

Having a vascular ultrasound scan to check peripheral blood vessels

Vascular Studies Unit

Information for Patients

Produced: March 2021

Review: March 2024

Leaflet number: 1145 Version: 1

Introduction

Please read your appointment letter carefully to check the time, date and which hospital you must go to for your appointment. This leaflet tells you about your examination. Please read it carefully as it contains important information and instructions.

What is a vascular ultrasound scan?

Your body's network of blood vessels is called the vascular system, which includes all of your veins and arteries. The Vascular Studies Unit examines peripheral blood vessels which are the blood vessels in your neck, arms, and legs.

A vascular ultrasound scan is a painless examination of the blood vessels using sound waves which are beyond our normal range of hearing (ultrasound). The ultrasound probe (transducer) is the part of the machine that is in contact with your skin during the scan. The transducer produces the sound waves that build up pictures of the blood vessels which can be seen on a screen.

The machine also uses something called the Doppler effect to measure blood flow through the blood vessels, which at times you may hear as a 'whoosh-whoosh' sound. The blood flow is also seen on screen as colour or waveforms.

There are no known side effects from having an ultrasound scan.



**Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk

What will the scan show?

The scan allows us to check the blood flow through your blood vessels to see if there is any narrowing, blockages, other abnormalities, or to check the size of your arteries (aneurysm) that could be causing your symptoms.

What happens during the scan?

You will be taken into the room where the scan will be explained to you and you may ask any questions that you have about the scan. You will be asked to take off any clothing covering the area of the body to be scanned. Depending on the area of your body being scanned you may be asked to lie down or sit on the couch.

The scan will take place in a darkened room so we can see the pictures clearly on the screen. A water-based gel will be placed on your skin and the ultrasound probe will be passed over the part of your body being examined.

How do I prepare for the scan?

There is no special preparation for the scan. You may eat and drink as normal. Hearing aids and pacemakers are not affected by the scan.

It might help to wear loose fitting clothes so that clothes can be removed or moved out of the way.

Who will do the scan?

A specialist in vascular ultrasound (clinical vascular scientist) will carry out the scan.

As we are a teaching hospital, students may also be in the room. If you do not want any students to be in the room during your appointment, please let us know.

How long will it take?

This will vary for each patient, from around 10 to 60 minutes.

What happens after the scan?

The gel can be wiped off and you can get dressed and go home. You may eat and drink normally.

How do I get the results?

The results will be sent to the consultant who referred you. Where possible, the clinical vascular scientist will explain the results to you. If you are unsure how to get your results please ask a member of staff.

Can I bring a friend or relative with me to my appointment?

You may wish to bring a friend or relative with you, or to take you home from the Vascular Studies Unit. This may be useful if you do not speak or understand English very well or if you have any special needs. However, they may not always be allowed into the test room.

We are not able to offer childcare facilities. If you need to bring children with you to your appointment please bring another adult who can supervise them whilst you are having your test.

Special requirements

If you have any special needs relating to a disability or need language or communication support, please call the telephone number given in your appointment letter as soon as possible so we can make appropriate arrangements to help support you.

Shops and refreshments

Refreshments including hot/ cold drinks and snacks are available in the hospital. Please ask a member of staff for directions.

Contact details

Vascular Studies Unit: Level 1, Glenfield Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester LE3 9QP

For queries and appointments: 0116 258 5440 (Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm)

Further information

Our webpage on the Leicester's Hospitals website can be viewed here:

<https://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/aboutus/departments-services/vascular-studies-unit/>

How to give us your feedback

If you wish to make any comments about your visit to the Vascular Studies Unit or if you have any suggestions about how we can improve our services, please write to us or speak to a member of staff. You can also complete a comments card available in our reception.

If you have any questions, write them down here to remind you what to ask:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો.

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

Previous reference: SUR077-0215

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk