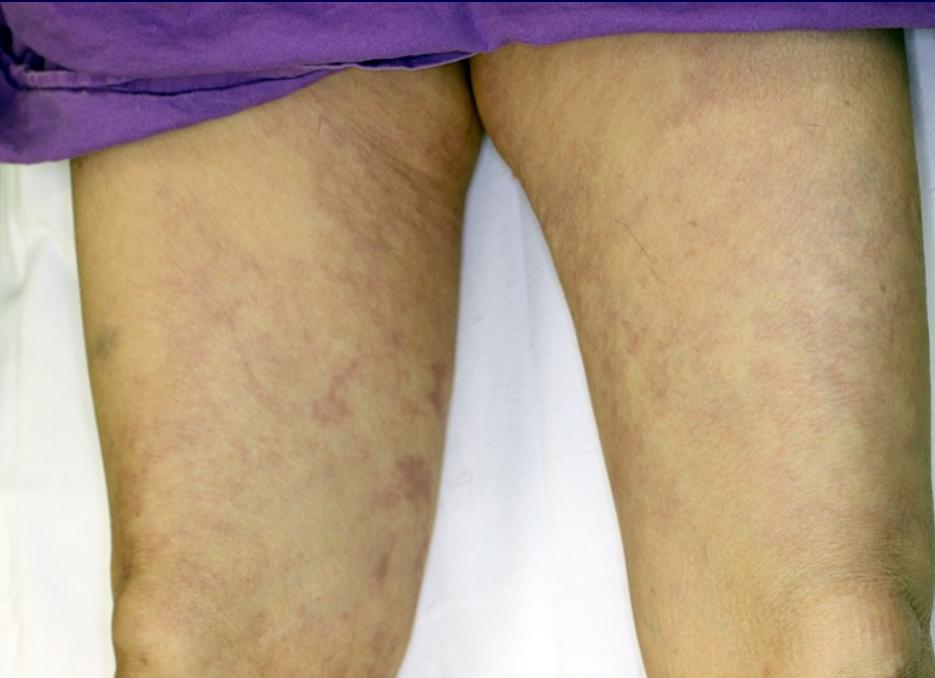


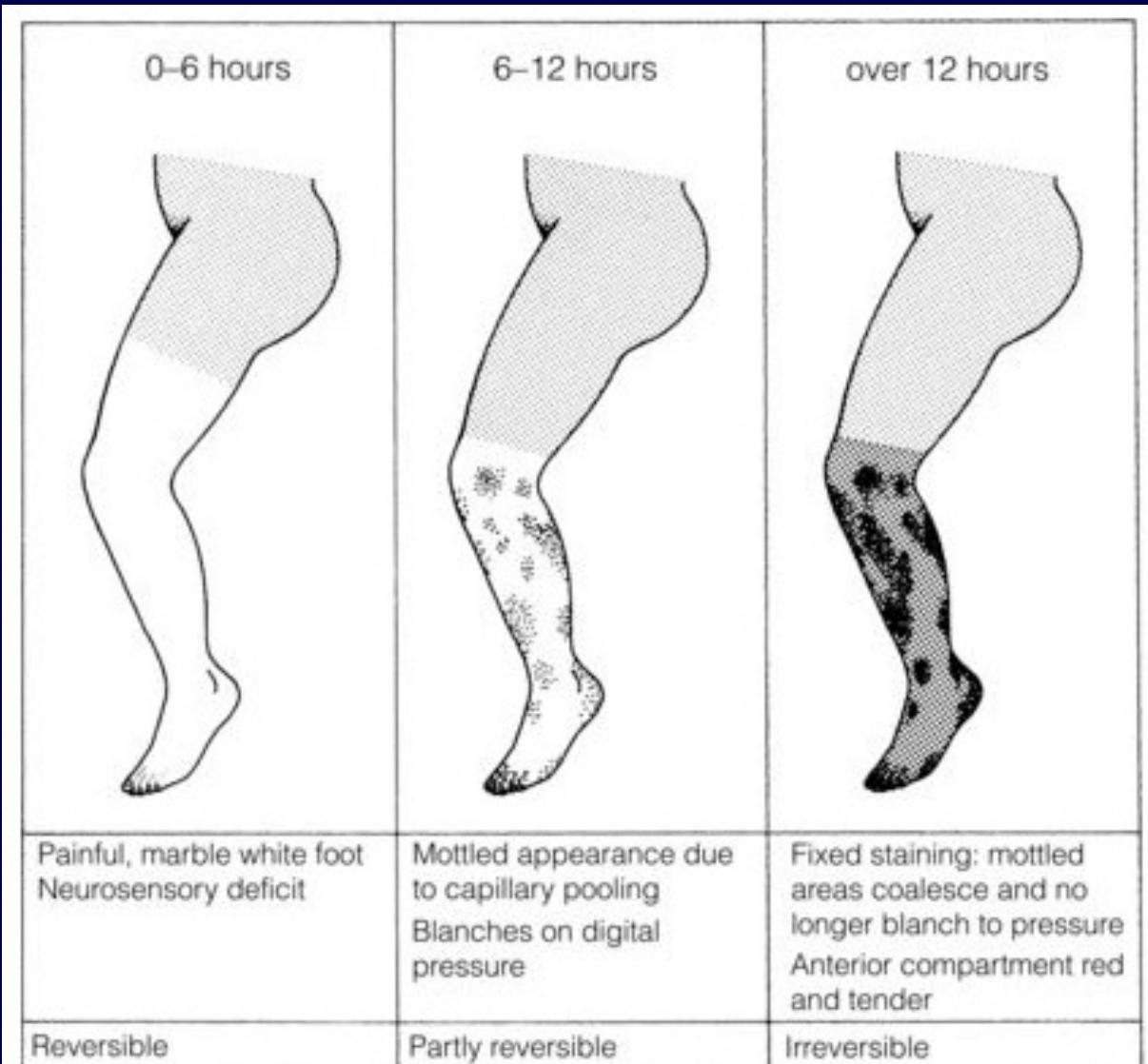
1. Name the artery (according to bony landmarks) and divide into thirds (proximal, middle, distal)
2. Describe degree of stenosis (mild, moderate, severe, occlusion)
3. Length of stenosis/ occlusion
4. Run-off vessels



