



# Carotid Ultrasound

At Canberra Specialist Ultrasound we are passionate about delivering the very best ultrasound imaging service for the benefit of all our patients. We bring together a nationally and internationally renowned team of highly experienced doctors and medical imaging professionals from across the country into a caring and dedicated environment.

## Introduction

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Your doctor has requested that you have an ultrasound of the main arteries (carotid and vertebral) in your neck which supply your brain with blood.

This examination will provide valuable information and will assist your doctor in managing your medical condition.

Ultrasound uses high frequency sound waves to produce images without adverse side effects and free of radiation.

Unlike some other vascular imaging methods ultrasound does not use injections of contrast material and carries no increased risk of stroke or other adverse reaction.

Doctors increasingly rely on ultrasound is an ideal imaging modality to examine the vascular system as it combines high resolution imaging with the ability to assess the nature of the blood flow within the vessels.

## What about the results?

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An Accredited Medical Sonographer conducts the ultrasound in close collaboration with a medical specialist Sonologist who will also produce the final report for your doctor.

## Preparation

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**No special preparation is required.**

Any medication you normally take should be continued.

## What happens during the scan?

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You will be asked to lie down on the ultrasound examination table and the sonographer will discuss your clinical symptoms and relevant medical history with you.

At Canberra Specialist Ultrasound we combine knowledge of your clinical history with our high quality imaging to maximize the diagnostic value of each examination.

It is important that you describe your symptoms to the sonographer so they can tailor the examination to your individual circumstances.

Warm gel is applied to your neck and a small hand held probe is used by the sonographer and to produce the images.

The examination combines conventional ultrasound with Colour Doppler and Pulsed Doppler imaging modes. The Pulsed Doppler creates unusual noises during the examination which are perfectly normal and should not cause you concern.