



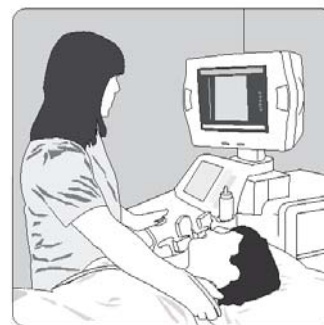
Doppler Ultrasound

This brochure tells you about a Doppler Ultrasound examination, the benefits and the risks, what happens before, during and after having a Doppler Ultrasound.

What is a Doppler Ultrasound?

Doppler ultrasound is a special type of ultrasound which is used to look at blood flow.

- A Doppler ultrasound machine has a hand held scanner which is connected to a computer. It uses soundwaves to make pictures of the blood flow in your major arteries and veins.



Benefits of a Doppler Ultrasound

- Non-invasive
- Generally painless
- Does not use radiation
- Can show if you have any blocked arteries in your neck, arms and legs
- Can show if you have any blood clots in the veins in your legs
- Can show the amount and speed of blood flow in your veins and arteries
- Can be used instead of some more invasive procedures

Risks of Ultrasound

- There are no known risks.

Preparation

- Bring your referral letter or request form and all x-rays taken within the last 2 years with you.

- Leave the x-rays with the radiology staff, as the doctor may need to look at them. The radiology staff will tell you when these are ready to be picked up.
- Leave all jewellery and valuables at home.

Before coming in for the Doppler Ultrasound:

- You may be asked not to smoke just before the doppler ultrasound.

Just before the Doppler Ultrasound:

- You may be given a gown to wear.
- You may be asked to remove any metal objects

Important to tell your doctor before the Doppler Ultrasound

- If you are diabetic.

What happens during a Doppler Ultrasound?

You will be asked to lie on a table, usually on your side or on your back. You will be covered with a blanket, except for the part of your body being scanned.

The Ultrasound staff will put a gel on your skin over the part of your body being scanned, so that there is good contact between the probe and your body. They will then place the hand held scanner on top of the gel, moving it around the area being scanned. Sometimes they will need to press, which may be uncomfortable, however this should not hurt.

You will need to lie very still while the staff are scanning. You may hear the sound of the blood flowing through your blood vessels.

When your ultrasound is finished the staff will give you something to clean off the gel and ask you to wait while they check the pictures.

A doppler ultrasound usually takes about 30 – 60 minutes including time taken to get ready. Some scans may take longer.

Consent

You have the right to refuse an examination and may do so if you wish. A written consent is generally not required for ultrasound.

When will I get the results?

The amount of time it takes for you to get your results will differ depending on where you get your scans done. The radiology doctor will look at the pictures and write a report. The pictures may be on films or on a CD.

Ask whether you should wait to take the pictures and report with you, or whether they will be sent to your doctor.

Your doctor will need to discuss the report with you. You will need to make an appointment to do this.

After the Doppler Ultrasound

You will be able to go soon after the doppler ultrasound is finished and can continue with normal activities.

Costs

The costs of doppler ultrasound will depend on exactly what is needed and where the scan is performed. When you ring to book your scan, you may wish to ask if the scan will cost you anything. Otherwise, you can ask staff when you go to have your scan.

Further Information

For more detailed information, please see [Inside Radiology](#), a resource produced especially for consumers by the [Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists](#).

If you would like to look at other relevant brochures, please see the Diagnostic Imaging Pathways website - www.imagingpathways.health.wa.gov.au/includes/consumer.html

or

If you have questions or require any further information please contact your doctor or speak to the staff where you are going to have your procedure.

Consumer Participation

This information has been reviewed by representatives from the following groups:

- Aboriginal people
- People with disabilities
- Seniors
- CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse)
- The Health Consumers' Council

Feedback

The Division of Imaging Services, Royal Perth Hospital is committed to providing a friendly and professional service. If you would like to provide feedback on this information sheet, please send to:

Quality Coordinator
Imaging Services
Royal Perth Hospital
GPO Box X2213
Perth WA 6000

Website

For more information go to www.imagingpathways.health.wa.gov.au

Copyright

© Copyright 2009, Department of Health Western Australia. All Rights Reserved.

This web site and its content has been prepared by The Department of Health, Western Australia. The information contained on this web site is protected by copyright.

Legal Notice

Please remember that this leaflet is intended as general information only. It is not definitive and The Department of Health, Western Australia can not accept any legal liability arising from its use. The information is kept as up to date and accurate as possible, but please be warned that it is always subject to change.

