

# Bypass Graft Duplex Scan of Lower Extremity



A bypass graft ultrasound views and records the blood flow following a surgical graft procedure (bypassing diseased vessels with man-made material or healthy veins from your arms or legs).

Ultrasound is a procedure that uses sound waves to "see" inside your body. This procedure uses sound waves to create a color map of the blood flow to the graft area and can identify blood clots. A clot is a narrowing or blockage of the vessel that can cause pain or limping.

## Before 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 legs.
- A transducer, a small device similar to a microphone, will be placed over various locations on your legs.
- Your blood pressure will be taken at both your foot and your arm.
- You will not feel any pain; however, you will feel mild pressure from the transducer and blood-pressure cuff.
- Sound waves will bounce off the muscle tissue in your legs and the blood moving in your arteries and graft. 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.
- Additionally, you may 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.