

How long will the procedure take?

A carotid ultrasound will usually take between 30 and 40 minutes to complete.

What are the potential risks?

For standard diagnostic ultrasound there are no known harmful effects.

Some of the benefits are:

- Most ultrasound scanning is non-invasive (no needles or injections) and is usually painless.
- Ultrasound imaging does not use any ionising radiation.
- Ultrasound scanning gives a clear picture of soft tissues that do not show up well on x-ray images.

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this brochure is intended as a guide only. If patients require more specific information please contact your referring

Doctor

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Radiology Department

Swan Hill District Health

48 Splatt Street

Swan Hill, VIC, 3585

Phone: (03) 5033 9286

Email: radiology@shdh.org.au

Web: www.shdh.org.au

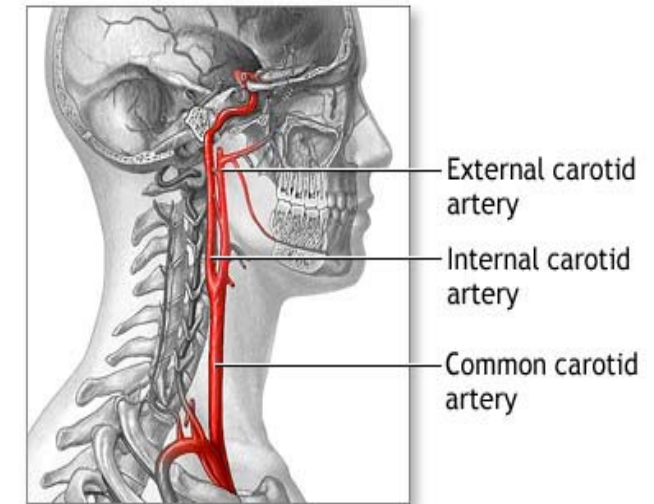
Fax: (03) 5033 9255

Please bring your Medicare card and any Healthcare, Pension or Concession cards if applicable.

If you have any other related previous imaging from another provider, please bring them on the day.



Carotid Doppler Ultrasound



Radiology Department

What is a Carotid Doppler?

A Carotid Doppler Ultrasound is an examination of the body's two Carotid Arteries, which are located on each side of the neck. The Carotid Arteries carry blood from the heart to the brain.

The main purpose of Carotid Doppler Ultrasound is to examine patients for plaque, causing a blockage or narrowing of the arteries, which if present may increase the risk of stroke.

Indications for a Carotid Ultrasound are advanced age, smoking, Diabetes, elevated blood cholesterol or a family history of stroke or heart disease.

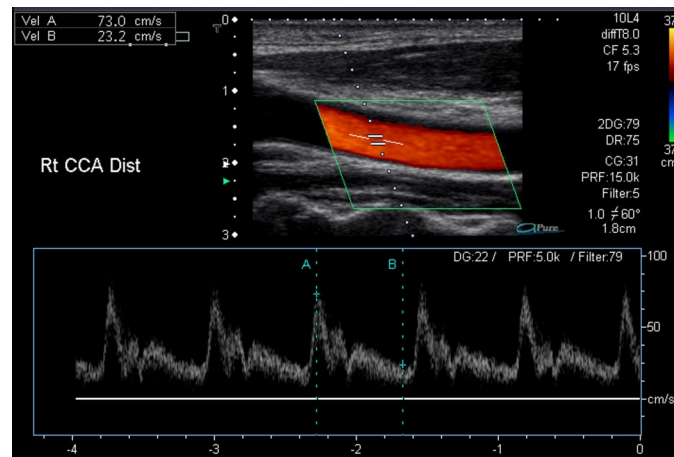
A Carotid Ultrasound is also performed to detect dissection of the Carotid Arteries (a split between layers of the artery wall that may lead to obstruction of blood flow or a weakening of the wall of the artery), check the blood flow of the Carotid Arteries after surgery, or verify the position of a metal stent placed to maintain carotid blood flow.

Before the procedure

You should wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing for your ultrasound exam. You may need to remove all clothing and jewellery in the area to be examined.

A loose-fitting, open necked shirt or blouse is ideal.

Image of Carotid Doppler Ultrasound



A common carotid artery with a spectral trace being obtained from the centre of the vessel.

During the procedure

You may be required to remove some clothing and/or jewellery around the neck.

You will be asked to lie on a bed for the examination.

Water-based gel is applied to the neck and an ultrasound probe (called a transducer) is placed on your neck and gently moved back and forth to examine your Carotid Arteries.

The transducer gives off ultrasound waves and detects echoes after they bounce off the artery walls. A computer uses the echoes to create and record pictures of the insides of the arteries, in black and white, colour and on spectral traces.

Doppler Ultrasound, a special application of ultrasound, measures the direction and speed of blood as it moves through vessels. It represents the movement using colour, and on spectral traces. This application produces an audible heartbeat sound that you will hear. It is important to lie still, so that the readings are clear.