

About carotid scanning

Why is it important to scan the carotid arteries?

The carotid arteries supply blood to the brain, face and scalp. The internal carotid arteries supply blood to the brain; if they become very narrow you are at greater risk of having a stroke or mini-stroke (transient ischemic attack). An ultrasound scan can detect narrowing in the arteries.

Where do I go?

Vascular studies, 6th floor - entrance next to 6 west A ward

Who will I see?

You will be seen by a member of the clinical vascular scientist team, who will perform and interpret your ultrasound scan.

How do I prepare for the test?

No preparation is required for the test.

What does the test involve?

You lie on the couch; some cold gel is applied to the side of your neck and the scientist scans the area of interest using ultrasound to image the carotid arteries. The test takes about 10-20 minutes. There are no risks or side effects associated with this test

What happens next?

The clinical vascular scientist writes a report of the scan result and informs the doctor who requested the scan. The clinical scientist can comment on the findings. You will be able to discuss the results more fully with the doctor at your next out-patient appointment.

Do you have any further questions?

Do not hesitate to contact vascular studies 020 7830 2862 and speak to one of our clinical vascular scientists.

If you would like this information in an alternative format, please ask a member of staff © Vascular Studies 2014 [Review date: March 2016]