

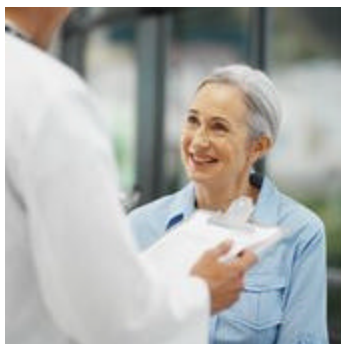
What to Expect During the Test

A two-dimensional picture of the arteries is produced using ultrasound waves. The test is performed by placing a transducer on the skin and positioning it to produce the best image on a monitor.

The test is painless. A clear gel is placed on the neck to improve the clarity of the picture and then the transducer (which looks like a microphone) is placed on top of the gel to transmit the sound waves to produce the picture. The test generally takes about 30 minutes to perform.

Is there any preparation for the test?

There is no patient preparation required. You may eat and take your usual medicines. No needles or injections are involved, the scan is completely noninvasive.



Your exam is scheduled for:

Day: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____ am pm

Place: _____

Where can I find more information about carotid scans and strokes?

www.strokeassociation.org

[http://www.vascularweb.org/ CONTRIBUTION_PAGES/Patient Information/NorthPo int/Carotid Artery Disease.html](http://www.vascularweb.org/CONTRIBUTION_PAGES/Patient_Information/NorthPo int/Carotid_Artery_Disease.html)

Visit our Website:
www.palmettofamilymed.com

Carotid Duplex Scanning



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What is a Carotid Duplex Scan?

This is an ultrasonic test that diagnoses carotid artery disease by using ultrasound and Doppler technology to image the carotid arteries in the neck.

What are carotid arteries?

The two carotid arteries are the main blood vessels that supply blood to the brain. They originate from the main arteries of the body in the chest and travel up through the neck and into the skull. These arteries deliver oxygen-rich blood from the heart to the head and brain.

Why Do I Need a Carotid Duplex Scan?

This test is done to identify narrowing of the arteries, aneurismal areas, atherosclerosis, or partially occluded (blocked) areas. If the arteries have any of these characteristics your risk of stroke is increased.



What is Atherosclerosis?

Atherosclerosis is the hardening of the arteries. This is a condition in which fatty material collects along the walls of arteries. This fatty material thickens, hardens, and may eventually block the arteries.

What are the risk factors for atherosclerosis?

- Smoking
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- High blood cholesterol
- High-fat diet
- High blood pressure
- Personal or family history of heart disease

What is a Stroke?

A stroke is a type of heart disease and occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts. When that happens, part of the brain cannot get the blood (and oxygen) it needs, so it starts to die.

What are the risk factors for having a stroke that I can not change?

- Age- The chance of having a stroke more than doubles for each decade of life after age 55.
- Heredity (family history)
- Race -African Americans have a much higher risk of death from a stroke than Caucasians
- Sex (gender) - Stroke is more common in men than in women.
- Prior stroke or heart attack

What are the risk factors that can be controlled, changed, or treated?

- High blood pressure
- Cigarette smoking
- Diabetes mellitus
- Carotid or other artery disease
- High cholesterol
- Poor diet
- Physical inactivity
- Obesity