



RENAL ARTERIES

WHAT IS VASCULAR ULTRASOUND?

Ultrasound is a non-invasive test that helps your doctor diagnose and treat your medical problem. By using very high frequency sound waves the ultrasound machine can form images of the inside of your body. For vascular ultrasound this involves creating images of the blood vessels within your body.

WHY?

Your doctor may ask for you to have this scan if you have high blood pressure that cannot be controlled.

WHAT CLOTHES DO I HAVE TO TAKE OFF?

For this scan you will need to lift your shirt and lower your trousers/skirt and underwear so that we can get easy access to your abdomen between your ribs and your hips.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AND WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE SCAN?

You doctor will want to know whether or not any of the arteries that supply your kidneys, called the renal arteries, are significantly narrowed. They will also be interested to know about the blood flow within the kidney itself. We will ask you to lie flat on the bed. Because these arteries can be deep it may be necessary for the sonographer to press quite firmly on your abdomen. During the scan you will be asked to lie on one side and then the other. Periodically the sonographer will need to measure the blood flow in the kidneys, they will ask you to hold your breath briefly when they do this.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

About 45 minutes to one hour.

