

Pseudoaneurysm Vascular Ultrasound Exam

A pseudoaneurysm exam is done most often after a cardiac catheterization. It uses sound waves to check blood flow in the femoral (thigh) arteries and veins found in the groin. It helps find the cause of swelling and bruising, such as a pseudoaneurysm (a leak in the artery causing blood to collect in an area).

The exam, done in the Vascular Lab, takes about 60 minutes.

It is important to lie still during the exam.

Before the test

There is no special preparation for this test. On the day of the exam, 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. 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 technician (tech) will help you lie on your back on an exam table. A warm, clear gel will be applied to your groin. Then, the tech will move a small, hand-held device (transducer) on the skin over the area. The transducer will transmit sound waves to a monitor, where images can be seen and saved for later review.

You may hear sounds as the tech records the blood flow.

After the test

The tech will provide towels to help remove the gel. You will receive test results at the end of the exam. If the scan detects a problem, a vascular physician may see you before you leave. In most cases, 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, these findings are sent to your physician within 48 hours. A full report will follow in about 5 business days.

If you have questions about this test, please call the Vascular Lab at 312.926.5809.

Northwestern Medicine – Health Information Resources

For more information, contact Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Alberto Culver Health Learning Center (HLC) at 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.

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