

## Duplex Scan: Abdominal, Iliac, Mesenteric, Renal Vascular Ultrasound Exams

A duplex scan uses sound waves to check how well the blood flows through the arteries to different areas of the body. Scans of the lower portion of the body most often include the following:

*If you have any questions, please ask your physician.*

- **Abdominal duplex scan** – checks the aorta and the common iliac artery.
- **Abdominal graft duplex scan** – looks at the aortic and/or iliac stents or bypass grafts in the abdomen.
- **Iliac duplex scan** – focuses on the arteries in the lower abdomen (common, internal and external iliac).
- **Mesenteric duplex scan** – looks at the arteries to the liver, spleen, stomach and intestine.
- **Renal artery duplex scan** – looks at the blood flow both to and within the kidney and the intestine.

All these scans help to find a blockage in blood flow that may cause pain or other problems. Each scan is done in the Vascular Lab. It takes about 60 minutes.

### Before the test

Do not smoke or have anything to eat or drink (including gum or candy) from midnight the night before the test until after the exam. You may take needed medications with only small sips of water. For best results, do this test in the morning between 8 and 11 am.

On the day of the test, plan to arrive 15 minutes before your test time. Be sure to bring:

- Your physician's written order for the test, if you have one
- A list of your allergies
- A list of all your current medications (prescription, over-the-counter and herbal)
- Photo ID
- Medical insurance information and card
- Medicare card (Medicare patients only)

For their own safety, children under the age of 16 may not visit in the testing area. They may stay in the waiting room with a responsible adult.

Please come to Galter Pavilion, 201 East Huron Street, and check in at the reception desk on the 8th floor. Parking is available for patients and visitors in the garage at 222 East Huron Street, across from Feinberg and Galter pavilions.

For a discounted rate, bring your parking ticket with you. You can validate your ticket at the Customer Services Desks on the 1st and 2nd floor of Feinberg and Galter pavilions, and on the 1st floor of Prentice Women's Hospital.

## **During the test**

The technician (tech) will help you lie on your back on an exam table. They will apply a warm, clear gel to your abdomen. Then, the tech will move a small, hand-held device (transducer) on the skin over the arteries they are examining. The transducer will transmit sound waves to a monitor. The tech will see the images and save them for later review.

During the test, the tech may ask you to take a deep breath and hold it for about 30 seconds. You may see the images on the monitor and hear some sounds as the tech records the blood flow.

## **After the test**

The tech will give you towels to help remove the gel. You will get the test results at the end of the exam. You may resume your normal diet and activities.

The vascular surgeon who reads the test will send the results to your referring physician. Most often, your physician will get the findings within 48 hours. A full report will follow in about 5 business days.

If you have questions about the test, please call the Vascular Lab at 312.926.5809 (TTY: 711).