

Information for patients having an upper limb arterial duplex

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

What is it?

An upper limb arterial duplex is a scan that uses ultrasound (sound waves) to produce mapping of the arteries in your arm(s).

Why do I need it?

The test gives the doctor information about the presence of atheroma (hardening of the arteries) within your arm 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 arms and upper chest and asked to sit on the side of a couch. An ultrasound probe and some gel are gently placed on your arm(s) and you will be asked to move your arm(s) in different positions. Please do not be afraid to tell the operator if you feel any discomfort from the probe pressing on your arm. During the scan you will hear sounds coming from the machine, which represent blood flow through the arm 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 15–20 minutes.

What will happen at the end of the scan?

Once the scan is complete, you can get dressed and you are free to leave. The results will be discussed with you at your next hospital appointment with the referring consultant. 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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