

UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER

PATIENT EDUCATION

CAROTID ULTRASOUND (DOPPLER)



Your physician has referred you to the Diagnostic Services Department at United Hospital Center for a Carotid Doppler Ultrasound. This procedure uses sound waves to obtain images and blood flow information from your carotid arteries.

If possible, wear loose fitting clothing that will allow access to your neck. Upon entering the exam room, the sonographer, a technologist specially trained in ultrasound, will position you on a table. Gel will be applied to your skin to prevent air from getting between the ultrasound source and your skin. A small probe, called a transducer, will be pressed against the side of your neck. Both sides of your neck will be imaged. You will occasionally hear sounds coming from the ultrasound machine. This is the sound made by your blood as it rushes through your arteries. When the necessary images are filmed and checked, the gel can be wiped off your neck.

Please keep in mind that though the sonographer is well qualified to perform your sonogram, only a physician may interpret it. Therefore, sonographers do not discuss results with patients. Any questions regarding the results of your sonogram should be directed to the physician who requested your exam.

LENGTH: Approximately 30 minutes

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