

What is an Arterial Doppler Study?

An Arterial Doppler is an ultrasound exam of the arteries in your arms or legs. High frequency sound waves are used to obtain images of the structures inside the body. Ultrasound imaging can help the radiologist see and evaluate arterial blockages, such as plaque in arteries.

Why did the doctor order this exam for me?

Pain while walking, weakness or to evaluate a graft, are some of the common reasons to have this exam.

What do I need to do to prepare for this exam?

No special preparation is needed for this exam.

What should I expect from this test?

The sonographer will ask questions regarding your medical history and the problems you are experiencing. You will be asked to undress and place a gown on. The sonographer will explain the exam before beginning. You will lie on your back for the exam.

A gel will be used along with the transducer (a hand held device that transmits sound waves) to image the affected area. The transducer will be rubbed along your arms or legs. Cuffs will be wrapped around your arms or legs at different levels during the exam. These will inflate and squeeze similar to having your blood pressure done. The inflation may be uncomfortable for patients, although necessary for an accurate exam. ***Please allow 60-90 minutes for the exam.***

Who will perform the exam?

A registered sonographer will perform the exam in the Imaging department.

How will I get the results of the exam?

You will receive your results from your ordering physician. This may take 3- 5 days for the office to contact you. Please contact the ordering physician if it has been longer than 5 days.

Contact the Imaging department for any questions prior to your exam, 217-762-1820.

