



Neurology of South Jersey

Carotid Ultrasound

Carotid Ultrasound is a diagnostic tool used to evaluate the carotid artery for possible blockage, which may lead to stroke. Approximately 90% of all stroke is caused by blocked or narrowed arteries. Screening can identify those patients who may be at risk for this type of stroke. Proper medication or surgery may prevent the occurrence of stroke.

Carotid Duplex Ultrasound is the primary non-invasive test used to evaluate the carotid artery in the neck. The test is simple, painless and quick, usually lasting less than 30 minutes. During the procedure, patients lie on their backs while the technologist follows the carotid artery in the neck with an ultrasound probe. The sound frequency can record any blockage or plaque build-up in the artery. The technologist records the test in the computer, which is then printed out on a film for the physician to read and interpret. Reports of this procedure can be sent to your family physician or to a vascular surgeon if necessary.

Since you will be lying on down for the entire test, loose, comfortable clothing is suggested. We recommend you do not wear clothing that is restrictive or has a high neckline.

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