

Renal Artery Ultrasound

What:

An ultrasound scan to assess the blood supply to the kidneys and also the blood flow within the kidneys.

Why:

The kidneys are very important organs involved in blood filtration, hormone production and blood pressure control. An abnormal blood result or high blood pressure despite being on medication may suggest a narrowing within the artery supplying the kidney (renal artery) or poor blood flow within the kidney. The scan can rule out or identify problems with the renal arterial system.

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 covering the abdomen, generally the top layers pulled up to the level of the chest, and asked to lie down on an examination bed.
- An ultrasound probe and some gel will be placed on the abdomen. Firm pressure may be applied to achieve adequate images, but this should not cause any discomfort.
- 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.