

ULTRASOUND INFORMATION SHEET

What is a Vascular Ultrasound?

Ultrasound is a non-invasive test that uses high frequency sound waves to make an image of your internal body structures. Vascular ultrasound will measure the blood flow through your arteries or veins. Ultrasounds are safe and painless.

What to Expect

You may be asked to remove some items of clothing or change into a gown, depending on which test you are having, so that the sonographer can access the skin. A special gel is rubbed on the part of the body being tested to improve sound quality. Then, a transducer (a hand-held instrument that transmits sound waves) is held against your skin while images of the blood vessels are recorded. You will usually need to lie down and remain still for the examination, and you may be asked to move into different positions throughout the scan.

Preparing for the ultrasound

If you are having the arteries or veins in your abdomen checked, you will be required to fast. This is to prevent bowel gas from blocking the view of the arteries and veins underneath and allows for a more accurate test. Please check when you are booking your appointment for further instructions.

When will I get the results?

The results will be sent to your doctor within 1-3 days.

IVC and Iliac Vein Duplex

Why am I having this test?

You may need this test if:

- you have unexplained swelling or pain in one or both of your legs
- you have a DVT in your leg and your doctor wants to check the veins higher up

What are you looking for?

The inferior vena cava (IVC) is the major vein in the abdomen that takes blood back to the heart. The iliac veins drain blood from the legs into the IVC. This test will look for any blood clots in these veins, or anything that might be compressing on the veins and restricting the blood outflow from the legs.

How long will it take?

About 30 minutes. You will be given fasting instructions for this test, which is to be done in the morning.