



Abdominal Aorta Duplex Ultrasound

Purpose of the Test

This ultrasound helps us see the abdominal aorta, the main artery within the abdomen. It uses high frequency sound waves. This test gives details about the size of the artery and blood flow in the artery.

Patient Instructions

Diet

- Before your test, do not eat or drink after midnight. Do not use nicotine six hours before the test **as this causes gas in the abdomen**. No other special preparation is needed.

Medicine

- Take prescribed medicines unless told not to by your doctor.

Clothing

- Wear normal street clothes.

The Test

- Once in the test room, you will lie down on a table or bed.
- We will place a probe on your abdomen. Sound waves will bounce off the artery and create a picture on a video screen. You will feel nothing during the test except slight pressure when the probe is placed firmly against the skin.
- We will take several pictures. When done we give the information to the doctor for review. The test takes 20 to 40 minutes.

Bowel substance and gas can prevent the technologist from getting the most accurate information. Since it is very important for your abdomen to be free of contents as well as gas, it is very important to follow instructions given by the office personnel. Here are some instructions that may help. If you are prone to constipation and / or gas you may follow these steps:

- Take a laxative at noon the day before the test.
- Take one or two gas pills about one (1) hour before your test with only a sip of water.