

## HOUSTON NEUROLOGY ASSOCIATES

7500 Beechnut, Suite 135

Houston, TX 77074

713-777-4122

### Carotid Ultrasound (Doppler)

Your doctor has recommended that you receive a test called a Carotid Ultrasound (Doppler). This test is a diagnostic procedure that uses sound waves to diagnose carotid artery stenosis, a condition where narrowing of the carotid arteries (located on both sides of the neck) may partially or completely block blood flow from the heart to the neck and head.

Ultrasound produces better images of certain "soft" tissues than x-rays do. Ultrasound can also show internal motion such as blood flowing through veins and arteries. It does not involve the use of x-rays. It can also help indicate if surgery is needed.

The actual test varies in time. A gel is applied to the side(s) of your neck being viewed. A wand will be moved in a circular motion on your neck and images are then viewed on a screen. You will be able to resume normal activity following the test, unless otherwise instructed.

To prepare for the test:

- \*\* Do not have caffeine or cigarettes one hour prior to the test
- \*\* Take your usual medications
- \*\* Eat your normal meals
- \*\* Remove any jewelry from around the neck
- \*\* Wear a loose fitting, open necked shirt or blouse.

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Patient: \_\_\_\_\_

Appointment Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (call to confirm before appointment)

Appointment Time: \_\_\_\_\_ (call to confirm before appointment)

A technician comes to our office to perform this test. If you are unable to keep your appointment, please call our office 24 hours in advance or there will be a \$50 cancellation fee.