



Carotid Doppler

(Extra Cranial Cerebrovascular Duplex)

Doppler, also known as ultrasound, is a safe and painless noninvasive procedure that takes pictures of the inside of the body using sound waves. It is also called ultrasound scanning or sonography, and involves the use of a small transducer (probe) and ultrasound gel placed directly on the skin. Ultrasound examinations do not use ionizing radiation (as used in x-rays), thus there is no radiation exposure to the patient. Because ultrasound images are captured in real-time, they can show the structures and movement of the body's internal organs, as well as blood flowing through blood vessels.

A carotid doppler is an ultrasound performed to assess the cervical carotid (common internal, external and vertebral) arteries, which are located on each side of the neck and carry blood from the heart to the brain. This doppler provides detailed pictures of these blood vessels and information about the blood flowing through them, and is most frequently performed to detect narrowing or stenosis of the carotid artery. This test helps physicians diagnose and treat medical conditions connected to the condition of the arteries. If a significant narrowing is detected there is a subsequent increased risk of stroke and potentially heart attack for the individual, and comprehensive treatment may be initiated.

Your doctor may also want to perform this test if you have any of the following:

- Diabetes
- Elevated blood cholesterol
- Blockages or clots
- In preparation or following a procedure
- Family history of stroke or heart attack
- Carotid bruit (abnormal sound in the neck heard with the stethoscope)
- High blood pressure
- Locate a hematoma
- Blood vessel narrowing

You may want to ask your physician about a CIMT test as well, which is a similar exam that assesses your vascular age.

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES FOR THE DAY OF YOUR EXAM:

- If you are unable to make your scheduled appointment, please call the office at least 24 hours prior to the day of your test
- No special preparations are needed
- Wear comfortable, loose-fitting, two-piece clothing. No jewelry
- You may return to your normal activities after the test
- Test results will be communicated to you by your ordering physician