## **Arterial Duplex Scan of Upper and Lower Extremities**

Ultrasound is a procedure that uses sound waves to "see" inside your body. An arterial duplex ultrasound uses sound waves to create a color map of the arteries in your legs to identify:

- Narrowing of your vessels that may be causing leg pain when walking
- Resting leg pain
- Foot, ankle, heel or toe ulcers
- Skin discoloration

## **During Your Exam**

- The vascular technologist will explain your exam and answer any questions you may have.
- Your procedure will be performed with you lying on the examination table on your back with your hands at your sides or on your stomach.
- The technologist will apply warm gel to your arms or legs.
- A transducer, a small device similar to a microphone, will be placed over various locations on your arms or legs.
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- You will not feel any pain; however, you will feel mild pressure from the blood-pressure cuff and the transducer.
- Sound waves will bounce off the muscle and tissue in your body and off the blood moving in your arteries. This creates "echoes." The echoes are reflected back to the transducer. A television monitor shows images as the transducer converts the echoes to electronic signals.
- You will hear unusual sounds as the technologist views and records the blood flowing through the veins and arteries in your legs.

## How should you prepare?

- There is no preparation for this procedure.
- The test takes approximately 60 minutes.