# *Acute lower limb ischaemia*

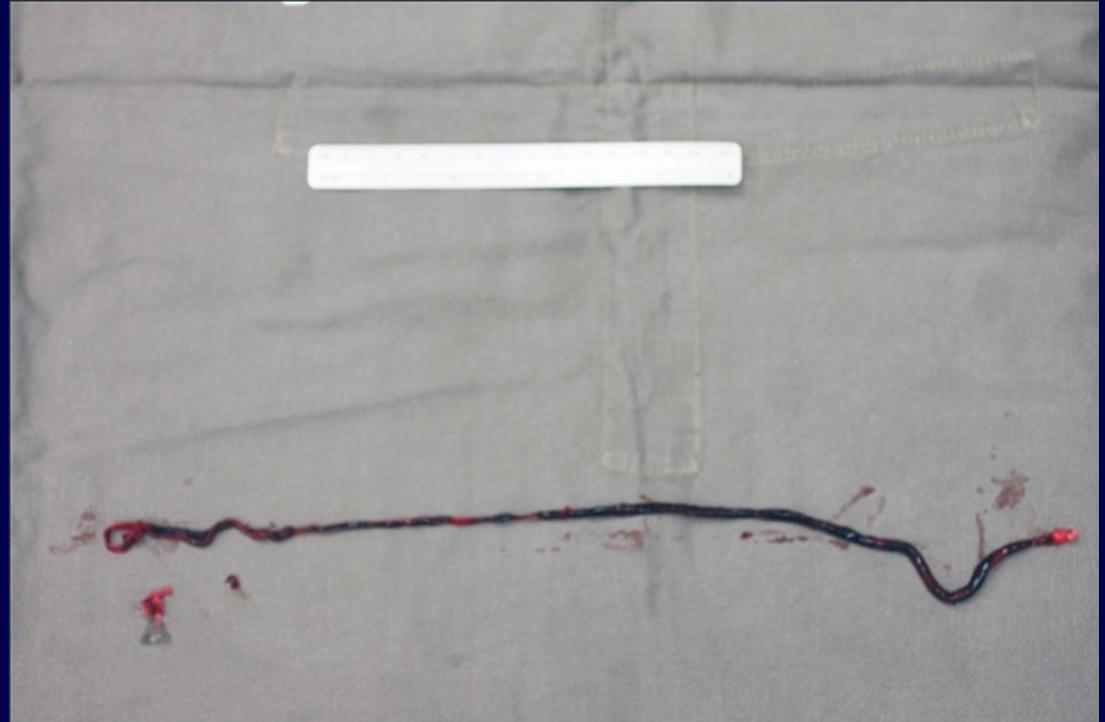
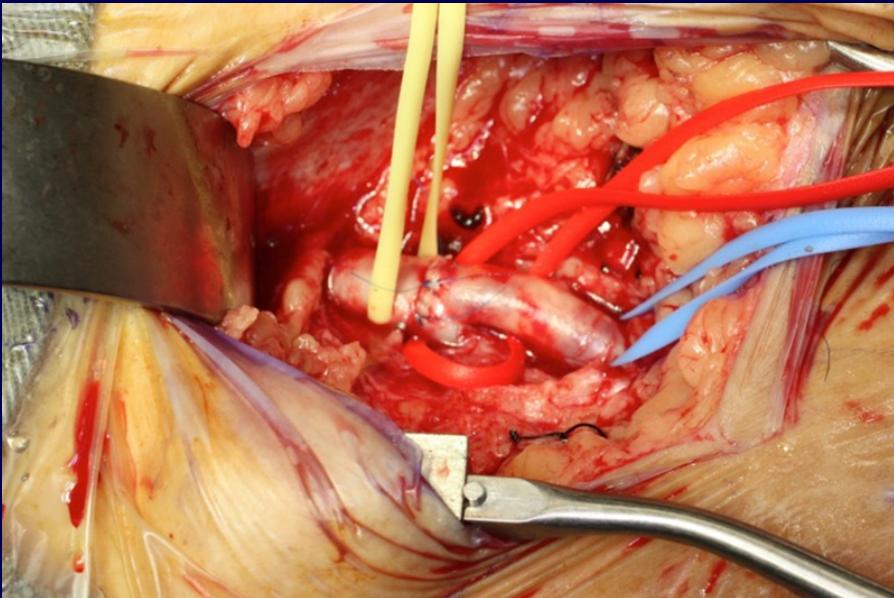
- *Pain*
- *Perishing cold*
- *Pallor*
- *Pulselessness*
- *Parasthaesia*
- *Paralysis*





