

Venous / arterial duplex ultrasound

This leaflet explains what happens during a venous or arterial duplex ultrasound examination in the Radiology (X-ray) Department at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The examination is conducted by a sonographer (specialist in vascular ultrasound).

Before the ultrasound

A health care assistant will greet you in the ultrasound area.

No childcare facilities are available while you have your scan so please attend alone.

If you have a 4-layer bandage on your calf, we advise that you make an appointment with your GP or the community nurse to redress your ulcers for the day after your scan.

What is venous / arterial duplex ultrasound?

This is an ultrasound examination to examine your blood vessels (veins or arteries).

Are there any risks with this test?

No risks have been associated with this test.

What happens during the venous / arterial duplex ultrasound?

You will need to remove clothing from the area to be scanned. We may ask you to sit or lie down for the scan. An ultrasound machine uses soundwaves to produce pictures of the body. Warm gel is placed on an ultrasound probe, which is then moved over the skin of the area to be examined. The lights are dimmed, to allow the sonographer to see the ultrasound screen more clearly. Most examinations last between 30 to 75 minutes.

After the venous / arterial duplex ultrasound

You can wipe the gel off, get dressed and leave the hospital. If you have leg dressings, please arrange with your GP or community nurse to change your dressings after your scan.

Results

We will send a report of your examination to your referring doctor; if this is a hospital specialist, then the specialist will contact your GP with the report. The results will be discussed at your follow-up appointment.

Contacting us

Radiology Department Tel 0118 322 7991

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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