



DUPLEX CAROTID ULTRASOUND (Doppler)

Your doctor has recommended that you receive a test called a Duplex Carotid Ultrasound (Doppler). Carotid Ultrasound (Carotid Doppler) is a simple, painless way of assessing blood flow through your carotid arteries. The Carotid Arteries are the major blood vessels supplying the head and brain with the necessary blood flow to deliver oxygen.

Ultrasound is a painless way to show the amount of blood flow in the carotid arteries inside your neck. Ultrasound uses sound waves and a type of sonar detection system to generate a black and white picture. This picture allows your doctor to see if there is narrowing of your carotid arteries, which is usually caused by cholesterol deposits. Narrowed carotid arteries are one cause of strokes, so this test is often used to evaluate patients who have had a stroke or who might be at a high risk for strokes.

What happens when the test is performed?

A technician will apply some clear jelly onto one side of your neck to help the ultrasound sensor slide around easily and then will place the sensor against your skin in this jelly. The sensor looks like a microphone. When the sensor is in place, a picture will appear on a video screen, and the technician will move the sensor back and forth on your neck to see the arteries inside from different views. During the test, the machine will make a noise that sounds like your heartbeat — this shows that it is measuring the blood flow through the artery. The other side of your neck will be checked in the same way. This test usually requires between 15 and 30 minutes.

Preparation for the Exam

In general, there is no preparation for the exam. You will be asked to remove any jewelry from around the neck. It is advised that you wear a loose fitting, open necked shirt or blouse.

Results:

Your healthcare provider will contact you with your results.

Your test date is: _____

Your test time is: _____
