

## Carotid Vertebral Duplex Scan

The carotid arteries, found in the neck, supply most of the blood to the brain. A carotid duplex scan uses sound waves to check how well the blood flows through the carotid arteries and to detect any blockage. The test takes about 60 minutes.

*This vascular ultrasound test helps to detect a blockage in blood flow through the carotid arteries.*

### Before the test

There is no preparation for this test. You may eat and take your usual medications.

If you are already hospitalized at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, a patient escort will bring you to the Vascular Lab on the 8th floor of the Feinberg Pavilion.

If you are an outpatient, plan to arrive 15 minutes before your test time. Be sure to bring:

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

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

Please come to the 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 the Feinberg and Galter pavilions. For discounted rates, please bring your parking ticket with you. Tickets can be validated at the Customer Services Desks on the 1st and 2nd floor of the Feinberg and Galter pavilions, and on the 1st floor of Prentice (including the Prentice 24-hour desk near the Superior Street entrance).

## During the test

The exam will be done by a technologist (tech) in the Vascular Lab. Needles and injections are not used in this test. The tech will help you lie on your back on an exam table. A warm gel will be applied to your neck. Then the tech will move a small, handheld device (transducer) on the skin over the arteries being examined. The transducer will transmit sound waves to a monitor, where images can be seen and saved for later review. Pictures of the arteries at various sites will be taken. The tech will also listen to the blood flow through these arteries and record the sound. There is a carotid artery on each side of the neck, and both sides always are tested. The vertebral arteries that run up the back of your neck also are examined.

## After the test

The tech will provide towels to help remove the gel. You may resume your normal diet and activities.

Your physician will discuss the results of this test with you. Most often, the vascular surgeon who reads the test will send the written results to your physician in about 5 business days.

Please feel free to ask questions before, during or after the test.

## Northwestern Medicine – Health Information Resources

For more information, contact Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Alberto Culver Health Learning Center (HLC) at [hlc@nm.org](mailto:hlc@nm.org), or by calling 312.926.5465. Health information professionals can help you find the information you need and provide you with personal support at no charge.

For more information about Northwestern Medicine, please visit our website at [nm.org](http://nm.org).

*Para asistencia en español, por favor llamar al Departamento de Representantes para Pacientes al 312.926.3112.*

The entities that come together as Northwestern Medicine are committed to representing the communities we serve, fostering a culture of inclusion, delivering culturally competent care, providing access to treatment and programs in a nondiscriminatory manner and eliminating healthcare disparities. For questions, please call either Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Patient Representatives Department at 312.926.3112, TDD/TTY 312.926.6363 or the Northwestern Medical Group Patient Representatives Department at 312.695.1100, TDD/TTY 312.926.6363.

Developed by: NMH Vascular Laboratory