**Figure 8.4** Clinical outcome after acute leg ischaemia.

# *Emergency femoral embolectomy*



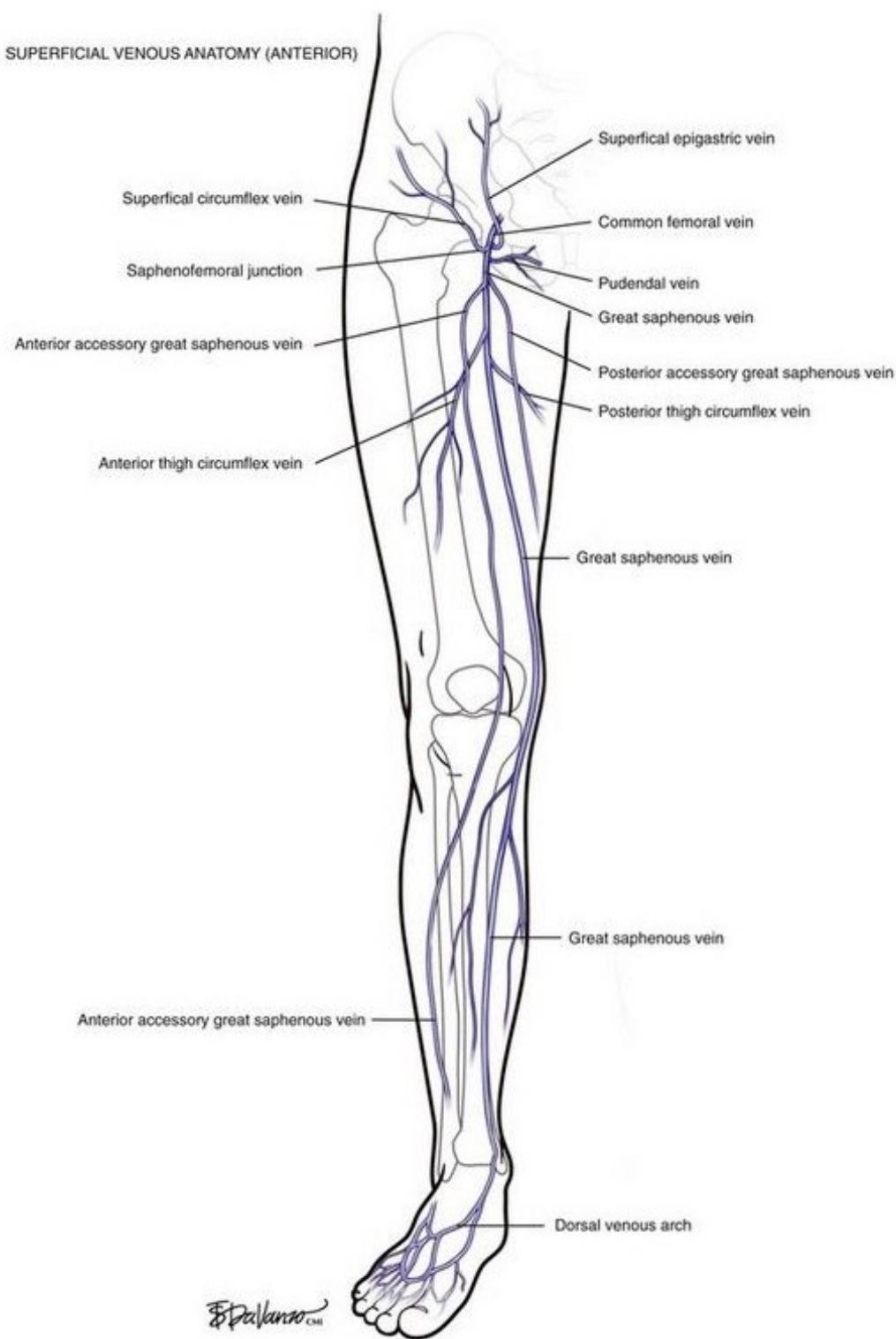
# Varicose Veins

## 靜脈曲張

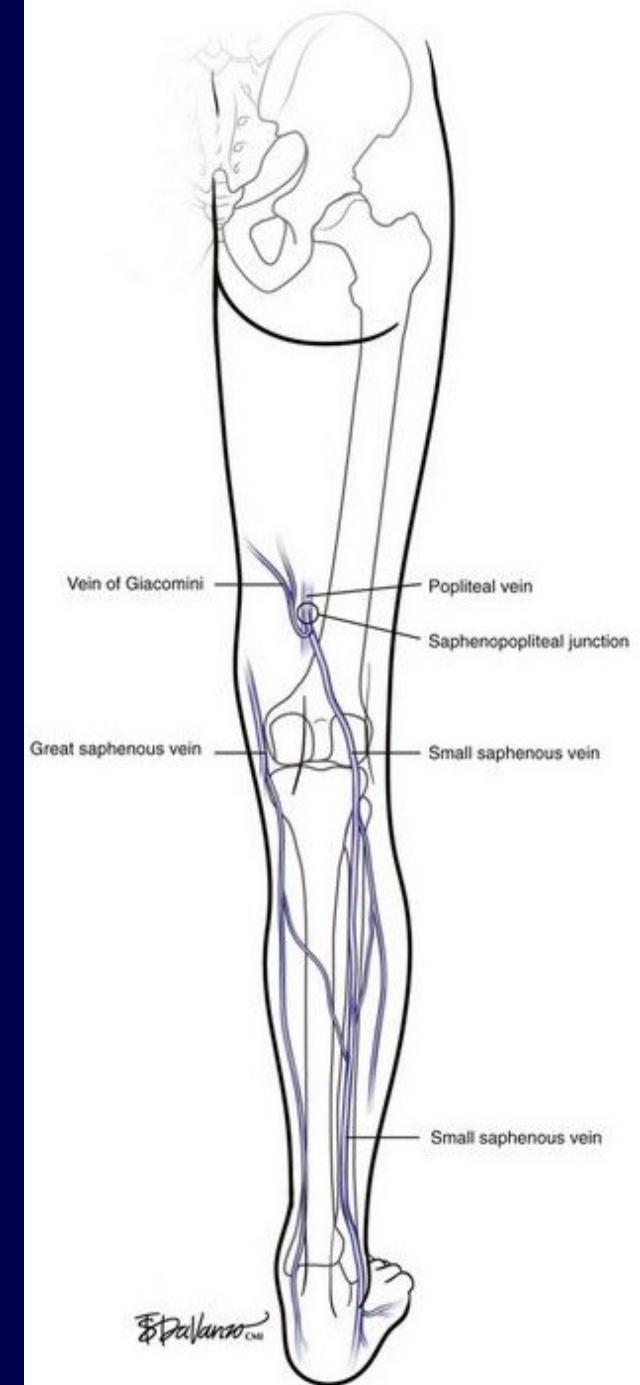
# *Varicose Veins*

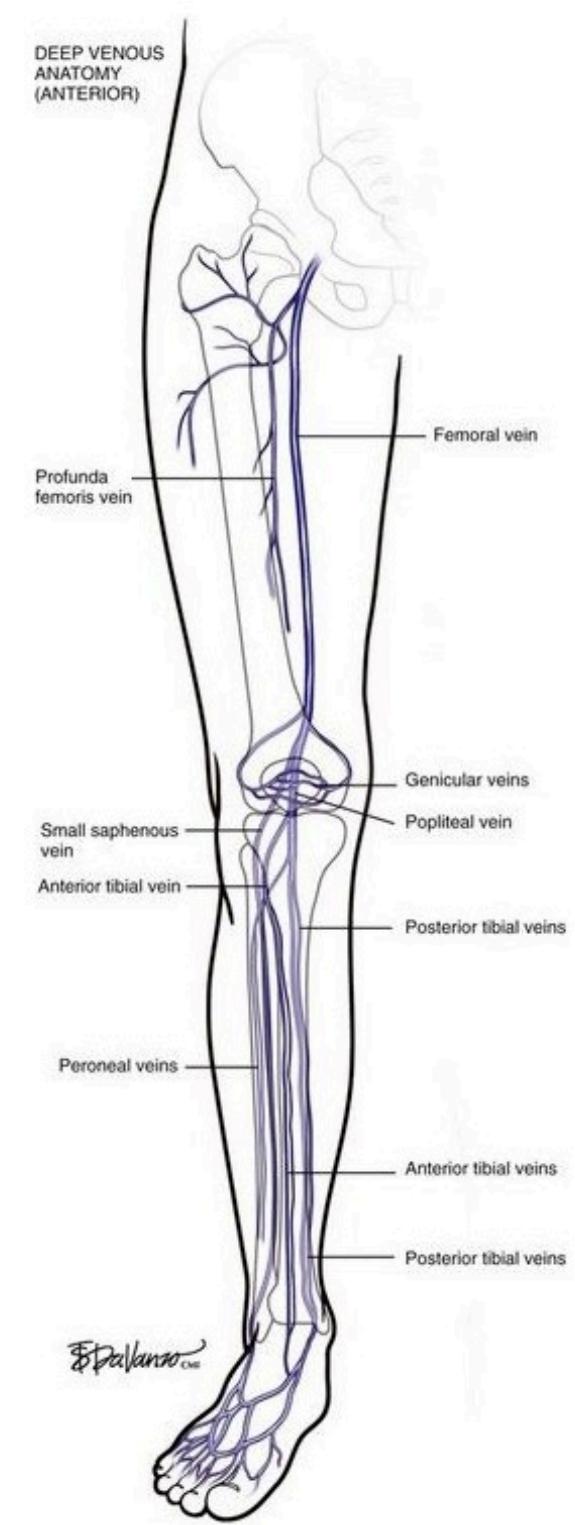
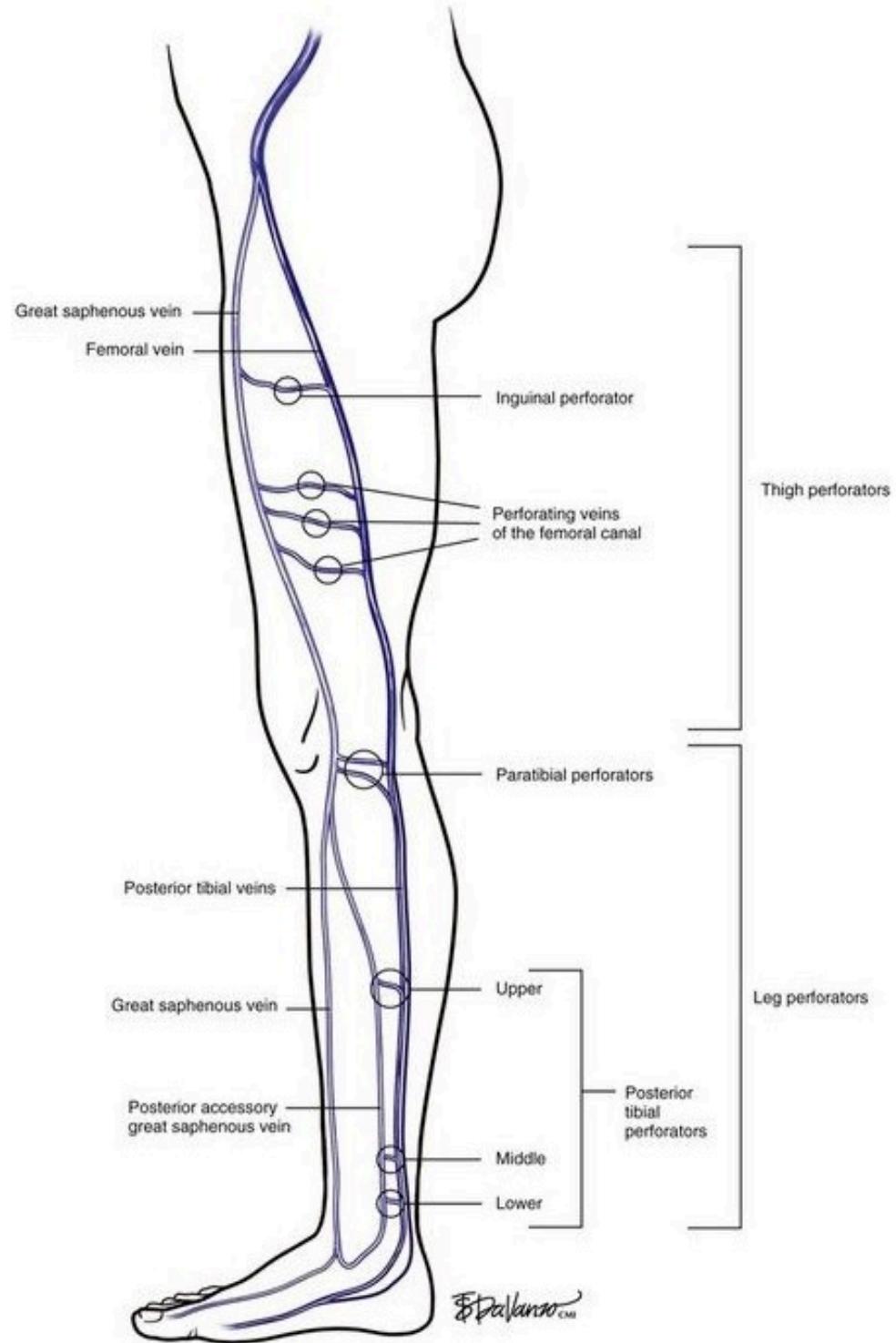
- More common in women (3.5:1)
  - Pregnancy aggravates veins
  - More symptomatic in women (cosmetic concerns)
- Tortuous dilated cutaneous veins
  - Primary trunk incompetence v v's
    - Long/ short saphenous veins 隱靜脈
  - Secondary trunk incompetence v v's
    - Acting as collaterals *in the presence of damage, occluded, or absent deep veins* (usually severe skin changes and not much v v's)

