

Carotid Artery Ultrasound

What:

An ultrasound scan to assess the arteries in the neck which supply blood to the brain. This test should take 30 minutes.

Why:

The arteries in the neck supply blood to the brain. Severe narrowings and blockages of these arteries can be the cause of mini strokes (TIAs) or strokes (CVA). The ultrasound scan can rule out or confirm the presence of a tight narrowing or blockage.

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 your neck, you may be asked to undo a few top buttons of your shirt and/or remove a bulky jumper. Generally, T-shirts and shirts can be kept on.
- An ultrasound probe and a small amount of gel will be placed on the skin with a mild amount of pressure applied along the course 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.