

2014

# Non-Invasive Vascular Lab Testing



# Non-Invasive Vascular Lab Testing

The Vascular Lab has special testing equipment. The technologist is able to get information about the pressure and the amount of blood flowing through the arteries and veins. You will be lying on an examining table for most tests; sometimes you may be sitting. The tests will not hurt you and there are no side effects. You will not get any injections.

Many tests are described in this pamphlet. Ask one of our staff members which test you are having.

## **Doppler pressures and waveforms**

- Ultrasound is used to record blood flow and pressure.
- Blood pressure cuffs go on both arms and legs.
- A pencil-shaped ultrasound instrument is used to measure the blood flow and pressure in the arteries.
- The test will take 20 - 30 minutes.

## **Treadmill exercise testing**

- You will be asked to walk on a treadmill.
- The technologist will observe you closely during this time.
- The technologist will stop the treadmill if you feel pain in your legs or chest or have any difficulty breathing.
- You will then be asked to lie down. An ultrasound will be used to measure the flow and pressure of the blood in the ankles.
- The test will take 15 - 20 minutes.

## **Carotid doppler/duplex evaluation**

- An ultrasound is used to see and listen to blood flow through the carotid arteries in the neck.
- The test will take 15 - 30 minutes.

## **Venous doppler/duplex ultrasound**

- An ultrasound is used to see and listen to the blood flow at different levels in the veins of the legs.
- The test will take 15 - 30 minutes.

## **Venous reflex testing**

- You will be asked to sit on the edge of an examining table.
- Small plastic sensors will be taped just above your ankles.
- You will be asked to move your feet up and down a few times, or the technologist will squeeze your calves.
- Blood pressure cuffs may be placed around the thighs.
- The test will take 10 - 15 minutes.

## **Vasospastic/digit vessel evaluation**

- Small plastic sensors are taped on the fingers or toes.
- Tiny blood pressure cuffs are also placed on the fingers or toes.
- The pressure of the blood in the fingers or toes is taken and the pulses are recorded.

Non-Invasive Vascular Diagnostic Lab  
Division of Vascular Surgery  
Vascular Surgery Clinic  
4th Floor, Halifax Infirmary  
Robie Street entrance  
Secretary: (902) 473-3512

If you have any questions, please ask.  
We are here to help you.



# QEII Health Sciences Centre Map

- | Halifax Infirmiry Site |                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1a.                    | Halifax Infirmiry                     |
| 1b.                    | Emergency Dept.                       |
| 2.                     | Abbie J. Lane Memorial Building       |
| 3.                     | Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building |
| VG Site                |                                       |
| 4.                     | Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre     |
| 5.                     | Bethune Building                      |
| 6.                     | Mackenzie Building Laboratories       |
| 7.                     | Centre for Clinical Research          |
| 8.                     | Dickson Building                      |
| 9.                     | Victoria Building                     |
| 10.                    | Centennial Building                   |

- Patient Parking
- Entrance Doors

Please do not wear scented products when you come to Capital Health.

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