

# Procedure Information: Carotid Ultrasound

## What is a Carotid Ultrasound?

An ultrasound is a procedure using sound waves to image the neck area and evaluate the carotid arteries and their branches. These are the arteries that supply blood to your brain and face. Ultrasound procedures are painless, risk free with no side effects

## When are Carotid Ultrasounds ordered?

- Evaluation of patients with symptoms of a stroke or unexplained neurologic symptoms.
- Evaluation of patients with a carotid bruit (sound when blood moves at a different speed)

## Patient Preparation

There are no preparations for an ultrasound of the carotids

## Length of Procedure

Total time in the department, includes registration and imaging is approximately 30 minutes

## What Happens During a Ultrasound of the Carotids?

A registered ultrasound technologist will first verify your identity and explain the procedure. You will be escorted into the imaging room and asked to lie on your back.

The technologist will position your head flat with your chin up.

He or she will apply a gel to your skin. The gel is water based and will not irritate your skin or stain your clothing. The technologist will then place the transducer on your neck and adjust the position to image. During the procedure you will hear noises from the machine. This is called “Doppler” and it is the sound of the blood flow in your neck. The sound varies throughout the test.

After the procedure is complete a board certified radiologist will interpret your scan.

The results will be sent to your physician