

Dermatology Doppler Ultrasound Patient Information

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What is a Doppler Ultrasound Scan? (usually just called a Doppler)

The Doppler is a hand-held machine that sends and receives a sound signal to and from blood vessels.

Why is a Doppler Ultrasound Scan performed?

The Doppler test is usually carried out before compression bandages or hosiery is prescribed for your legs and assesses the blood supply in your legs. It is a safety check and is similar to having your blood pressure taken.

How long will a Doppler Ultrasound Scan take?

Including time to rest before starting the Doppler, it can take between 30 and 60 minutes, although this can vary.

How is a Doppler Ultrasound Scan performed?

You will be asked to lie quietly, as flat as you are able, for 15-20 minutes before the Doppler test.

A blood pressure cuff is applied to one of your arms to record your blood pressure.

A small amount of gel is then applied to the inside of the elbow. The Doppler probe is then placed in the gel to pick up the sound of your blood as it moves through the vessels. This may be quite noisy but is normal.

The blood pressure cuff will be pumped up and slowly, let down again and the pressure recorded.

This will then be repeated on the other arm.

The pressure is then recorded in both legs. You may only have problems with one leg, but it is important that the flow in both legs is checked.

The recordings from the arms and legs will be compared and a result for each leg given.

What if I have an ulcer on my leg?

If you have an ulcer this will be covered during the test. It may feel uncomfortable as the blood pressure cuff tightens but this will be for a short time only.

What happens with the results of the Doppler Ultrasound Scan?

The Doppler test result will help to tell the nurse which type of treatment, bandage or stocking you may need.

You may need to be referred to a specialist for more detailed tests.

If you have any further questions please telephone the dermatology department on any of the numbers below:

01493 453545, 01493 453602 or 01493 453601 during the hours of 08:30 and 17:15 Monday to Friday.

Feedback

We want your visit to be as comfortable as possible. Please talk to the person in charge if you have any concerns. If the ward/department staff are unable to resolve your concern, please ask for our Patient Advice and Liaison (PALS) information. Please be assured that raising a concern will not impact on your care. **Before you leave the hospital you will be asked to complete a Friends and Family Test feedback card.** Providing your feedback is vital in helping to transform NHS services and to support patient choice.

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The hospital can arrange for an interpreter or person to sign to assist you in communicating effectively with staff during your stay. Please let us know.

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PALS 01493 453240**