

# Vascular Blood Flow Tests

**DUPLEX ULTRASOUND SCAN  
AND PHYSIOLOGIC ARTERIAL TESTING**

## How and when will I get my test results?

Typically, within 48 hours a written report of your test will be sent to your referring doctor, who will review them with you. Additional time (3 to 5 days) may be required if we are comparing these test results to previous findings from other facilities.

## My test is:

### Carotid Duplex

Testing time is about 1 hour.

### Lower Extremity Venous or Arterial

Testing time is about 1 hour.

### Upper Extremity Arterial or Venous

Testing time is about 1 hour.

### Renal Artery or Vein

Testing time is about 1-1 1/2 hours.

### Abdominal Artery or Vein

Testing time is about 1 hour.

## Preparation:

### Abdominal Exams:

Do not eat or drink after midnight. Diabetics may take medicine with a small amount of water.

### Renal Exams:

Drink plenty of fluids the day prior to your evening meal. Do not eat or drink after midnight. Diabetics may take medicine with a small amount of water.

### Carotid and Exams of the Arms and Legs:

No preparation.

## Where is the test performed?

Your vascular blood flow test will be performed in the Imaging Services Department of Cayuga Medical Center at the location selected below.

## Notes

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

APPOINTMENT DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TIME \_\_\_\_\_



## Imaging Services Locations:

**Cayuga Medical Center**  
101 Dates Drive  
Ithaca, New York 14850

**Ithaca Convenient Care**  
10 Arrowwood Drive  
Ithaca, New York 14850

**Cortland Convenient Care**  
1129 Commons Avenue  
Cortland, New York 13045

(607) 274-4376

[www.cayugamed.org](http://www.cayugamed.org)



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# Welcome to the Department of Imaging Services at Cayuga Medical Center

We are here to assist in the diagnosis of medical conditions and orthopedic injuries using various forms of radiography and imaging technology. We want to make you as comfortable as possible during your exam, while providing timely, thorough, and accurate diagnostic information to your doctor.

The information in this brochure will tell you about the imaging study for which you are scheduled. If you have additional questions, please feel free to call **(607) 274-4376** and ask for the diagnostic supervisor. This person will be able to help you.

## About our Imaging Services



Cayuga Medical Center has a commitment to and reputation for staying abreast of changing technology and our imaging equipment is state-of-the-art.

Our range of services is comprehensive and we offer all imaging modalities found in major medical centers. Radiologists are on site at all three of our locations, which also distinguishes the level of service we provide.

Imaging Services is staffed by six board certified radiologists, many of whom are sub-specialists in areas such as neuroradiology, abdominal CT, and interventional procedures. Assisting them are experienced radiologic technologists and sonographers, many of whom have completed advanced training and are certified in specialty modalities.

## Vascular Blood Flow Tests

### *(Duplex Ultrasound Exam and Physiologic Arterial Testing)*

#### *Duplex Ultrasound Exam*

##### **What is the test?**

A duplex ultrasound scan is a noninvasive examination that uses color Doppler technology. Harmless high frequency sound waves bounce off the body's internal structures and are processed electronically to yield information about blood flow and the condition of the arteries and veins. A duplex ultrasound is painless, there is no radiation involved, and there are no risks known to be associated with its use. This test is typically used to diagnose suspected arterial or venous disease, as well, as other vascular problems.

##### **How do I prepare?**

Plan to arrive at your designated Imaging Services site 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment. There is no specific preparation for a duplex ultrasound scan of blood vessels in the arms, legs, and neck. It is best to wear loose-fitting clothing. If you are having a study of the blood vessels in your arms, we recommend wearing a tank top that exposes your shoulders, neck, and arms.

An ultrasound of the abdominal arteries and veins requires that you have nothing to eat or drink after midnight before your ultrasound. You may take regular medicine with a small amount of water.

##### **What can I expect during the procedure?**

You may be asked to change into a gown, depending on the specific exam. You will be asked to lie on an examining table for 30 to 60 minutes. The vascular technologist will apply some warm, clear gel to your skin. During the exam, an ultrasound transducer (*which looks like a wand*) will be moved lightly up and down your skin where the gel has been applied. Images created from the sound waves will appear

on a video monitor. The sounds and images of blood moving through the vessels will later be analyzed by a radiologist.

##### **How and when will I get my test results?**

Typically, within 48 hours a written report of your test results will be sent to your referring doctor, who will review them with you. Additional time (*3 to 5 days*) may be required if we are comparing these test results to previous findings from other facilities.

#### *Physiologic Arterial Testing*

##### **What is the test?**

Physiologic arterial testing is another non-invasive way used to evaluate blood flow in the body's limbs. It is an accurate and painless test for Peripheral Arterial Disease (*PAD*).

##### **How do I prepare?**

There is no specific preparation for physiologic arterial testing. Arrive at the medical center about 15 minutes before your scheduled test to give yourself time for outpatient registration. Please wear loose-fitting clothing.

##### **What can I expect during the test?**

This exam is done by using blood pressure cuffs and a Doppler ultrasound probe. The blood pressure on your arms, legs and sometimes toes will be measured. The data from your arterial testing will later be analyzed by a radiologist. There are no after-effects from physiologic arterial testing.