

Ultrasound scan of your bypass graft

What is it?

A bypass graft is often performed to treat blockages in the arteries in your legs. It may also be performed if you have an aneurysm in your leg. This is where the walls of the artery are weak and expand.

Your bypass graft is either made from vein taken from your leg or a plastic graft. The bypass graft re-routes the blood flow around the blockage or aneurysm.

How is the graft duplex performed?

There is no preparation needed. The test is a safe and effective way to assess the blood flow throughout the graft. It will allow the surgeons to better plan treatment if there is a problem.

A clinical scientist (who may be male or female) will perform and interpret your scan. You will be asked to remove your trousers/skirt/shorts to allow access to the graft. The lights will be dimmed to help see the screen.

You will either be having your graft scan at clinic or in the Doppler ultrasound department.

The scan will be performed with you lying on the bed. Gel will be applied to the skin and the blood flow within the graft will be assessed. We may also perform an ankle brachial pressure index test alongside your scan. For more information on the

ABPI please ask for an additional leaflet. This scan will take approximately 30 -45 minutes.



What happens next?

The clinical scientist will comment on the findings and will write a report for the doctor who requested the scan. If you have the scan in clinic, the doctor will discuss the results with you after the scan. If you have the scan as an outpatient and we find a problem, you may be asked to wait and see the doctor before you leave.

Any change of symptoms in the leg with the graft must be reported. Change of symptoms might include; sudden onset leg pain, sudden onset cold or painful foot. Increased calf pain when walking.