

ULTRASOUND INFORMATION SHEET

What is a Vascular Ultrasound?

Ultrasound is a non-invasive test that uses high frequency sound waves to make an image of your internal body structures. Vascular ultrasound will measure the blood flow through your arteries or veins. Ultrasounds are safe and painless.

What to Expect

You may be asked to remove some items of clothing or change into a gown, depending on which test you are having, so that the sonographer can access the skin. A special gel is rubbed on the part of the body being tested to improve sound quality. Then, a transducer (a hand-held instrument that transmits sound waves) is held against your skin while images of the blood vessels are recorded. You will usually need to lie down and remain still for the examination, and you may be asked to move into different positions throughout the scan.

Preparing for the ultrasound

If you are having the arteries or veins in your abdomen checked, you will be required to fast. This is to prevent bowel gas from blocking the view of the arteries and veins underneath and allows for a more accurate test. Please check when you are booking your appointment for further instructions.

When will I get the results?

The results will be sent to your doctor within 1-3 days.

Abdominal Arteries

Why am I having this test?

You may need this test if:

- you have been experiencing leg or buttock pain with walking (intermittent claudication)
- your doctor wants to check for an aneurysm or you have an aneurysm that is under surveillance
- you have known vascular disease or have had surgery or stents in these arteries in the past

What are you looking for?

This test will measure the blood flow in the aorta and iliac arteries. The test will pick up any plaque build-up in the arteries that may be restricting the blood flow to your abdominal organs or legs. This test will also pick up any aneurysms (enlargement of the artery) in the aorta or iliac arteries. You will be asked to lie down on your back for this test.

How long will it take?

About 30 minutes. You will be given fasting instructions for this test, which is to be done in the morning.