

Transcranial Doppler Ultrasound

What:

An ultrasound of selected arteries within the brain.

Why:

Severe narrowings and blockages of the arteries within the brain can be the cause of mini strokes (TIA's) or strokes (CVA). This ultrasound scan can assist in ruling out or confirming the presence of a tight narrowing or blockage. This scan may also detect the presence of an aneurysm (ballooning or dilatation of an artery).

Involves:

- 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 lie down on an examination bed.
- The sonographer will need access to both sides of your head near the ear, and also the back of your neck near the base of your skull. You may need to remove glasses, and pull hair aside, and remove any high-necked clothing.
- An ultrasound probe and a small amount of gel will be placed on the skin in the areas mentioned above.
- 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.