



PATIENT INFORMATION VASCULAR DOPPLER ULTRASOUND

**YOUR APPOINTMENT
TIME IS:**

TIME:

DAY:

DATE:

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO
BRING YOUR REFERRAL AND
ANY PREVIOUS FILMS.**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an ultrasound?

Ultrasound examinations use sound waves to produce an image which the Radiologist can interpret.

Ultrasound is a high frequency sound which passes into the body from an ultrasound probe and the sound is reflected off the internal structures.

The ultrasound machine changes the returning echoes into visible images and displays them on a screen, which can then be recorded onto film.

Doppler ultrasound is where the ultrasound equipment uses the Doppler effect to assess the blood flow in the arteries and veins. Changes in wave lengths of the sound waves can be utilised to assess the speed and direction of blood flow in the arteries and veins.

When is it used?

Doppler ultrasound is used to assess the carotid arteries in the neck, arteries and veins in the arms and legs and many major vessels in the abdomen.

Do I need to do anything?

Clean shaven neck for carotid Doppler is preferred.

How is it done?

These examinations are performed by a highly qualified sonographer or doctor.

The examination is performed with you lying, sitting or standing, depending on what area is to be examined. A small amount of water soluble gel is spread over the area to ensure good transducer contact.

The transducer is moved over the skin, sending and receiving ultrasound pulses, which are converted into images on the monitor. You will be able to

hear the sound waves as they return from the blood vessels, sounding like a whooshing noise.

You may also see a graphic display of the Doppler information on the monitor.

Will I feel anything?

Doppler ultrasound should not hurt, if however, the gentle pressure of the transducer causes you nay discomfort, you should mention this to the person performing the scan.

How long will it take?

The examination takes about ½ hour to 1 hour.

Are there any side effects?

There are no currently known significant harmful side effects from the use of diagnostic ultrasound.

Doppler Ultrasounds are available at Illawarra Radiology Group at the following branches:

Wollongong
383 Crown St
Wollongong 2500
Phone: 422878883

Shellharbour
Suite 1, Professional Centre
Stockland Shellharbour 2529
Phone: 42967222

Corrimal
3/83 Railway Street
Corrimal 2518
Phone: 42852119

Warrawong
Shop 101, Cowper St
Warrawong 2502
Phone: 42746855