SUPERFICIAL VENOUS ANATOMY (ANTERIOR)



SUPERFICIAL VENOUS ANATOMY (POSTERIOR)

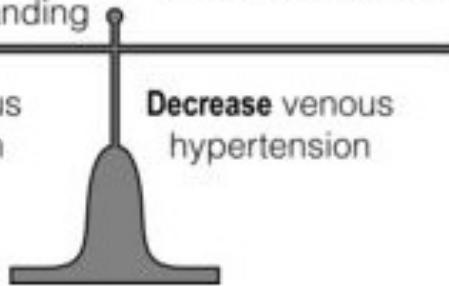




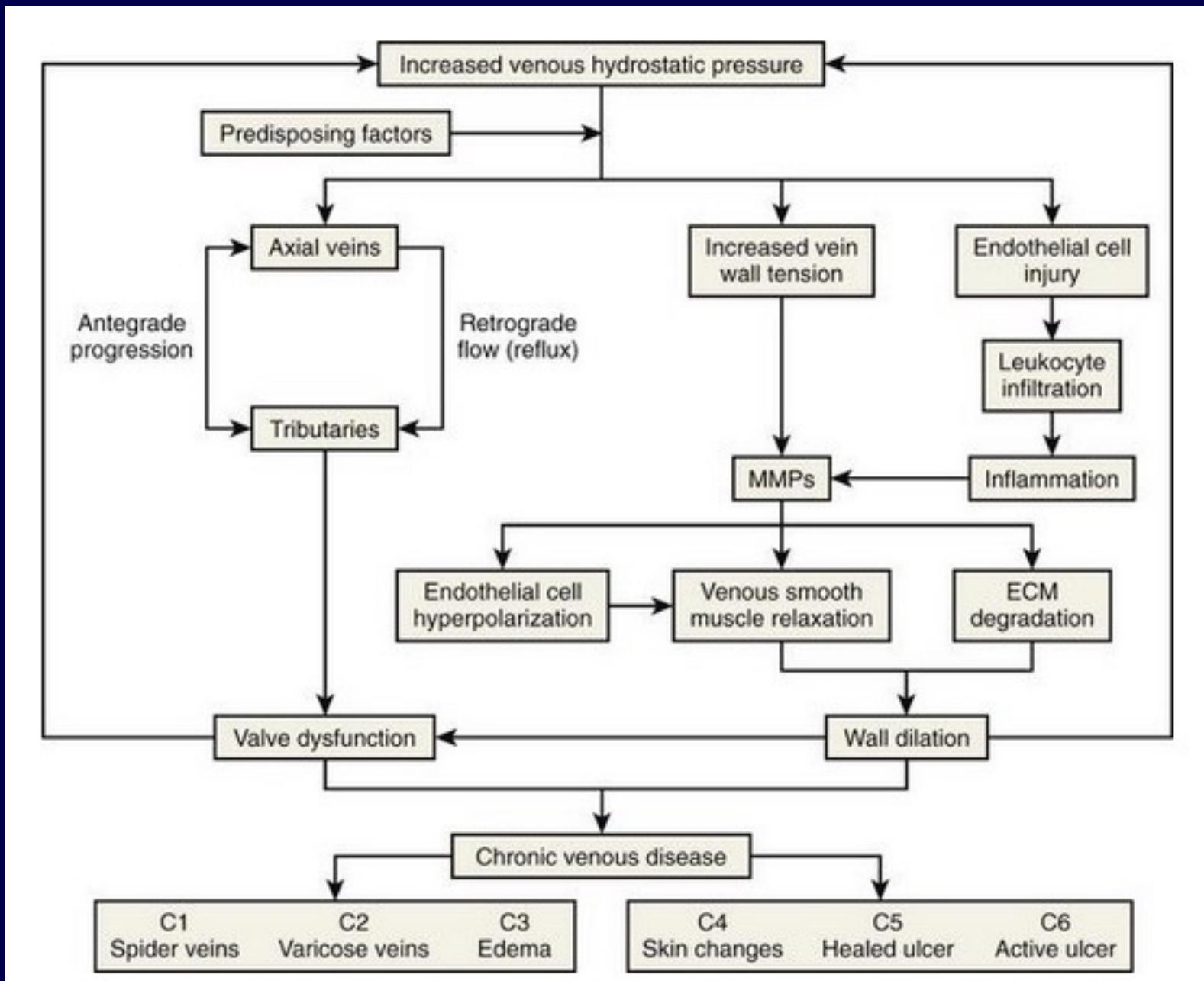
Venous reflux  
Venous obstruction  
Obesity  
Prolonged standing

