

## **AORTIC ANEURYSM DUPLEX INFORMATION SHEET**

### **What is an Aortic Aneurysm Duplex and why do I need one?**

An Aortic Aneurysm Duplex is an ultrasound scan of the aorta to confirm or exclude an aneurysm of the aorta as it runs through the abdomen.

The aorta is the largest artery (blood vessel) in the body. It carries blood from the heart and runs down through the chest and abdomen (tummy) supplying blood to all parts of the body. An aortic aneurysm occurs when the wall of the aorta weakens and balloons out at one place.

The ultrasound scan is a pain-less, non-invasive examination, similar to pregnancy scans, to assess the size of the aorta throughout the abdomen.

### **How is the Aortic Duplex performed?**

- You will need to remove your trousers, dress or skirt (you can leave on your underwear and any tops) to allow easy access to the legs and groins. You will also need to remove your socks and shoes.
- You will lie down on an ultrasound couch for the first part of the examination and will sit on the couch with your legs dependant for the second part.
- A probe as well as lubricating gel is placed on your leg. The gel is hypo-allergenic, and is primarily a slightly saline gel allowing easy movement of the sound waves into the body. Either one or both legs will be examined depending on your symptoms and what your referrer has requested. Occasionally it will be necessary to also scan the veins in your pelvis and abdomen if requested.
- High frequency sound waves pass through the skin. The probe picks up returning sound waves reflected from tissue and moving blood corpuscles and displays them as a duplex ultrasound image, a real-time, highly detailed display of the deep veins, their walls, the blood flow through them and the tissue surrounding the arteries.
- The examination takes about 30-45 minutes

### **Do I need to prepare for this examination?**

You do not need any special preparation for this examination. You can eat and drink normally before and after the examination. Continue to take your usual medication.

### **Is a Venous Duplex (for DVT) a safe examination?**

Deep Vein Thrombosis Duplex ultrasound is extremely safe. There are no known risks from the clinical use of ultrasound for this examination.