



Patient Information Sheet

Vascular Ultrasound Study

What is a Vascular Ultrasound Study?

This test examines the blood flow in the major arteries and veins in the body with the use of ultrasound (high-frequency sound waves). A vascular ultrasound study is ordered to diagnose blockages in a blood vessel that might cause a variety of symptoms or problems. This procedure uses sound waves to obtain images and measure the blood flow. These images are analyzed to determine whether or not you have blockages in your arteries, blood clots in your veins, or if an aneurysm is present. An instrument that transmits high-frequency sound waves called a transducer is placed over an artery or vein. The transducer receives the echoes of the sound waves and transmits them as electrical impulses. The ultrasound machine converts these impulses into images that are recorded by the technologist. Later the physician will review the images and a report of his findings will be sent to your family physician.

If you are having a study of the *renal* or *mesenteric* arteries, a special prep is required. When you call for your appointment, the staff will give you instructions about your prep (if needed and any other pertinent information regarding your test).