MOLECULAR
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Ghaziabad: Plot No 14 & 15, Block P, Sector 23, Sanjay Nagar, Ghaziabad
Near ALT Bus Stand, Phone No.: +91-9217244110
info@molecularit.com www.molecularit.com

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Understanding
Colour Doppler - Lower Limb Arterial



What is Colour Doppler - Lower Limb Arterial

Colour Doppler of the lower limb arterial system is a non-invasive scan of the leg that examines the arteries supplying blood to the leg. It combines conventional ultrasound with Colour Doppler and spectral Doppler techniques and is used to evaluate arterial structure, direction, and velocity of blood flow and arterial flow in general.

Why is it Performed?

Pain in the leg, if it is difficult to walk, numbness, weakness, or a lighter colour on the leg compared to the other leg may be reasons for recommending the examination. It is useful in the assessment of impaired arterial circulation, narrowing or blocking of vessels, peripheral artery disease, and other vascular conditions.

Preparation

- Wear loose clothing that allows easy access to the leg being examined.
- Inform the medical team about current medicines and medical conditions.
- Carry previous Doppler, ultrasound, angiography, or other vascular reports.
- Inform the sonologist about any previous vascular surgery, stent placement, injury, or procedure involving the leg.

Procedure

The Patient is lying comfortably on an examination table. A transducer (which is pushed on the skin with ultrasound gel) moves on the skin over the path of the arteries in question during an ultrasound. Depending on clinical need, the examination may be carried out on the arteries in the groin, the artery from below the thigh to the knee, the calf, the ankle, and the foot. Colour Doppler and spectral Doppler are used to study blood flow velocity and to detect changes in arterial blood flow. This exam is not very uncomfortable, unless the pressure from the transducer causes any discomfort.

Important Instructions

- Remain relaxed and keep the leg still as instructed during the examination.
- Inform the sonologist if any area is painful or particularly sensitive.
- Follow any positioning instructions provided during the scan.
- Inform the medical team about previous vascular procedures or surgeries.
- Bring previous vascular imaging reports for comparison when available.

Safety Precautions

Colour Doppler is an ultrasound technique and doesn't involve the use of ionising radiation. Ultrasound is generally considered safe when performed appropriately by trained professionals. The medical team should be informed about relevant medical history, vascular surgery or procedures, and current symptoms. The examination is performed with attention to patient safety and comfort during the examination.

When to Seek Medical Attention?

If you experience severe, sudden leg pain, rapidly increasing swelling or marked changes in skin colour or temperature, sudden numbness or weakness, and difficulty in moving your leg, get immediate medical help. Colour Doppler of the lower limb arterial system is provided at Molecular Diagnostics and Therapy, where trained professionals carefully perform the appropriate ultrasound and Doppler techniques under appropriate medical supervision.