

## VASCULAR ULTRASOUND

### Appointment

Date:

Time:

### Patient Preparation:

8 hr fast for abdominal  
Vasculature, maintain fluids  
with water

### Time For Examination:

30 mins to 60 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 may be required to change into a gown for the exam.

For a DVT (deep venous thrombosis) scan the ultrasound probe will need to be pushed firmly onto the arm or leg being scanned, to compress the vein being looked at. This pressure causes the vein to 'collapse' under normal circumstances, in presence of a DVT it won't collapse. This is because a DVT in the early stage has the same echo texture as blood, that is, they look similar on the screen. The entire affected limb will be scanned in this way, paying particular care to the major veins and to any areas of focal discomfort.

Colour on the screen will also be used to document blood flow. The colour represents blood flow, and is helpful to see the vein especially if blood flow is slow or your leg or arm is swollen. Doppler ultrasound, where the machine can detect movement of the blood in the veins, is also used to help make a diagnosis, to do this your leg or arm are occasional squeezed to push blood through the vein being assessed.

You will be required to recline on a bed with your head and shoulders elevated & later sit with legs over the side of the table for a DVT of the leg examination. For an arm DVT scan you will initially lie down and then sit up with your arm resting in front of you. Both these positions allow natural distension of the veins that make scanning easier and more accurate.

At the end of all examination you will be asked to wait while the films are reviewed. *If you have a DVT* we will ring your referring doctor or ask you to return to your doctor immediately, for any possible treatment.