



Carotid Ultrasound Patient Information

Your physician has ordered a carotid ultrasound and you may be wondering what to expect. The below information will provide you with an overview of the test and hopefully answer any questions you may have and reduce any feelings of anxiety you may have as well.

What is a Carotid Ultrasound?

It is a non-invasive and painless procedure that uses ultrasound to look for blood clots, plaque buildup, and other blood flow problems in the carotid arteries.

Why did my doctor order this test?

Cardiologists order these tests for patients who may be at risk for stroke. The carotid arteries help supply blood flow to the brain and almost 40% of strokes originate from blockages in these arteries.

How long will the test take and can I bring someone with me?

The full test will take approximately 45 minutes. During COVID we must limit guests in our office and have limited waiting space during the test. It is preferred that you do not bring a guest unless medically necessary for support or translation assistance for this reason.

Are there any special instructions for this test?

There are no special instructions for this test.

What will happen on the day of my appointment?

If your test is in Cary, you will check-in for your test downstairs in suite 100. A member of our cardiac sonography team will escort you to your room.

If your test is scheduled in our Fuquay-Varina or Dunn office, you will check in at the main check in counter and then a technician will escort you to your room.

Once in the room, you will lie on your back and the sonographer will use a wand (sound-wave transducer) with ultrasound gel on both sides of your neck to take images and measurements of your carotid arteries.

Our friendly, experienced, and knowledgeable staff is happy to answer any questions or address any concerns you have throughout your test in our office. Please do not hesitate to ask, we love to educate!