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Unitypoint.org/cardiologyclinic



Carotid Artery Duplex

What is a Carotid Artery Duplex?

A Carotid Artery Duplex is an ultrasound test that uses high frequency sound waves (ultrasound) to show how well blood is flowing through the carotid arteries. The carotid arteries are located in the neck. They supply blood to the brain.

Why is a Carotid Artery Duplex performed?

The Carotid Artery Duplex test checks blood flow in the carotid arteries.

It can detect:

- Blood clotting (thrombosis)
- Narrowing in the arteries (stenosis)
- Other causes of blockage in the carotid arteries

Your doctor may order this test if:

- You need a follow-up test because:
 - The carotid artery was found to be narrowed in the past.
 - You have had surgery on your carotid artery.
- Your doctor hears an abnormal sound called a bruit over the carotid neck arteries. This may mean the artery is narrowed.
- If you have blackouts.
- You have had a stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA.)

How is the test performed?

- A personal history describing current vascular symptoms will be obtained.
- You will be asked to lie on your back. Your head will be supported to prevent it from moving.
- The sonographer will apply a water-soluble gel on your skin and gently run a handheld device called a transducer over the area of the carotid arteries on your neck.
- The device sends high-frequency sound waves to the arteries in your neck. 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 probe is moved around your neck. The pressure should not cause any pain. You should tell the sonographer if you are uncomfortable during the test.

Carotid Artery Duplex

Appointment:

Date: _____

Time: _____

How long does the Carotid Artery Duplex Test take?

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

What should you wear?

Wear loose fitted clothing around the neckline.

Specific Preparation:

- **Do NOT** apply cologne, perfume, body lotions or powder
- Wear loose fitted clothing around the neckline.
- Take all medications as prescribed.

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.