

Information for patients having a duplex scan of the aorta

Your consultant has decided that he/she would like you to have a duplex scan of your aorta (the main artery from your heart).

What is it?

A duplex scan of your aorta is a scan that uses ultrasound (sound waves) to produce mapping of the main artery in your stomach.

Why do I need it?

The test gives the doctor important information about the size of the aorta in your stomach.

How is it done?

You will be taken into the scanning room by a member of the vascular laboratory team who will be performing your scan. You will be asked to remove any clothing from your stomach (such as your t-shirt, jumper or vest) and lie on a couch on your back. An ultrasound probe and some gel are gently placed on your stomach. Please do not be afraid to tell the operator if you feel any discomfort from the probe pressing on you. The probe will collect pictures of your aorta and these are shown on the ultrasound machine and interpreted by the vascular laboratory team. The scan will take approximately 10–15 minutes.

What will happen at the end of the test?

Once the scan is complete, you can get dressed and take a seat in the waiting area. A member of the vascular laboratory team will write a report for the doctor who will discuss the results with you. Please feel free to bring someone with you during your procedure. Please ask upon arrival if you would like someone from the hospital to be with you.

Please note that as this is a teaching hospital, occasionally a student may observe this appointment or undertake the test under supervision. If you do not wish a student to be present please let us know.

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