



701 10th Street SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403-1292
319 398-6011

Ultrasound Carotids

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about Procedure: (319) 398-6050

What is an Ultrasound?

Ultrasound is an easy and noninvasive way to see internal structures of the body. It sends high-frequency sound waves through the skin and produces images of major organs and blood vessels. A high-speed computer “translates” the soundwaves into an image of the blood vessel. Then measurements of blood flow can be attained.

What is Doppler?

Doppler ultrasound is a special form of ultrasound. With Doppler ultrasound it is possible to both see the structures inside the body and to evaluate blood flow at the same time. An audible sound may be used or the flow may be shown as a graphic or color display.

The average Doppler ultrasound exam takes from 30 to 45 minutes. The length of the exam depends upon a number of factors, including the portion of the body to be examined and the complexity of the anatomy. With atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries, the vessels may be very difficult to evaluate and may require a longer amount of scanning time.

Preparation:

There is no pain involved in an ultrasound exam and for most Doppler exams, no preparation is necessary. A gel-like material is applied to your skin and the instrument is then placed on the area to be examined.

**PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:
A PHOTO ID TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY
A LIST OF CURRENT MEDICATIONS YOU ARE TAKING**

Procedure:

The pictures made by the returning echoes are displayed on one or more small TV screens, which are watched by the technologist performing the scan. In addition, returning sound waves that have been struck by moving blood can be heard by means of speakers on the sides of the machine. They may sound like water in a washing machine or the wind gusting.

Parking/Registration:

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 10th Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10th Street and 8th Ave. SE. You will be pre-registered, so you can proceed to **Ground (G)** level and follow the signs to “Radiology (X-Ray),” also located on Ground (G) level.

If you are having this procedure at the Mercy Health Plaza Imaging Center:

The Imaging Center is located in the NE corner of the Plaza next to Galaxy Theatre, at 5264 Council St. NE. Park in front of the building. You will be pre-registered, so you can proceed to the Reception desk.

Procedure Results (Who interprets the results):

A radiologist will review the images shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss the results with you. Please allow your physician time to review these results, usually 2 business days after the exam.

Your appointment date and time:

Procedure date: _____

Procedure time: _____ (Please arrive 15 minutes early)