



NHS

Great Ormond Street
Hospital for Children
NHS Foundation Trust

Having a blood clot removed (Easy Read)



When you hurt yourself, your blood clumps together to stop bleeding. If your skin is hurt, you get a scab. If the blood clumps together inside your body, this is called a clot. Clots inside the body can be a problem.



If you have a clot in your leg, it will feel hot and might swell up a bit. It could also be sore.



The doctors will use an ultrasound (said: ull-tra-sow-nd) scan to find the clot and measure it. They will put some gel on your skin for the scan - this will feel cold but will not hurt. Once the doctors know where the clot is and how big it is, they can plan your treatment.



You might have a medicine given through a cannula (said: cann-yoo-la). This is a thin plastic tube, usually put in the back of your hand.



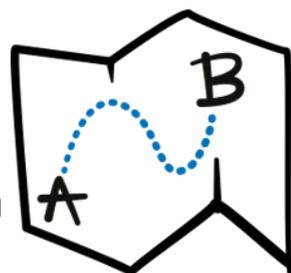
The medicine destroys the clot so it will not cause any more problems.



The doctors may put the medicine inside the clot with a syringe and a bendy plastic tube.



The doctors may put a tiny machine inside your vein to break up the clot into little pieces. These are sucked away through another tiny tube.





You might have an anaesthetic (said an-ess-thet-ick) for the procedure. You will not be able to feel anything or know what is happening.



The doctor may need to carry on breaking up the clot for a few days, either using medicine or the tiny machine. They will check you regularly to make sure you are getting better.



You may need to wear special long socks after the operation. These are very tight and make sure you do not get another clot.



Please ask us if you have any questions.

