



# THORACIC OUTLET

## 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.

## DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING TO PREPARE FOR THE SCAN?

None just turn up.

## WHY?

If you suffer from symptoms that affect your fingers, hands, arms or shoulders. For example; some people can get pain or weakness in their arms when performing specific tasks that require them to raise their arms.

## WHAT CLOTHES DO I HAVE TO TAKE OFF?

You will need to remove enough clothing so that the sonographer is able to access your arms, shoulders and neck. This usually requires the removal of the

clothing from your upper body (for women this excludes your bra as this will not interfere with the scan). If you require it a disposable gown can be provided.

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

We are investigating the flow of blood through the arteries that run from your lower neck to your arm. There is an artery that runs underneath the clavicle (a bone between your neck and your upper arm) and it is this artery that can become flattened when you move your arm. This sonographer will ask you to move your arms into specific positions plus any other positions that you feel can cause your symptoms. During the scan you will need to perform various movements of your arms so that the sonographer so be ready for a bit of exercise! Also please ensure that you tell the sonographer exactly what position you are in when you get the symptoms.

## HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

About one hour.