Calf muscle pump  
Limb elevation  
Compression hosiery

**Increase** venous hypertension      **Decrease** venous hypertension



**Figure 17.1** Factors affecting venous hypertension.



# *Examination of Varicose Veins*

- Are there any varicose veins (tortuous and dilated)
- What distribution? (LSV, SSV, deep, combination)
- Are there any complications
  - Eczema / itchiness
  - Pigmentation
  - Lipodermatosclerosis 脂性硬皮病
  - Ulcerations
- Tourniquet tests
- Pulses
- *Tap test / cough test*
- *Handheld doppler with calf squeeze manoeuvre*

# **CLINICAL CLASSIFICATION OF PRIMARY VARICOSE VEINS**

## **TABLE**

### **A. Telangiectasias:**

- Localized
- Diffuse

### **B. Reticular veins**

- Localized
- Diffuse

### **C. Truncular**

- Secondary to insufficiency of:
- Great saphenous vein and tributaries
- Small saphenous vein and tributaries<sup>24</sup>
- Perforating veins
- Other venous systems: gastrocnemius  
Solear  
Pelvic

# International Consensus CEAP

## Symptoms

## Clinical signs

**C<sub>0S</sub>**



Heavy legs,  
pains in the  
legs, pruritus...  
But no clinical  
or palpable  
signs of  
venous  
disease

[» read more](#)

**C<sub>1</sub>**



Telangiectasia  
or reticular  
veins

[» read more](#)

**C<sub>2</sub>**



Visible and  
palpable  
varicose veins

[» read more](#)

**C<sub>3</sub>**



Venous  
oedema  
(without trophic  
changes)

[» read more](#)

**C<sub>4</sub>**



Trophic  
changes of  
venous origin :  
atrophie  
blanche,  
pigmented  
purpuric  
dermatitis,  
varicose  
eczema

[» read more](#)

**C<sub>5</sub>**



healed ulcer  
with trophic  
changes

[» read more](#)

**C<sub>6</sub>**



Presence of  
one or more  
active venous  
leg ulcers,  
often  
accompanied  
by trophic  
changes

[» read more](#)

C<sub>0</sub> - C<sub>6</sub> : description of the progression of the disease on the basis of the clinical signs present

C : clinical signs    E : etiological classification    A : anatomical distribution    P : pathophysiological dysfunction

## Clinical\*

- C<sub>0</sub> - No clinical signs
- C<sub>1</sub> - Small varicose veins
- C<sub>2</sub> - Large varicose veins
- C<sub>3</sub> - Edema
- C<sub>4</sub> - Skin changes without ulceration
- C<sub>5</sub> - Skin changes with healed ulceration
- C<sub>6</sub> - Skin changes with active ulceration

## Etiology\*

- E<sub>C</sub> - Congenital
- E<sub>P</sub> - Primary
- E<sub>S</sub> - Secondary  
(usually due to prior DVT)

## Anatomy\*

- A<sub>S</sub> - Superficial veins
- A<sub>D</sub> - Deep veins
- A<sub>P</sub> - Perforating veins

## Pathophysiology\*

- P<sub>R</sub> - Reflux
- P<sub>O</sub> - Obstruction

*"Early application of compression should be performed to correct swelling and progressive scarring and to initiate the healing process by improving the venous microcirculation."*

Kistner R. Specific Steps to Effective Management of Venous Ulceration. Supplement to Wounds June 2010.

