

Contact us

By phone

You can call our vascular studies unit on:

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Lines are open 9am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

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If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690



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Royal Cornwall Hospitals
NHS Trust

Having a vascular studies scan



One + all | we care

Who is this leaflet for?

This leaflet is for patients who have been referred for a vascular ultrasound study. It explains what to expect and aims to answer any questions you may have.

What is an ultrasound scan?

Ultrasound uses sound waves at a non-harmful high frequency to examine the blood flow within your blood vessels. Ultrasound can monitor existing conditions, diagnose certain conditions or rule out other diagnoses.

What are the benefits? Are there any risks?

Ultrasound purely uses sound waves and there are no documented risks or side-effects.

Occasionally, the ultrasound examination can cause slight discomfort due to pressure from the probe as it is moved around the area being scanned.

How do I prepare for it?

- Please do not wear any perfumes or moisturisers on the area to be scanned.
- Wear clothing that is easily removed for access. You may need to remove items of clothing if they are restricting access to the required area.



What does the scan involve?

- During the scan, a clear water based gel and an ultrasound probe will be placed on the area being scanned.
- The lights will be dimmed to allow the operator to view the imaging screen.
- The probe will move around the area in question, which may involve pressing the probe on your skin to achieve high quality images. The clinician will select images for storage on our imaging archive system.
- The clinician may give you instructions to help obtain the best possible image quality, such as breathing in or rolling onto your side.
- When the scan is finished, the ultrasound gel can be wiped off.
- The examination will typically take between 30 and 60 minutes.

Although we try to run to appointment times, you may have to wait in the department if emergencies arise.

If you are waiting for more than 20 minutes past your appointment time, please notify a member of staff.

When will I get my results?

Following your scan, the clinician will review the images and compile a report.

This report will be sent to the referring clinician who originally requested the scan.

In some circumstances, the clinician performing the scan will be able to give you some results before you leave. All results are usually available for your clinician to view within 24 hours.

- If you were referred within the hospital – your clinician will organise for the results to be delivered to you over the phone or in clinic.
- If you were referred by your GP – we advise you to make an appointment to see your GP a week following your scan.