



OSCE Checklist: Varicose Vein Examination

Introduction

- 1** Wash your hands and don PPE if appropriate
- 2** Introduce yourself to the patient including your name and role
- 3** Confirm the patient's name and date of birth
- 4** Briefly explain what the examination will involve using patient-friendly language
- 5** Explain the need for a chaperone
- 6** Gain consent to proceed with the examination
- 7** Adequately expose the patient's lower limbs
- 8** Position the patient standing
- 9** Ask the patient if they have any pain before proceeding with the clinical examination

General inspection

- 10** Inspect for clinical signs suggestive of underlying pathology (e.g. scars, ulcers)

Leg inspection

- 11** With the patient standing (if able) look for signs of venous disease from the front, side and back of the legs

Assess varicosities

- 12** Assess the temperature of any varicosities
- 13** Palpate any visible varicosities

Further assessment of the lower limbs

- 14** Assess for pitting oedema in the lower limbs
- 15** Palpate the femoral pulse
- 16** Palpate the popliteal pulse
- 17** Palpate the posterior tibial and dorsalis pedis pulse

Tap test

- 18** Place one finger, with a small amount of pressure, onto the saphenofemoral junction (SFJ) which is located 4cm inferior-lateral to the pubic tubercle
- 19** Tap the varicose vein you are assessing, which should be located lower down the leg and feel for a thrill at the SFJ

Auscultation

- 20** Place the bell of the stethoscope over the identified varicosity and listen for a bruit

Other special tests

- 21** Handheld doppler assessment
- 22** Trendelenburg test (tourniquet test)

23	Cough impulse test	
24	Perthe's test	
To complete the examination...		
25	Explain to the patient that the examination is now finished	
26	Thank the patient for their time	
27	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands	
28	Summarise your findings	
29	Suggest further assessments and investigations (e.g. Doppler ultrasound, venous duplex scanning, ABPI, peripheral arterial examination)	

Read the full guide at
[geekymedics.com](https://www.geekymedics.com)



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