## Clinical Classifications with examples



C<sub>1</sub> - telangiectasias or reticular veins



C<sub>2</sub> - varicose veins



C<sub>3</sub> - edema & corona



C<sub>4</sub> - lipodermatosclerosis and eczema

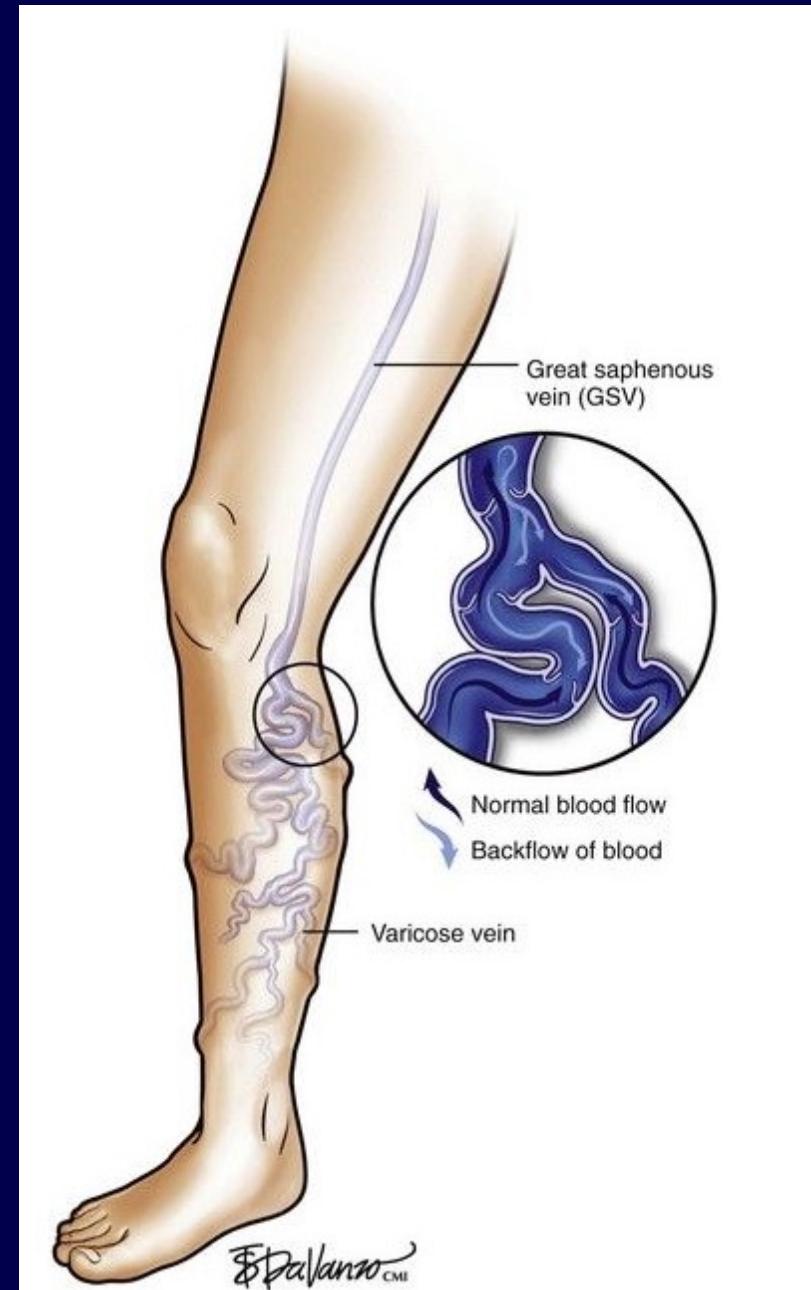


C<sub>5</sub> - ulcer scar



C<sub>6</sub> - active ulcer

\*Fronok HS, Bergan JJ, et al. The Fundamentals of Phlebology: Venous Disease for Clinicians. 2004. pg 151.



# *Tourniquet test*



# *Reticular veins/ thread veins/ Spider veins*



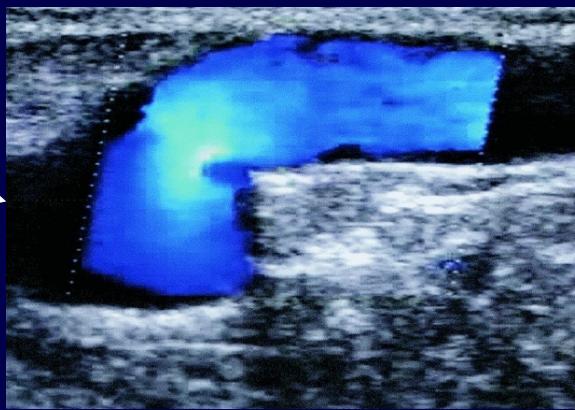
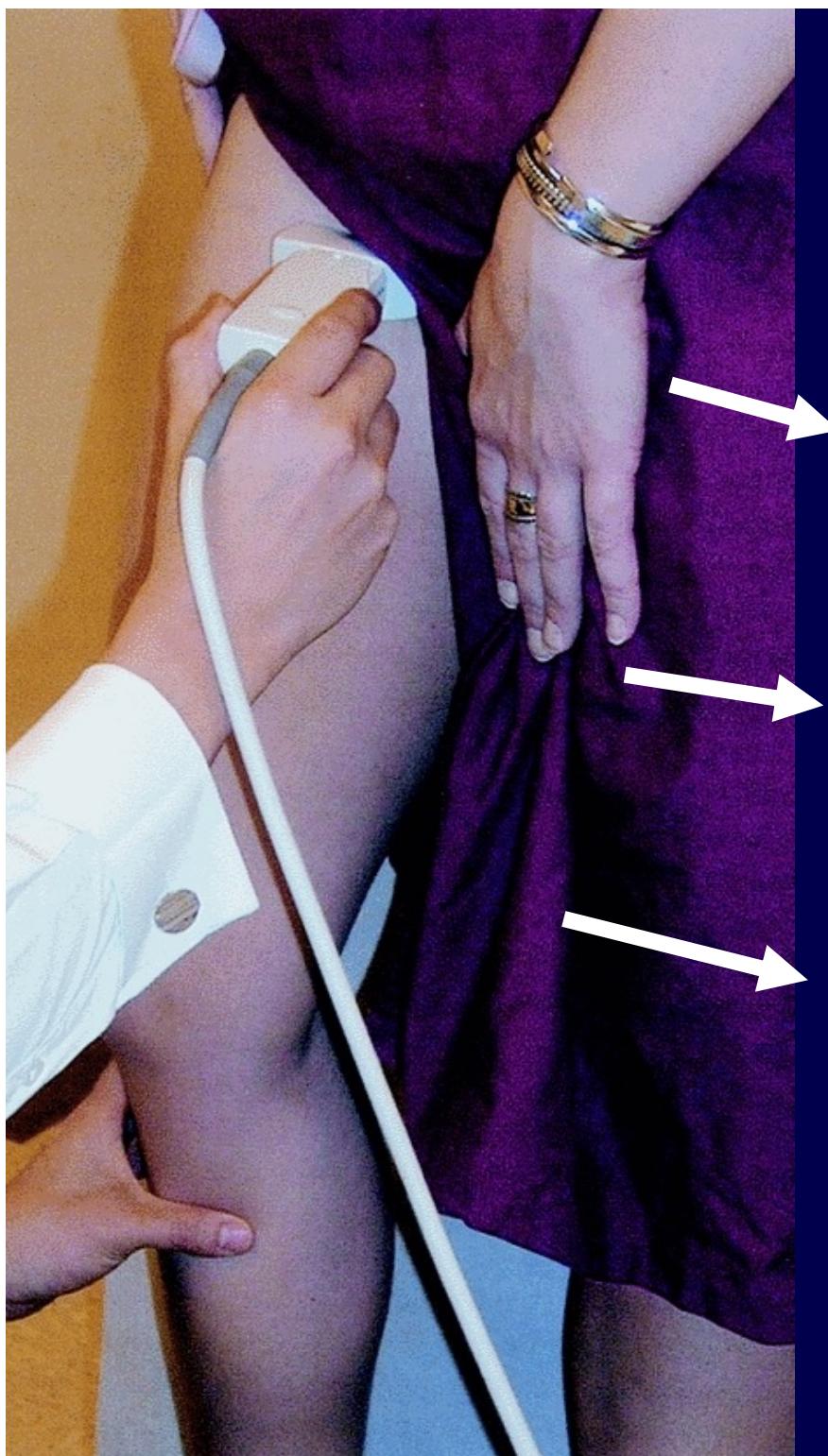
*Pigmentation / ulceration  
Healed ulcer*



