Information for patients having an ankle brachial pressure index (ABPI) test

Your consultant has decided that he/she would like you to have an ankle brachial pressure index (ABPI) test.

What is it?

An ankle brachial pressure index is a test which measures the arterial circulation (blood vessels that carry blood away from your heart) in your legs.

Why do I need it?

It will provide your doctor with information about how your leg arteries are functioning when you are at rest.

How is it done?

You will be taken into a room by a member of the vascular laboratory team who will be performing your test. You will be asked to remove your shoes, socks and trousers (if they are tight fitting) and lie on a couch. They will measure the blood pressure in both your feet and arm using a cuff and small machine called a Doppler. The test will take approximately 10–15 minutes.

What will happen after my scan?

Once the scan is complete, you can get dressed and take a seat in the waiting area or go home. 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.

Vascular Laboratory
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham
Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2GW
Tel: **0121 371 5482**

Heartlands Hospital
Good Hope Hospital
Solihull Hospital
Tel: **0121 424 1569**

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