

Urgent Surgery for Nixon

To Control a New Clot

Doctors Concerned

Large Blockage Could

'Endanger' His Life

Long Beach

Doctors at Long Beach Memorial Hospital said late last night they have found a new clot in former President Richard Nixon's circulatory system and ordered "urgent" surgery.

A new clot was discovered higher in Mr. Nixon's body which could "endanger Mr. Nixon's life," according to the former President's personal physician, Dr. John Lungren.

"Based on this concern, the doctors agreed that urgent surgery should be scheduled at 5:30 a.m. this morning," Lungren said.

New tests discovered that in addition to the blood clots blocking circulation in his left leg, there is "a large clot extending into the left external iliac vein," running through the rear of the pelvis, a spokesman for Long Beach Memorial Hospital said.

"The new clot threatened to become a pulmonary embolus, and thus endanger Mr. Nixon's life," the hospital said.

Such an embolus would involve a clot breaking loose and drifting in the bloodstream to block circulation in Mr. Nixon's lungs, which could kill him.

Lungren warned that because Mr. Nixon's blood has been chemically thinned for more than a month against clotting, "there is somewhat more risk than normal for this type of surgery."

He said a surgical team headed by Dr. Eldon B. Hickman "will place a clip around the left iliac vein to prevent the clot from travel-

ing beyond this point and becoming a pulmonary embolus."

The decision to operate was made following a venogram, which involved inserting a catheter — a long, slender plastic tube — into a vein in Mr. Nixon's healthy right leg and working it up into his body and down into his diseased left leg.

Iodine dye was injected into the vein system, and its flow was traced by X-ray to find circulation blockages.

The second venogram was needed because circulation in Mr. Nixon's left leg is so badly impaired by clots that dye in a first venogram could not get past the massive block deep in his thigh.

The 61-year-old Mr. Nixon was readmitted to the hospital last Wednesday night when Lungren concluded that oral anticoagulant drugs were ineffective in treating the phlebitis that

NIXON

From Page 1

Mr. Nixon suffered in his left leg. Mr. Nixon had been hospitalized for 12 days in late September and early October.

A source close to Mr. Nixon had described the former chief executive as being in great pain during his current hospital stay.

Hospital spokesman Norman Nager said the surgery on Mr. Nixon would last about one hour.

There was no immediate word on whether any family members would be at the hospital during the surgery.

In Washington, Mr. Nixon's younger daughter, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, told a newsman, last night. "They wanted to operate tonight but he was too weak. He's exhausted."

A.P. & U.P.

Back Page Col. 8