



HEART SCIENCES CENTER

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CARTOID DUPLEX IMAGING

What is a Carotid Duplex Imaging?

The carotid arteries are blood vessels on each side of the neck adjacent to the windpipe. They carry the major supply of blood to the brain and head. Atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries, is a result of the build-up of plaque on the arterial walls.

Carotid Duplex Imaging is the combination of ultrasound images (pictures) and Doppler ultrasound (sounds). Ultrasound imaging of the carotid arteries shows the types of plaque, the location and the extent of the disease. Doppler ultrasound analyzes the blood flow in the arteries. This is a painless procedure. The technologist will apply a small amount of gel to the skin of your neck and will place a ultrasound probe on your neck over the carotid arteries. You may hear sounds of blood flowing through you carotid arteries.



Why do I need to have this procedure done?

- To detect blood clots or narrowing in the carotid arteries.
- To determine the presence, amount and location of plaque in your carotid arteries.

How should I prepare for the procedure?

- Do not smoke or use any form of nicotine for 2 hours before the test.
- Remove any jewelry that is around your neck.
- You will need to lie very still during the procedure.

Is there anything specific to do after the test?

No special care is required after the test. You may return to your usual activity level and diet, unless the doctor has instructed you otherwise.

Please don't hesitate to call our office at (480) 612.0400 if you have any questions or concerns.