



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
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