



Carotid Ultrasound Preparation & Information

What is a carotid ultrasound study?

A carotid (ka-ROT-id) ultrasound is a painless and harmless test that uses high-frequency sound waves to create pictures of the insides of your carotid arteries located on both sides of the neck.

Who needs a carotid ultrasound?

Your doctor may recommend a carotid ultrasound if you:

- Had a stroke or mini-stroke recently;
- Have an abnormal sound called a carotid bruit (broo-E) in one of your carotid arteries;
- Blood clots in one of your carotid arteries; and/or
- A split between the layers of your carotid artery wall

What to expect during a carotid ultrasound study

For carotid ultrasound studies, wear comfortable clothing with a loose fitting collar. The exam takes approximately 30 minutes.

