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Unitypoint.org/cardiologyclinic



Abdominal Aorta Duplex

What is an Abdominal Aortic-Iliac Duplex?

An Abdominal Aortic-Iliac Duplex is an ultrasound test that uses high frequency sound waves (ultrasound) to evaluate the aorta, the main artery in the abdomen, and the arterial branches that deliver blood flow to the major organs in the body. This exam also evaluates the iliac arteries in the lower abdomen.

Why is an Abdominal Aortic-Iliac Duplex performed?

An Abdominal Aortic-Iliac Duplex ultrasound gives doctors information about the arteries in the abdomen.

Such as:

- The blood flow through the artery towards the legs. Blockages in the aorta and iliac arteries may leave a patient with pain in the hip, buttocks or thigh muscles during exercise.
- The presence of plaque, a sticky substance that clings to the arterial wall that can cause narrowing within the artery.
- The presence of an aneurysm, a bulging artery.
- Evaluate previous surgeries including stents and bypass grafts.

What can I expect during the Abdominal Aortic-Iliac Duplex?

- A personal history describing current vascular symptoms will be obtained.
- You will be asked to remove outer clothing, put on a patient gown, and lie on the bed.
- The lights in the room will be dimmed so the ultrasound screen can be seen clearly
- The sonographer will place a water-soluble gel on your abdomen and firmly press against your skin with a transducer. The transducer is a small hand-held device that resembles a microphone.
- The transducer sends high-frequency sound waves to the arteries in your abdomen. The sound waves bounce off the blood vessels and form images or pictures of the insides of the arteries.

Will I have pain or discomfort during the test?

You may feel some pressure as the transducer is moved around your abdomen. The pressure should not cause any pain. You should tell the sonographer if you are uncomfortable during the test.

How long does the Abdominal Aortic-Iliac Duplex test take?

You will be in the vascular lab for about 1 hour.

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Appointment:

Date: _____

Time: _____

What should you wear?

Wear loose fitted clothing that is easy to remove.

Specific Preparation:

- **Do NOT** eat or drink 4 hours before the test. This is necessary to minimize gas.
- **Do NOT** chew gum/candy or smoke the morning of the exam. As this may increase the swallowing of air.
- Take all medications as prescribed.
- **Do NOT** apply cologne, perfume, body lotions, or powder.
- Wear loose fitted clothing,

When will you know the results of your test?

The images from the test will be reviewed by a board certified cardiologist. The results of the test will be sent to the doctor that ordered the test for you. The test results will also be sent to your family doctor. It may take 3 to 4 days before you know the results of your test. The sonographer that is performing your test will not give you the results of the test after he or she finishes taking the pictures.

Important Billing Information

If you are unable to keep your testing appointment, you must contact UnityPoint Health-Cardiology Clinic 24 hours prior to your test time. Scheduled testing appointments that are missed or cancelled without the 24 hour advance notice may be subject to charges for pharmaceuticals or supplies specifically ordered for your test.