Care Gram

Peripheral Vascular Tests

(Arterial, Cerebrovascular, and Venous Studies)

Date of Test: _____ **Test Time:** _____

About the Tests
Peripheral vascular testing is a painless, noninvasive test. It helps your doctor look at possible circulation disorders. A special probe (a doppler) is used with water-based gel on the skin. This probe is used to pick up the sound of the blood flow. Specially trained staff perform the test. A vascular surgeon reads the test results. There are several types of peripheral vascular tests. Instructions for the arterial test, cerebrovascular test (carotid artery studies), and venous studies are included below. Please see the checked boxes below and on the following page for information on your specific test.

Allowing Time
Your test will take 30 to 60 minutes. Certain tests may be repeated for follow-up care.

Registering
Please report directly to Diagnostic Imaging for your scheduled test. Diagnostic Imaging is located on the Licking Memorial Hospital First Floor. Enter through the Main Lobby and follow the signs to Diagnostic Imaging. Please use the computer screen in the waiting area to sign in for your test.

☐ **Arterial Tests**
An arterial test studies the blood flow in the arms, legs, fingers, or toes. It is done while you are lying flat in bed.

- Blood pressure cuffs are placed around the ankles, calves, thighs, arms, and digits (fingers and toes).
- The cuffs are filled with air by a special machine and a pulse waveform is recorded.
- The cuffs are filled again and the actual blood pressure of that section of leg, arm, or digit is checked.

The doctor looks at how the blood is carried from your heart to your arms, legs, or feet. No preparation is needed. You may eat and take your medications as scheduled. You may be asked to remove stockings, slacks, or trousers for leg studies, and shirts or blouses for arm studies. Underwear is not removed for this test. Wraps such as Ace® bandages on your legs or other types of support stockings should be removed at least 30 minutes before your test.

☐ **Cerebrovascular Tests**
A cerebrovascular test studies the carotid arteries in the neck. These important arteries carry blood to the brain. Early detection of disease in these arteries is important in the prevention of a stroke.
A carotid study uses ultrasound technology. It sends sound waves through the skin to “see” blood flowing through the artery.

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This ultrasound shows an image of the artery, measures blood flow, spots blockage, or buildup of plaque, and gives a sound recording of the blood. The images are reviewed by the doctor and saved to compare with future studies.

No preparation is needed. You may eat and take your medications as scheduled. You should wear loose-fitting clothing around the neck. Please do not wear a turtleneck shirt.

☐ **Venous Tests**

A venous test also uses ultrasound technology. This test is usually ordered by your doctor to check for blood clots in the leg or arm.

- You may be placed in a slightly slanted position with the head high and the feet low.
- A special gel is applied to the skin, which is non-greasy, water-based, and hypoallergenic.
- A special probe (a doppler) is gently rotated over the surface of the skin.
  - This will pick up the sound of blood flowing through a vessel.
  - The technologist listens to certain veins to see if the sound is normal or abnormal.
- Certain veins are reviewed for blockage and can be seen on a video screen.
- This test also may evaluate the veins for venous insufficiency (a condition in which the leg veins have trouble sending blood from the legs back to the heart), which can cause varicose veins, swelling, leg ulcers, and other ongoing leg problems.

The staff will report the results of your test to your doctor as soon as possible. You will be given instructions before you go home.

No preparation is needed. You may eat and take your medications as scheduled. You will be asked to remove stockings, slacks, or trousers for leg studies, and shirts or blouses for arm studies. Underwear is not removed for this test. Wraps such as Ace® bandages on your legs or other types of support stockings should be removed at least 30 minutes before your test.

On the Day of the Test

Please leave valuables at home (such as money, credit cards, and checkbooks). The Vascular Lab cannot be responsible for any personal items that are lost during procedures. Be sure to bring medical cards and a photo ID.

Finding Out the Results

The final results of the tests will be ready in 3 to 5 days. You will find out the results of the test from the doctor who ordered it. Please call your doctor's office if you have not received the results within 1 week.

Appointment Reminder

If you have any questions about your test, please call the Vascular Lab at (220) 564-4267. If you need to cancel your appointment, please call Central Scheduling at (220) 564-4722.

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This Care Gram is for information purposes only. It may become out-of-date over time. Ask a doctor or a healthcare professional about your specific condition.