



OSCE Checklist: Deep Vein Thrombosis 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	Gain consent to proceed with the examination	
6	Position the patient on the bed, with the head of the bed at 45°	
7	Adequately expose the patient's lower limbs	
8	Ask the patient if they have any pain before proceeding with the clinical examination	
General inspection		
9	Inspect for risk factors for venous thromboembolism (e.g. age >50, obesity, pregnancy, immobility, trauma)	
10	Inspect for obvious clinical signs suggestive of venous thromboembolism (e.g. unilateral limb swelling, erythema, shortness of breath)	
11	Look for objects or equipment on or around the patient (e.g. walking aids, medical equipment)	
Pulse and blood pressure		
12	Palpate the radial pulse	
13	Offer to measure the patient's blood pressure	
Upper limbs		
14	Inspect the upper limbs for signs of a DVT	
15	Ask the patient about localised neck or shoulder pain	
Neck and chest		
16	Inspect for central venous catheters, PICC lines and cardiac pacemakers	
Leg inspection		
17	Adequately expose the patient's lower limbs (if not already done)	
18	Inspect and compare the legs for signs of DVT (e.g. erythema, oedema, distended veins) and/or venous insufficiency (e.g. varicose vein, ulcers)	
Palpation		
19	Assess the temperature of both legs using the back of your hand	
20	Assess for pitting oedema	
21	Assess for calf tenderness	
22	Measure the circumference of each calf (10cm below tibial tuberosity)	

Wells score	
23	Offer to calculate the two-level Wells score based on clinical features
To complete the examination...	
24	Explain that the examination is now finished to the patient
25	Thank the patient for their time
26	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands
27	Summarise your findings
28	Suggest further assessments and investigations (e.g. peripheral vascular examination, blood pressure measurement, cardiovascular examination, ABPI)

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