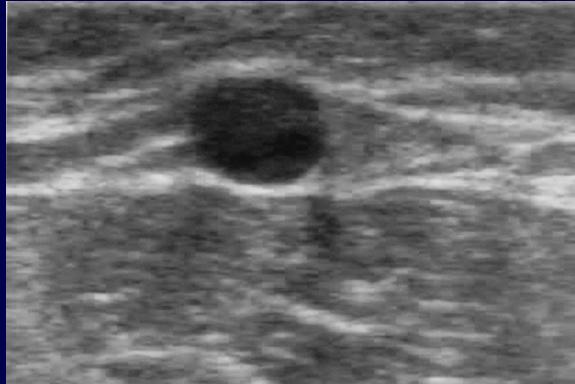
# *Investigation of varicose veins*

- Duplex ultrasound
  - Sites of reflux
    - Saphenofemoral junction/ long saphenous vein
    - Saphenopopliteal junction/ short saphenous vein
    - Deep veins
    - Perforators

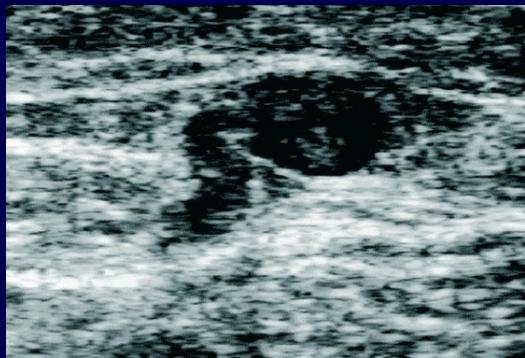
# *Duplex Assessment*

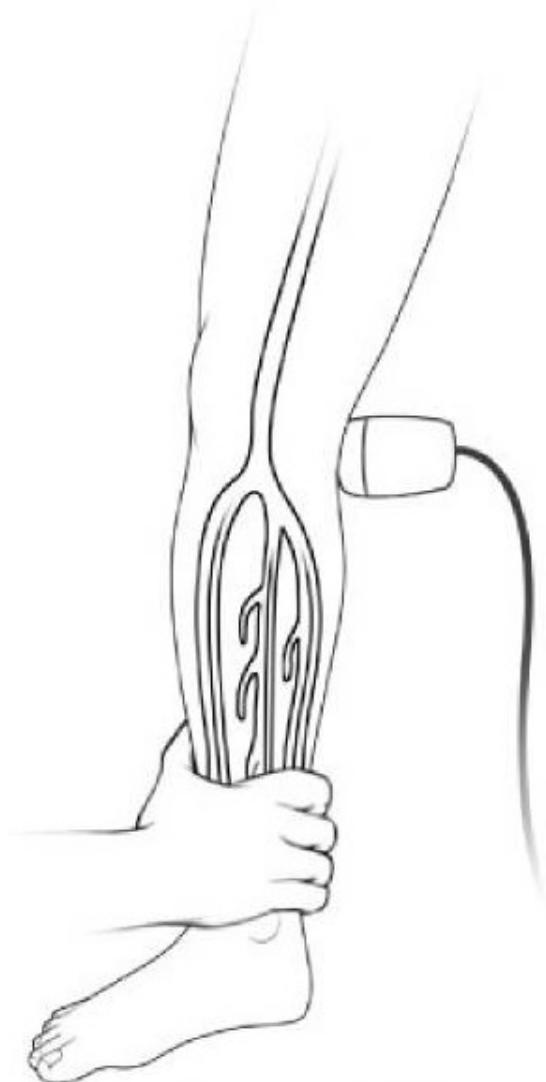


SFJ



LSV

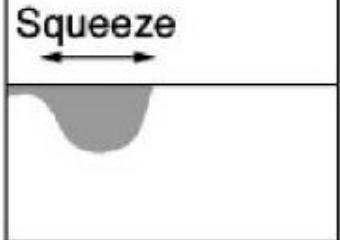




A

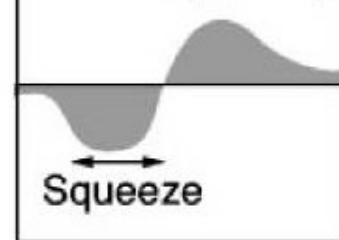
Normal

Velocity



B

Venous reflux



C

Time

# *Incidence of (Venous) Ulcers*

- 1,500 leg ulcers in 1,000,000 subjects
- 0.15% prevalence
- 70% venous ulcers
- 25% mixed venous/arterial
  - *1% of population have had ulcers*
  - *0.25% approximately have active ulcers*

# *Venous Ulcers*



- Typical ankle area
- Pigmentation
- Size
- Sloping edge
- Slough/ granulation at base
- Visible v v's/ previous surgery (arterial/ venous)



- Chronic ulcer may undergo malignant changes
- ?underlying dermatological/rheumatological disorders
- Needs biopsy

# Varicose veins in the legs

## The diagnosis and management of varicose veins

Issued: July 2013

**NICE clinical guideline 168**

[guidance.nice.org.uk/cg168](http://guidance.nice.org.uk/cg168)

## ***Referral to a vascular service***

- Refer people to a vascular service<sup>[1]</sup> if they have any of the following.
- Symptomatic<sup>[2]</sup> primary or symptomatic recurrent varicose veins.
- Lower-limb skin changes, such as pigmentation or eczema, thought to be caused by chronic venous insufficiency.
- Superficial vein thrombosis (characterised by the appearance of hard, painful veins) and suspected venous incompetence.
- A venous leg ulcer (a break in the skin below the knee that has not healed within 2 weeks).
- A healed venous leg ulcer.

Thank you!