

Imaging Department

Lower Extremity Peripheral Arterial Duplex Ultrasound

Your doctor has ordered a Lower Extremity, Peripheral Arterial Duplex Ultrasound for you. This is an examination of the arteries in your legs and how the blood is flowing through them. The arteries in your abdomen may also be evaluated. There are a few things you should know before you arrive to the Ultrasound department.

PREPARATION: 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 accuracy of the exam). You may want to wear comfortable walking shoes in the event that the sonographer needs to do a “stress” section with you walking. This exam can take up to 1-3 hours to complete.

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 exam. The sonographer will apply gel and rub a camera on your legs, and possibly your abdomen, to evaluate the arteries and other structures. This exam should not cause any discomfort, although you will need to lay in position for 1½-3 hrs. 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 5-10 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 dictate a report. It will then be transcribed for your ordering physician and faxed to his/her office within 48 business hours so that he/she may review and discuss it with you. Your sonographer is unable to give you 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.