



Melbourne Vascular Imaging SUPERFICIAL VEIN THROMBOPHLEBITIS

The most common cause of superficial thrombophlebitis in the upper arm is intravenous infusions that inflict chemical injury on the vessel wall that leads to inflammation, and then thrombosis of the involved vein.

- Lower limb thrombophlebitis most commonly occurs in varicose veins.
- Thrombophlebitis presents with severe pain, redness, inflammation, and pyrexia.
- Superficial thrombophlebitis rarely extends into the deep system.

Duplex scanning is the test of choice to detect DVT and thrombophlebitis. When scanning for deep or superficial vein thrombus the vein is compressed with the transducer. Patent vein walls will collapse whereas a thrombosed vein will be incompressible. Other signs the sonographer seeks, are the absence of colour flow, dilation of the vein walls, and echogenic material within the vein.