

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.

Lower Limb Venous Duplex – DVT exclusion

Why am I having this test?

You may need this test if:

- you have symptoms that your doctor thinks may be related to a deep vein thrombosis (DVT), such as a sudden swelling and discomfort of your leg
- you have symptoms that your doctor thinks may be related to superficial thrombophlebitis (STP), such as hard, painful lumps under the skin
- you have had a DVT or STP and need a progress check

What are you looking for?

The veins in your legs return the blood from your feet back to your heart. There are two systems of veins in your leg – the deep veins and the superficial veins. This test will look for any blood clots in any of the veins in your legs. You will be asked to lie down and the sonographer might need to push firmly on the legs.

How long will it take?

About 30 minutes per leg.