

Imaging Department

Carotid Duplex Ultrasound

Your doctor has ordered a Carotid Ultrasound for you. This is an examination of your carotid and vertebral arteries and how the blood is flowing through them. There are a few things you should know before arriving to the Ultrasound department.

PREPARATION: None. You may take all your medications, eat, and drink normally. This exam can take up to an hour.

BEFORE THE TEST: For your safety you will be asked a number of questions by the sonographer. Possible questions include, but are not limited to:

- What kind of symptoms are you having?
- Medical history?
- Any previous surgeries?

THE TEST: You will be asked to lay on your back for the exam. The sonographer will apply gel and rub a transducer camera around your neck to evaluate the arteries and other structures. This exam should not cause any discomfort, although you will need to lie in position for about 45 minutes. If you become uncomfortable, the sonographer will attempt to make you more comfortable.

AFTER YOUR TEST: The sonographer must take 5-10 minutes to review your images with the radiologist, to make sure no additional imaging is needed before you leave. There are no restrictions from the ultrasound department after your test.

RESULTS: The radiologist will study your images in great detail and will dictate a report. This will be transcribed for your ordering physician to review and discuss with you within 48 business hours. Your sonographer is unable to give you any results at the time of testing.

Every effort will be made to make you as comfortable as possible during your examination. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the imaging staff at (574) 364-2819.