

## What will I feel during the test?

First, there is no special preparation required for carotid ultrasound. Just arrive 15 minutes early for your appointment to complete your paperwork. Ultrasound is entirely painless. The only thing you'll feel will be the smooth sensation of the transducer moving over your abdomen. Most people find it completely comfortable. You may be asked to change into a hospital gown and lie on a padded table while the test is performed. The test usually takes between 15 and 45 minutes.



## How will I find out the results of my test?

Your ultrasound will first be interpreted by a vascular surgeon, a physician who specializes in disorders and diseases of the arteries and veins. Our specialists will then report their findings to your doctor. Your doctor will review the results with you and discuss any treatment you may require. If any **critical** results are found on the day of your exam, the technologist will immediately contact the doctor.

## When and where will my test be performed?

Your test is scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_ am / pm  
on \_\_\_\_\_.

**Please arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time to sign in and fill out paperwork.**

**Buckhead** \*Paid parking fees apply  
1718 Peachtree Street, NW  
Suite 360  
Atlanta, GA 30309

**Hillandale** \*Free parking on location  
6000 Hillandale Drive  
Suite 140  
Lithonia, GA 30058

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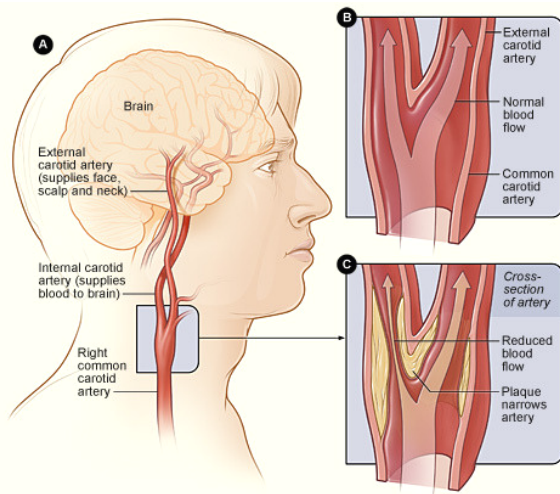


# CAROTID ULTRASOUND

A PATIENT INFORMATION GUIDE

## What is Carotid Ultrasound?

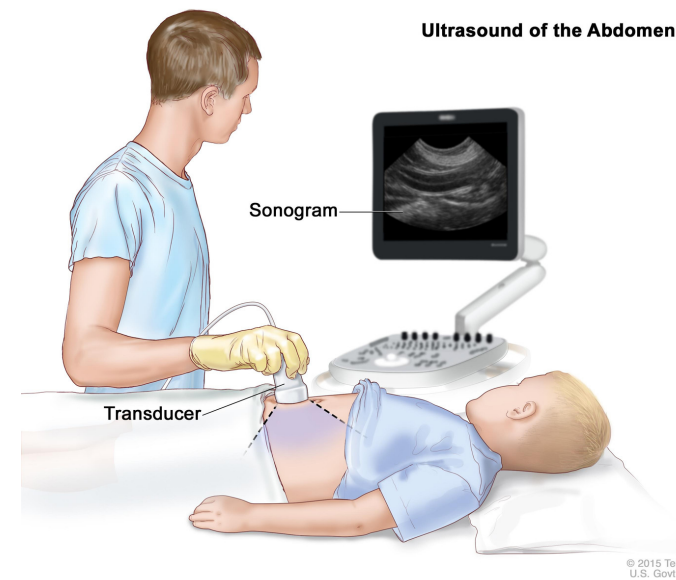
Carotid ultrasound allows us to use high frequency sound waves to show what is inside of your carotid artery. The carotid artery is located inside of your neck. Because it supplies your brain with oxygen, it is one of the most important blood vessels in your body. Ultrasound is a very safe method of "seeing" your carotid artery. In fact, you may have heard of ultrasound as a way to look at a baby before it is born. Ultrasound is an important tool in many areas of medicine, including diagnostic testing, where it is invaluable in helping vascular surgeons diagnose obstructions and changes in arteries and veins.



## How does Carotid Ultrasound work?

Sound waves travel through our bodies at different speeds, depending on the kind of tissue they're traveling through. Sound waves travel fastest through rigid, dense structures like bone. They travel slowest through air-filled organs like the lungs.

The ultrasound machine sends sound waves that are above the range of human hearing into your body. It then records what is reflected back, much like the sonar system on a submarine. Ultrasound allows us to detect even small differences in tissue density, because those differences make the sound waves return at different speeds. By calculating the different tissue densities in your body, the ultrasound machine can get a picture of your arteries and veins.



## How is Carotid Ultrasound performed?

Before the test begins, the technologist will rub a little bit of water-soluble gel onto your abdomen. The gel is completely harmless and washes off easily. While you lie on a table with your head tilted back, the ultrasound beam will be directed into your neck by a "transducer." The gel will act as a "coupling agent" between the transducer and your skin, helping the ultrasound machine produce a clearer, more accurate picture. The technologist will slowly move the transducer over your neck, causing an image to appear on the video screen. Pictures or video recordings of the image can be made to determine any area of obstruction.