

# Nixon Is Given X-Ray Tests for Clots

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LONG BEACH, Calif., Oct. 28 —Former President Richard M. Nixon was undergoing special diagnostic X-ray tests of the veins in his lower body today to determine if potentially dangerous clots exist in his upper left thigh and pelvis, Mr. Nixon's doctors said.

These anatomic areas could not been seen on the vein X-rays that Mr. Nixon had last week. Such vein X-rays, called venograms, are often done on patients with phlebitis, which is a common medical problem.

Dr. John C. Lungren, Mr. Nixon's physician, said that the vein X-rays and another test scheduled for later this week would determine if the former President could go home to San Clemente next weekend on blood-thinning drugs without surgery.

Mr. Nixon faces the possibility of an operation designed to prevent a runaway clot in his lower leg from lodging in his lung, according to Dr. Lungren. The Long Beach specialist in internal medicine said in a bulletin today:

"Mr. Nixon's condition is unchanged. Following the recommendation of the senior cardiovascular surgical consultant, Wiley F. Barker, M.D., professor of surgery at U.C.L.A., we are in the process of carrying out the specific new diagnostic tests he advised."

## Second Venogram

The latest venogram represents the second such test Mr. Nixon has had since he was readmitted unexpectedly to the hospital last Wednesday night.

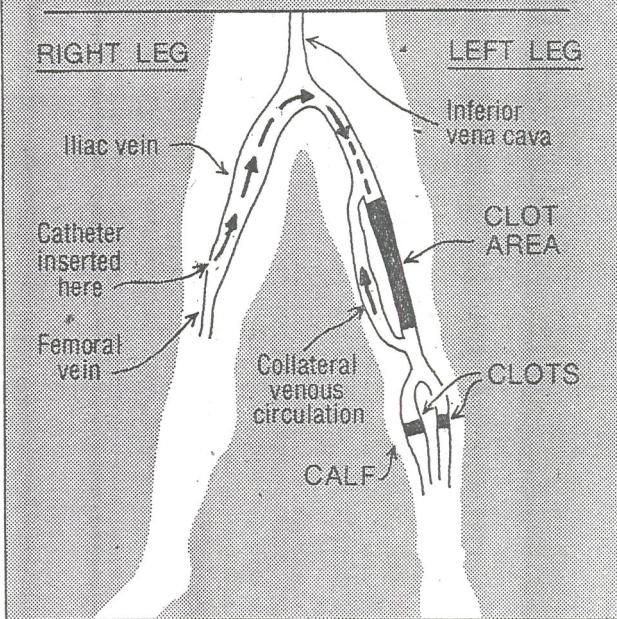
Dr. Scott Driscoll, a cardiovascular radiologist who did the first venogram, said earlier today that he planned to repeat the test but with a different technique. This time, he said, a tube will be inserted into Mr. Nixon's right, or good, leg to examine the left upper thigh.

During the first venogram, Dr. Driscoll said "Mr. Nixon experience discomfort and pain" but was "cooperative" and "a very stoic patient."

In that examination, Dr. Driscoll applied a tourniquet around the leg to stop the blood flow and thereby make a vein stand out on the foot. Then he inserted a tiny needle into the vein and injected 90 cubic centimeters of a radio-opaque iodine solution. As the solution mixed with the oxygen-poor blood flowing to Mr. Nixon's heart, Dr. Driscoll took a series of X-rays.

The X-rays disclosed that Mr. Nixon had "filling defects," or clots, in the superficial and deep venous system [above and below the muscles] in his left calf. As the iodine solution flowed up the leg, Dr. Driscoll

## Technique for Nixon's Medical Tests



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The tests to determine whether Mr. Nixon has additional clots in the iliac vein and inferior vena cava involve pushing a thin tube (catheter) through veins in his right leg, then through a connecting vein into his left leg to a point just above a massive clot in his thigh. As tube is pushed through, an iodine solution is released at its tip so veins are clearly outlined on a series of X-rays.

said, "there was additional evidence of extensive deep venous thrombosis [clots] in the main veins draining Mr. Nixon's left lower extremity."

"There was, however," he added, "a collateral [alternative] pathway of drainage through a small superficial vein that is carrying most of the blood back to the major veins from the left lower leg. Though the superficial system is open, the doctor said, "the deep venous system is 99 and 44/100 per cent clotted." He went on:

"Because of the extensive obstruction to flow in the left lower extremity," he added, "not enough of the [iodine] dye reached the pelvis in sufficient concentration for us to see the left iliac vein, so I can't tell you the status of this vein. I can't tell whether there's a clot present or whether it's open and that's information we've got to have. In addition, we should know what the anatomy of the inferior vena cava is and we do not yet have information on this vein."