

Lower Limb Arterial Ultrasound

What:

An ultrasound scan to assess the arteries and blood supply to the legs. This test should take 1 hour – 1.5 hours.

Why:

The arteries in lower abdomen and legs can become narrowed or blocked which reduces the blood supply to the muscles and causing cramping pain in the calf or buttocks when walking (intermittent claudication). The scan can identify the position and severity of any blockages or narrowings within the arteries.

Involves:

- Fasting preparation (please see our patient preparation information section).
- The scan is performed in a private ultrasound room where a sonographer will explain the scan and answer any questions you may have.
- You will be asked to remove any clothing of your lower legs, i.e. shorts/pants, and to lift the lower section of your top to the level of your chest so we can image the arteries from the abdomen to the ankle. Underwear will be not be removed.
- You will be asked to lie down on an examination bed.
- An ultrasound probe with a small amount to gel will be placed on the skin and a gentle pressure will be applied along the path of the arteries.
- The sound of a pulse will be heard from the ultrasound machine, this is when blood flow is being assessed

The results will be sent to the referring Doctor who will discuss and explain the outcome to you.