

Vascular Studies

CUS – Carotid Ultrasound/TCD – Transcranial Doppler

CUS is used to view the inside of your artery and TCD measures the rate and direction of blood flow inside the vessels.

Why am I having this test? A CUS test is used to evaluate stroke risk due to narrowing of the arteries. TCD testing is used in conjunction with a CUS to determine how quickly blood is flowing. TCD evaluates the risk of transient ischemic attack (TIA), embolism, and cerebrovascular accident (CVA) among others.

What can I expect? Testing is performed by utilizing a hand held transducer that sends and receives sound waves and displays them on a computer screen.

Who performs the test? Testing is performed by a vascular technician.

How long will it take? CUS alone takes 30 minutes and CUS/TCD takes approximately 1 hour to complete.

How do I prepare for test? It is helpful to wear a comfortable shirt with no collar or open collar and to take off any necklaces or dangling earrings prior to the test. You may take medications as prescribed and eat/drink like normal. You do not need anyone to accompany or drive you; if you choose to have someone accompany you, they may enter the testing room with your approval, or wait in the waiting area. Please make prior arrangements for childcare as we don't recommend children be in the testing room for their safety as well as yours.

How do I get results? The report will be submitted to your referring doctor within 3 business days. Your doctor will use this report along with his knowledge of your symptoms and history in order to determine the next step in your care plan.

What does it cost? Insurance coverage of testing varies; it may be covered under your office visit co-pay. Our business office will contact you prior to your appointment to give you a cost estimate so you can be prepared to pay for the testing when you check in for your appointment.

If you have any questions concerning your test, please contact us via the patient portal (a link is available at the top of our webpage) or call us at 817-267-6290.