What is a carotid artery ultrasound?
A carotid ultrasound is a noninvasive test using sound waves, gel and a small probe to produce an image of the arteries in the neck. A carotid artery ultrasound uses no radiation, dyes or needles.

Why am I having a carotid ultrasound?
A carotid ultrasound evaluates for the interruption of blood flow to the brain caused by blockage in the arteries of the neck.

How your exam is performed.
• Blood pressures will be taken in both arms, unless otherwise indicated.
• You will then be asked to lie on your back with your head tilted to one side.
• A sonographer will apply gel to the area of the neck being evaluated. An ultrasound probe will slide over your neck, producing an image of the carotid arteries. It is important to remain still so optimal images can be taken.
• You may hear your blood flowing while the sonographer acquires images.
• The same technique is then performed on the other side of your neck.
• After the test, you may wipe off any excess gel and go home unless you have other scheduled tests.
• A physician will interpret your test results. The doctor who ordered your test will then receive a report and discuss the results with you.

Test Time and Preparation
This test takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. No preparation is needed.

Please remember to bring the order from your physician and a form of identification.