

CAROTID DUPLEX ULTRASOUND

Appointment

Date:

Time:

Patient Preparation:

Nil

Time For Examination:

30 mins

Please Bring:

Referral

Previous imaging

Locations:

Gold Coast Radiology,
Suite 1 & 2 Harbour Point
10 Santa Barbara Road,
Hope Island, QLD 4212
Phone: 07 55142555

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Undercover parking is available.

Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to generate an image. There are no known side effects. It has the ability to image in real time, allowing structures and movement to be seen and recorded. This makes it a good modality to view arteries and veins and record blood flow.

All ultrasound examinations use a hypo allergenic gel on the probe (hand held device)so it can slide over the skin and provide a medium for the sound waves to pass through to the body. Doppler ultrasound (special application ultrasound) measures the direction and speed of blood cells as they pass through the vessel. You will hear pulse like sounds that change in pitch as blood flow is monitored and measured.

The examination on the Carotid Artery & Vertebral Artery shows blood flow to the brain and other parts of the head, such as face, ears and scalp.

As people age blood flow through one or both carotid arteries can be blocked due to a build up of a fatty substance called plaque. These plaque can also be responsible for cause of some strokes. Ultrasound is a safe and non invasive way of imaging and monitoring the blood flow in these arteries.

You will be required to lie down with head resting on a slim pillow. Gel is applied to your neck and the ultrasound probe is run gently over the neck following the artery from lower neck up to under the jaw. Images and any narrowings or blockages are documented. Blood flow is assessed with colour & doppler readings to measure speed of the blood. Blood speeds up through a narrowing.If you have had previous scans, the readings will be compared to them so any change, or progression of disease can assessed. A worksheet showing the readings will be generated for your records any future comparisons.

Our Radiology Doctor will review the images & worksheet and send a report back to your referring doctor.