

Sequential Compression Device (SCD)

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A sequential compression device (SCD) is an inflatable wrap used to prevent blood clots. It is worn around your lower leg.

After the wrap is applied, air is pumped in and then released. This pumping action, repeated regularly during the day or night, helps improve circulation and prevent blood clots.

How Long Will You Need To Wear the SCD?

Your health care provider will decide how long you will need to wear the SCD. Most patients wear the SCD during their surgery and hospital stay, or until they are able to walk and exercise.

What Does it Feel Like to Wear the SCD?

Each leg wrap is lined with a soft lining, which acts as a cushion against your skin to prevent irritation. You will feel air blowing softly within the wrap when the machine is turned on.

Can You Move While Wearing the SCD?

You will not be able to walk around while using the SCD. It will be disconnected before you get up to walk.

You will be able to lie in bed. Depending on your health care provider's instructions, you may be able to sit up in a chair or in bed.

What Should You Do While Using the SCD?

While using the SCD:

- Do not adjust the SCD. Ask your nurse for help.
- Make sure air is blowing within the wrap. If it isn't, tell your nurse.
- Do not twist the tubing. Make sure the tubes are not caught up in your blankets.

If you have any questions while using the SCD, ask your nurse.