

Scanning the arteries in the legs

What are the symptoms of leg arterial disease?

Symptoms of leg arterial disease may include a cramp-like pain on walking, where the pain can get so intense that it becomes necessary to stop and rest before carrying on your journey (claudication). This pain can occur in the calves, thighs, hips or buttocks. It is important to identify sites where the artery is narrowed and/or blocked so that your consultant can appropriately plan your treatment.

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?

You should starve for four hours before the scan. This will help to remove any excess bowel gas that may otherwise restrict the scientist's view.

Please take any medication as normal. People with diabetes should eat normally. Please avoid drinking fizzy or milky drinks.

You will be asked to remove some of your clothing in order to expose your legs and abdomen (stomach) for the scientist to perform the scan.

What does the test involve?

You lie on the couch, some cold gel is applied to your legs/abdomen and the scientist scans the area of interest using ultrasound to image the arteries.

The test takes about 30-45 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.

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