

Renal Artery Dopplers

This is an ultrasound exam to evaluate the structure of both kidneys and the renal arteries, which supply the kidneys with blood. This test is to look for blockages or narrowing of the renal arteries which may contribute to hypertension or renal dysfunction, as well as to monitor existing renal artery disease. You will be asked to lay on your back and pull your shirt up and move your pants to the top of your hips. We use warm water based gel on top of a probe and will be placed along either side of your abdomen. The kidneys are measured and the renal arteries are traced along the abdomen to where they connect with the aorta. This procedure is painless and not invasive, although you may feel some pressure from the transducer as it is placed on your abdomen. There are no drugs administered and the exam usually takes 45 minutes. This test does require you to be fasting for 6-8 hours to avoid any excess air in the bowel that may interfere with the images.