

Your Arterial Duplex Scan Explained

Vascular Laboratory

About your scan

First thing first... this type of scan is a totally painless procedure and involves no needles or other invasive devices. Similar to a baby scan, ultrasound is used to produce on screen images, which show the blood flow within your veins and arteries.

The scan may be performed by either male or female sonographer, depending on who is on duty. If you have concerns about being scanned by a person of the opposite sex please contact the department and we will discuss the booking. Tel. No: 01633 – 238287.

What to expect

Before you are scanned, the technologist may want to assess your arteries with some pressure measurements, which are also completely painless. During this time the technologist will need to ask you some questions so they can understand your symptoms better.

You will be asked to remove your trousers, socks/skirt and tights etc., and to lie down flat on the bed. The technologist will place a pressure cuff around each of your ankles and one around your upper arm. The cuffs will then be inflated and the blood pressure measured in each area required.

These tests allow the technologist to predict the degree of arterial disease (if any) and decide whether or not you need to be scanned. If you require a scan, the technologist will apply some cool gel to your leg, put the probe on the surface of the skin and scan from the top of your leg to as far down as required. You may feel some gentle pressure and hear some strange noises whilst they do this.

How long will it last?

Normally this type of scan will last for between 30 – 40 minutes after which you are free to go.

How you can prepare

No specific preparation is needed; however, it may be useful to wear a short sleeve top in order for the blood pressure in your arm to be taken more seriously.

After the scan

Once the scan is finished the technologist will write a report to send to your consultant telling them of the results of the examination. If the consultant wishes to see you again, they will contact you.

Patient Transport

If you arrive for your appointment by patient transport please inform the technologist so that they can notify transport when your examination has finished.

**“This document is available in Welsh /
Mae’r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg”.**