

Carotid Duplex

What is it?

A carotid duplex is an ultrasound scan of the main arteries in your neck, called the carotid arteries. These arteries deliver blood from your heart to your brain.

Why have you been referred for this test?

Your doctor or nurse suspects you may have had a stroke or a mini-stroke, also known as a TIA.

You may have had symptoms such as:

- Weakness or numbness down one side of your body
- Difficulty with your speech
- Problems with your vision

The ultrasound scan will assess for a narrowing or blockage of the carotid arteries, which may be the reason for your symptoms.

What happens during the test?

The scan will be carried out in one of our scanning rooms. You will be asked to remove any clothing that prevents access to your neck. You will be asked to lie on a coach, however if this is not possible the scan can be carried out with you sitting in a chair.

Ultrasound gel and an ultrasound probe will be placed on your neck. Both sides of your neck will be scanned.

During the scan you will hear sounds coming from the machine that represent the blood flow through your arteries.

The scan takes 20-30 minutes. At the end of the scan the operator will inform you of the results and what will happen next.

If you are attending your appointment from home, you are usually free to go home after the scan. However, if a narrowing or blockage is found then you may be required to see a doctor on the same day that you attend your scan.

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