

Doppler ultrasound of carotid and vertebral arteries

Information for Patients

Doppler ultrasound of carotid and vertebral arteries is a non-invasive imaging examination, which allows the assessment of blood flow in the carotid and vertebral arteries and to detect possible stenoses, congestion or other pathologies. Thanks to the use of the Doppler method, the examination measures the rate of blood flow in the vessels. Ultrasound waves are used during the examination. Ultrasound is safe and does not involve exposure to ionising radiation.

How to prepare?

The ultrasound examination of carotid and vertebral arteries **does not require any special preparation**. Before the examination, it is recommended to remove jewellery from the neck and clothing covering the neck. On the day of the examination, all the routinely administered drugs should be taken. There is no need for fasting; the examination may be done at any time of the day.

What to bring?

- ID card, original copies of previous diagnostic test and hospital discharges, if the stay was related to the examination.
- If the patient received a paper medical examination referral or an e-referral code – it should be brought with them.

How is the examination performed?

The doctor applies a clear gel to the skin of the neck, and then moves the head of the device in various planes. The doctor may ask the patient to tilt their head to the back to get better access to the carotid and vertebral arteries. The examination is painless, although it may cause slight discomfort associated with pressure on the neck. It usually lasts a dozen or so minutes, and the result in the form of a description is provided immediately after its completion.