

Patient Information Leaflet

Arterial Duplex Ultrasound Scan - Legs

Produced By: Diagnostic Imaging

**Date: October 2013
Review due: October 2016**



Why am I having this scan?

Your Doctor has referred you for this investigation as you may be having problems with the arteries in your legs. The scan is used to assess the arteries and identify the problem areas.

Ultrasound is a safe, non-invasive technique that:

- uses no needles or drugs
- uses no x-rays or any harmful radiation
- is done as an out-patient

How is the scan done?

It is suggested for your own comfort during the procedure you consider wearing a two-piece outfit e.g. skirt/trousers and top. You will be asked to remove trousers/skirt, socks/tights and shoes once you are in the scan room. Your procedure will be performed with you lying on the ultrasound couch on your back with your hands at your sides or on your stomach. The sonographer will explain your exam and answer any questions you may have. The Sonographer will apply warm gel to your leg(s) and then place the ultrasound transducer over various locations on your leg(s) starting in the groin and moving towards the ankle and foot. You will hear unusual sounds as the Sonographer views and records the blood flowing through the arteries in your leg(s).

Additionally, blood pressure readings may be taken of your ankles. You will not feel any pain; however you will feel mild pressure from the blood-pressure cuff and the transducer.

The whole scan may take up to 30 minutes per leg.

Is it painful?

You should not experience any pain; however, it is necessary for the Sonographer to press firmly on the skin at intervals during the examination. If this is at all painful you must inform the Sonographer.

Are there any risks involved?

There are no known risks associated with ultrasound scanning of the arteries.

What can the scan show?

The picture produced by the ultrasound machine is basically black and white but we can use colour to detect the movement of blood within the arteries. The scan will identify any areas of narrowing in the arteries and identify the effect this is having on the blood flow.

What happens after the scan?

The information obtained from the ultrasound examination is put into a written report and is sent back to the Doctor who requested it. You will receive an appointment in due course to go and see the Doctor again in the out patient clinic, to discuss the results of the scan.

Finally

If you need more information about this investigation, or have any worries or concerns, please contact: Telephone: (01983) 534671. Monday to Friday between 09:00-12:30 and 13:30-16:30 and ask to speak to a Sonographer.

Access to Health Records by Diagnostic Staff

As a patient undergoing tests as part of a diagnostic procedure information about you may be accessed by other healthcare professionals. It is normal practice in these circumstances for your consent to be implied as part of your agreement to have the test or tests performed.

Accidental over exposure of radiation

Despite all safeguards, medical exposures can occur where the actual dose is greater than was intended. The regulations governing these exposures are either IR(ME)R 2000 or IRR 99. In the event of an over exposure the incident will be reported to the Radiation Protection Advisor. It will be down to the discretion of the RPA as to whether there is a clinical requirement to inform any patient of an overexposure.

If you require this leaflet in another language, large print or another format, please contact the Quality Team, telephone 01983 534850, who will advise you.

Valuables should not be brought into the hospital. If patients have to bring in valuable items they should ask a nurse to store them safely and request a receipt for the items. You may not be able to have the valuable items returned if the time of discharge from hospital is out of hours.

We are sorry but the Trust cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to items not given for safe keeping.

You can get further information on all sorts of health issues through NHS interactive available through Sky TV or online at: <http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/>

For Health advice and out of hours GP service please call the NHS 111 service on: 111

We Value Your Views On Our Service

If you wish to comment on the care which you, your relative or friend has received, we will be pleased to hear from you. Please speak to the person in charge of the ward, clinic or service in the first instance or ask them to contact the Quality Team. If you wish to contact them directly, telephone on 534850.

Alternatively you may prefer to write to:

Chief Executive
Isle Of Wight NHS Trust
St Mary's Hospital
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 5TG

You can also share any concerns you have about our services with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on 03000 61 61 61 or at enquires@cqc.org.uk

All NHS sites are no smoking areas. If you would like help and advice to stop smoking please call: Freephone 0800 169 0 169 to talk to the NHS Smoking Helpline.

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