How Should Reflux Testing Be Performed According To IAC-VL?

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Disclosures:
• Consultant for BTG
• On the Board of Directors and Executive Council for the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) for Vein Centers
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Vein Center Accreditation
• Vein Center Accreditation Board established in 2012
• Superficial Standards posted 2013, revised 2/16
• 77 facilities accredited
• In Massachusetts, Blue Cross will not reimburse non-accredited vein centers beginning 1-1-16
• For accreditation, a vein center must have:
  – An RVT, RVS or RPhS doing exams
  – An accredited vascular lab (IAC or ACR)
  – Submit at least 1 case study with reflux testing

Accredited Labs
• Most centers we visited had great techs and exams
• However, even in some accredited labs, we found:
  – Great variability in venous studies
  – Technically poor exams
  – Uneducated technologists
  – Questionable US images and exams being used as the basis for venous procedures
• Venous testing was not always included in vascular lab accreditation process for other acc. agencies
• Full IAC venous exam not always indicated in vein center

A New Chapter
• IAC Vein Center Board approached Vascular Testing Board
• New, consistent standards that address venous testing are now included in the Vein Center accreditation process
• These new standards are a minimum acceptable testing level, meant to ensure all the applying centers have a baseline competency in venous testing

The Good News
• All you need is available:
  – intersocietal.org/vascular/seeking/sample_documents.htm
  – intersocietal.org/vein/main/vein_standards.htm

The Bad News
• Difficult to train techs to do thorough, accurate, patient-centered exams
• More difficult to do this in an expedited way to allow for efficient work flow
• New guidelines are designed to help with both of these needs
What’s in the Exam?

- Bilateral or unilateral testing as per symptoms
- Limited exams in follow-up are OK after procedures
- Entire vein(s) is to be imaged
- Spectral Doppler waveform imaging to be done in the longitudinal axis, calipers used to measure reflux
- Diameter measurements in transverse axis, outer wall to outer wall

Transverse Grayscale Images with and without Compression

- Common femoral vein
- Saphenofemoral junction
- Mid femoral vein
- Great saphenous vein
- Popliteal vein
- Small saphenous vein

Spectral Doppler Waveforms

- Common femoral
- Saphenofemoral junction
- Great saphenous
- Mid femoral
- Popliteal

Transverse Grayscale Diameter Measurements

- Saphenofemoral junction
- Great saphenous vein at proximal thigh
- Great saphenous vein at knee
- Small saphenous vein at saphenopopliteal junction

Conclusions

- New IAC Venous testing standards:
  - Ensure a minimum standard for competent venous exams
  - Ensure patient safety by being vigilant for acute thrombus
  - Simplify venous practice
  - Exam specifics are consistent with vascular testing standards
  - New terminology allows for limited exams in follow-up
  - Low number of requirements allow a practice to tailor the exam to the needs of the practitioner
- The presence of the venous testing guidelines within the Vein Center Accreditation package cements the link between good diagnostics and good treatment plans, allowing for safe and appropriate patient care