

Information for patients having a lower limb arterial duplex

Your consultant has decided that he/she would like you to have a lower limb arterial duplex.

What is it?

A lower limb arterial duplex is a scan that uses ultrasound (sound waves) to produce mapping of the arteries in your leg(s).

Why do I need it?

The test gives the doctor information about the presence of atheroma (hardening of the arteries) within your leg arteries.

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 legs and lie on a couch on your back. An ultrasound probe and some gel are gently placed on your leg(s) and you will be asked to move your leg(s) in different positions. Please do not be afraid to tell the operator if you feel any discomfort from the probe pressing on your leg. During the scan you will hear sounds coming from the machine, which represent blood flow through the leg arteries. The probe will collect pictures from your arteries and these are shown on the ultrasound machine and interpreted by the vascular laboratory team. The scan will take approximately 20–30 minutes.

What will happen at the end of the scan?

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 then 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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