Norman Regional
HEALTH SYSTEM

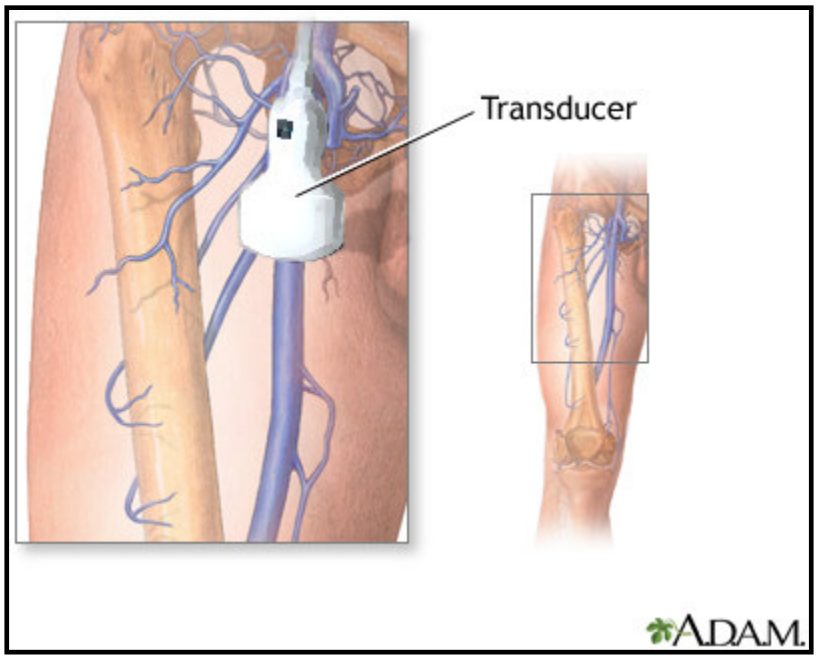
Ultrasound Exam Information
Vascular Ultrasound

Exam Duration:	30-90 Minutes	**IV Required?**	No
Exam Preparation:	None If you are having a carotid artery study, it is generally best to wear an open-collared shirt If possible.		

How it Works: Ultrasound utilizes high frequency sound waves which are beyond our range of hearing. These sound waves are emitted from a transducer (camera) which is placed on your skin. The sound waves travel into your body where they are reflected and travel back to the transducer. After the sound waves travel back to the transducer they are converted into an image of the soft tissue structure being examined. These images provide valuable information about a variety of diseases and conditions.

Vascular ultrasound is used in various areas of the body. Arterial and venous studies can be performed on both upper and lower extremities, looking for blood clots such as a deep vein thrombosis (a.k.a. DVT) or a narrowing of the vessel known as stenosis. Carotid studies evaluate the arteries that supply blood from the heart to the brain. If significant plaque buildup is detected, repeat vascular ultrasound studies may be used to monitor its progression. The actual velocity of blood flowing through a vessel can be measured using Doppler ultrasound, as well.

Exam Procedure: Upon your arrival, a sonographer will explain the exam in detail and ask questions about your relevant medical history. You will be asked to lie on an exam table. Depending on the area in question, you may be asked to move items of clothing so that the skin is uncovered. A small amount of gel will be placed on your skin—this gel helps to conduct sound waves into your body and is vital to the exam. The transducer will then be moved into various positions over your body and will be moved along the artery or vein of interest. You may be asked to adjust the position of your arms, legs, head, or neck. There are no lasting side effects to be concerned about.



Images will be viewed and interpreted by a radiologist or vascular surgeon. A copy of the report will be sent to your physician.

Please feel free to contact the Ultrasound department with any questions at (405) 307-2652.