



A Typical Vascular Doppler Image

Your Appointment is:

Time: _____

Day: _____

Date: _____



If you have any other questions,
please do not hesitate to contact
us or your referring doctor

Penrith Imaging Branches
Vascular Doppler Ultrasounds are conducted at
the branches below

16-18 Castlereagh Street,
Penrith 2750
Phone: (02) 4731 6977
Fax: (02) 4721 2756

Suite 4, Ground Floor
68 Derby Street,
Penrith 2750
Phone: (02) 4737 3300
Fax: (02) 4737 3301

Vascular Doppler
Ultrasound

Patient
Information



What is an Ultrasound?

Ultrasound examinations use sound waves to produce an image which the radiologist can interpret. Ultrasound is high frequency sound. It passes into the body from an ultrasound probe (transducer) and the sound is reflected off the internal organs. The ultrasound machine changes the returning echoes (sound waves) into visible images and displays them on a television screen. Images of the internal organs displayed may be recorded on film. Doppler ultrasound is where the ultrasound equipment uses the Doppler effect to assess blood flow in the arteries and veins. Changes in tone of the sound waves can be utilised to assess the speed and direction of blood flow in the arteries and veins.

When is it used?

Doppler ultrasound is used to assess the carotid arteries in the neck, arteries and veins in the arms and legs and many major vessels in your abdomen (especially of the liver and kidneys).

How do I make an appointment?

These examinations are available at the Penrith Imaging branches shown on the back of this leaflet. Telephone or visit your nearest branch to arrange a convenient appointment.

Do I need to do anything?

No preparation is required for this examination, except for abdominal Doppler which requires a 12 hour fast.

How is it done?

These examinations are performed by a highly qualified sonographer or doctor who is trained in the technique of obtaining and interpreting ultrasound images. The examination is performed with you standing, sitting or lying down, depending on what area is to be examined. A small amount of water soluble gel is spread over the area to be examined to ensure good transducer contact. The transducer is moved over the skin, sending and receiving ultrasound pulses which are converted into images on the monitor. You will be able to hear the sound waves as they return from the blood vessels. This will sound like a whooshing noise.

You may also see a graphic display or a colour display of the Doppler Information on the screen next to your bed. Our radiologist will report on the films taken during the examination.

Will I feel anything?

Doppler ultrasound examination should not hurt. If, however, the gentle pressure of the transducer causes you any discomfort, you should mention this to the person performing the scan.

Will it take long?

Between 30 and 90 minutes, depending upon the nature of the examination.

Are there any side effects?

There are no known side effects from the use of diagnostic ultrasound.

Please Remember to bring your referral and any previous films with you