

# Carotid ultrasound

## What is it?

A carotid ultrasound scan may also be called carotid duplex or carotid Doppler. This test uses ultrasound to produce images of the main arteries in the neck which carry blood to the eyes and the brain. It is a safe and effective way to look at blood flow and can let us know if there are any narrowing's or blockages in the arteries. The test is painless and does not use any radiation. The test can take up to 30 minutes.

## Why am I having this test?

Your doctor has requested this scan because they either have suspected a TIA or Mini-stroke or as part of your pre-op work up for cardiac surgery. You may have had symptoms of weakness down an arm or a leg, slurred speech or visual disturbance.

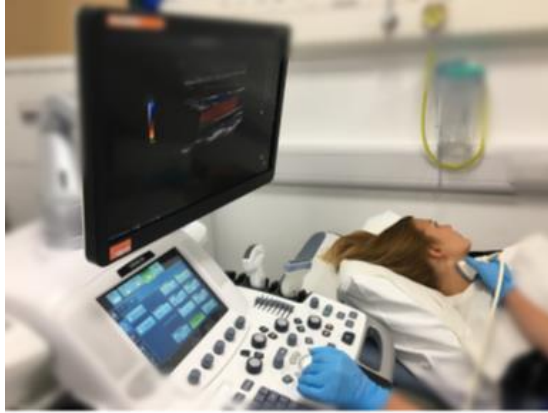
## How is carotid ultrasound performed?

There is no preparation needed for the scan. You do not need to remove your hearing aid or glasses but it may be useful to remove any other accessories/clothing so that your neck area is accessible during the scan. A clinical scientist or trainee clinical scientist (who might be male or female) will perform and interpret your ultrasound scan. You will be asked to lie on a couch with your head supported on a pillow. The lights will be dimmed to allow the scientist to see the screen better. Gel will be applied to the probe and the scientist will move the probe up and down the neck to view the carotid vessels.



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### What happens next?

The clinical scientist or trainee scientist will comment on the findings and will write a report which will be available for the doctor who requested the scan. You will be able to discuss the results of the investigation fully with the referring team during your next telephone/outpatient appointment. If the scan results are significant you may be asked to stay and see a doctor after the scan.