



Pacific Cardiovascular Associates Medical Group

Carotid Duplex Test

Carotid duplex is an ultrasound test that shows how well blood is flowing through the carotid arteries. The carotid arteries are located in the neck. They supply blood to the brain. A carotid artery duplex scan is a noninvasive (the skin is not pierced) test. A probe (also called a transducer) sends out ultrasonic sound waves at a frequency too high to be heard. When the probe is placed on the carotid arteries at certain locations and angles, allowing the tech to evaluate the velocity and direction of blood flow in the vessel.

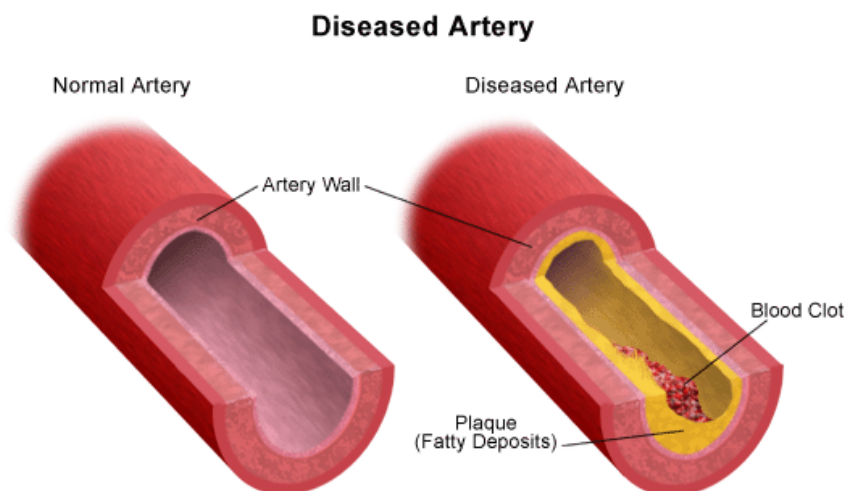
How the test is performed:

The test is done in a vascular lab. You will be asked to lie on your back. Your head will be supported to prevent it from moving. The vascular tech applies a water-soluble gel on your skin and gently runs a handheld device called a transducer over the area of the carotid arteries in your neck. You may feel some pressure as the probe is moved around your neck. The pressure should not cause any pain. You may also hear a “whooshing” sound.

Why the test is performed:

The carotid duplex checks blood flow in the carotid arteries. It can detect:

- Blood clotting (thrombosis)
- Narrowing in the arteries (stenosis)
- Other cause of blockage in the carotid arteries



How you prepare:

No preparation is necessary.

How long the test will take:

The test will take around 30-45 minutes

Your doctor may order this test if:

1. You have had a stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA)
2. Your doctor hears an abnormal sound called a bruit over the carotid neck arteries. This may mean the artery is narrowed.
3. The carotid artery was found to be narrowed in the past
4. You have had surgery on your carotid artery

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there any risks involved in this test?

There are no specific risks related to having this test.

What number do I call if I have any questions?

Please call 877-430-7337 if you have any questions regarding your test, would like to schedule an appointment or would like to cancel your appointment.

What is the cancellation policy if I cannot make my appointment?

If you are unable to make your appointment due to a bona-fide emergency no cancellation fee will apply provided you provide written documentation or proof of the emergency. In all other instances a \$50.00 no show/cancellation fee will be charged, without exception, for un-kept appointments not canceled 48 hours before the scheduled appointment time.