RENAL ARTERY DOPPLER

What is it and why do I need one?

A renal Doppler, also known as a renal ultrasound procedure, is a non-invasive testing process that uses ultrasound technology to allow a Physician to see the Kidneys and the surrounding blood vessels. The test is used to detect kidney abnormalities, assess blood flow to the kidneys, and clarify abnormalities detected during prior tests. Renal Doppler procedures are traditionally used to detect conditions such as renal arteries stenosis, which is narrowing and hardening of the renal arteries. A form of atherosclerosis, which results in blood flow restriction to the kidneys, renal arterial stenosis causes impaired kidney function and hypertension.

How is the Renal Doppler performed?

You will be asked to remove any clothing that may interfere with the testing process and put on gown. You will then be instructed to lie down on an examination table and a clear gel is applied to the skin of the artery that is to be examined. A hand-held probe, called a transducer is pressed to the skin and emits sound waves as it moves over the skin. You may be asked to hold your breath or take deep breathes in during the exam, this is to enable proper evaluation of the kidneys and the arteries.

Do I need to prepare for this examination?

Patients are typically asked not to consume any food or beverage for at least 8 hours prior to the procedure. All carbonated beverages should be avoided.

Is a Renal Doppler safe?

The renal Doppler procedure does not employ the use of contrast dye or radiation, so it can be safely performed on all patients. Obesity can interfere with testing and adversely affect test results.