

What is a Carotid Doppler?

A Carotid Doppler is a painless test that uses ultrasound waves to create pictures of the insides of the two large arteries of your neck. These arteries, known as the Carotid Arteries, supply your brain with oxygen rich blood. A Carotid Doppler shows whether atheroma or plaque has narrowed your carotid arteries. Plaque is made up of fat, cholesterol, calcium and other substances found in your blood. Plaque can build up on the sides of the arteries as you age.

What will happen during the test?

- The Cardiac Sonographer will meet you in the waiting room and escort you to the examination room.
- You will be asked to put on a gown with the opening to the front.
- The Echo tech will have you lay down on the examination bed.
- A colorless gel is applied to the neck and a transducer is used to produce the images. You may experience some pressure from the probe as we try to get the best possible pictures.
- You will be asked to turn your chin to the side to help us obtain a higher quality of pictures.
- A complete report will be forwarded to your physician within 3 business days. Preparation Instructions
- This test takes 30 – 45 minutes to complete.
- You may eat or drink before the test. Please continue taking your usual medications before the test.
- Do not apply lotions or powders to your neck area and remove all necklaces and chains.
- A Holter Monitor can be worn during the test, however if an Echocardiogram is also being done, then the monitor cannot be worn.
- Do not wear body oils or powders, you may use deodorant. Perfume, cologne or heavily scented lotions should be avoided as some individuals may be sensitive or allergic to fragrance.