



CAROTID SONOGRAM (SONOGRAM OR DUPLEX SCAN)

WHAT IS THIS TEST?

The carotid arteries are the arteries in your neck that supply blood to the brain. Pictures of these arteries are taken with sound waves, not x-rays.

WHY IS THIS TEST DONE?

You may have a complaint of blurred vision, numbness or tingling in the face or in your arms or legs; these symptoms could be caused by narrowing in the carotid arteries. The sonogram will identify plaque inside the artery that may decrease the blood flow to the brain.

BEFORE THIS TEST

You may eat, drink, and take your medications as you usually do. It is best not to wear clothes that fit tightly around your neck.

DURING THIS TEST

You will be asked to lie on your back. You will need to lie still. You cannot chew gum, hard candy, etc. Warm gel is applied to the neck. This helps the scanner slide easily on your skin. Pictures will be seen on a TV screen during the exam. Noises will be heard throughout a portion of the test. The technologist will warn you of these before they happen. The exam takes 20-40 minutes to complete.

AFTER THE TEST

You may be asked to wait while the pictures are developed. There are no restrictions. You may resume your regular activity.

TEST RESULTS

The pictures are reviewed by the Radiologist and the results are sent to your doctor. The results *cannot* be given to you by the sonographer administering the test.

If you have any questions, call your physician or call the Hamot Ultrasound Department at (814) 877-2258.

If you cannot keep your appointment, please call our scheduling department at (814) 877-6123 to reschedule.