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AN AFFILIATE OF TEXAS HEART INSTITUTE

AORTA DUPLEX SCAN

What is it?

This is a sonogram using sound waves to visualize your aorta, the largest and main artery in the body and all of the main arteries that are attached to the aorta. Since the aorta is the main artery in the body, your physician may want you to have this test to rule out any life-threatening or limb-threatening problems which occur, but have no warning signs.

What do I do?

Bowel substance and gas can prevent the technologist from getting the most accurate information. Since it is very important for your abdomen to be free of contents as well as gas, it is very important to follow instructions given by the office personnel. Here are some instructions that may help.

- Take all medication as scheduled with only a sip of water.
- Do not smoke or chew gum before the test, as this causes gas in the abdomen.
- Take a laxative at noon the day before the test.
- Take one or two gas pills about one (1) hour before your test.

What will happen?

You will be placed lying on your back with your head slightly elevated. The technologist places a gel on your skin and glides a "knob or paddle" called a probe, over your abdomen. You should not feel any discomfort from this exam.

How long does it take?

This procedure takes fifteen to forty-five (15-45) minutes.