

Imaging Department

Arterial Bypass Graft/Stent Evaluation Ultrasound

Your doctor has ordered an ultrasound to evaluate your Arterial Bypass Graft/Stent. This is an examination of your bypass graft/stent and how the blood is flowing through it. There are a few things you should know before you arrive to the Ultrasound department.

PREPARATION: If the bypass graft or stent was placed in your aorta or iliac artery, you should not eat, drink, chew gum, or smoke after midnight on the day of the exam. This will prevent the gastrointestinal system from producing gas, which interferes with the exam. If this is the case, and you are a diabetic, try to schedule your appointment as early in the morning as possible. If the bypass graft/stent was placed in your leg(s) there is no prep.

Bring comfortable shoes to walk in. The exam may require a “stressed” portion where will you walk, if you are able to do so.

BEFORE THE TEST: For your safety you will be asked a number of questions by the sonographer and/or radiologist. Possible questions include, but are not limited to:

- What kind of symptoms are you having?
- Medical history?
- Any previous surgeries?

THE TEST: You will be asked to lay on your back for the procedure. The sonographer will apply gel and rub a camera around on your legs and possibly your abdomen to evaluate the arteries and bypass graft or stent. Also, depending on the location of your bypass graft or stent, blood pressure cuffs may be placed on your upper arms and ankles. The sonographer will listen to the arteries in your arms and legs while inflating the cuffs. This exam should not cause any discomfort, although you will need to lie in position for 1 ½-3 hours. If you become uncomfortable, the sonographer will attempt to make you more comfortable.

Treadmill: If you are able, you will be asked to walk to your speed and ability on a treadmill, for a maximum of 5-7 minutes. Afterwards, additional measurements with blood pressure cuffs are taken.

AFTER YOUR TEST: The sonographer must take 15 minutes to review your images with the radiologist, to make sure no additional imaging is needed before you leave. There are no restrictions from the Ultrasound Department after your test.

RESULTS: The radiologist will study your images in great detail and will dictate a report. This will be transcribed for your ordering physician and faxed to his/her office within 48 business hours so he/she can review and discuss it with you. Your sonographer is unable to give you any results at the time of testing.

Every effort will be made to make you as comfortable as possible during your examination. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the imaging staff at (574) 364-2819.

Appointment Date/Time: _____