



*Better
Together*

Patient information
Carotid Sinus Massage
Cardiology Directorate

Why do I need this test?

There are several causes for dizziness, faints and blackouts. The treatment will vary depending on the actual cause found. The carotid sinus is a part of the carotid artery located at the side of your neck just below the jaw.

It contains nerve endings that respond to changes in blood pressure and are capable of slowing the heart rate. In some cases, these nerve endings are very sensitive and can cause a marked slowing of the heart rate or blood pressure leading to dizziness or collapse. This test will help your doctor to decide if this is the cause for your symptoms.

What does the test involve?

The test will be carried out and reported by an experienced clinical physiologist. During the test, you will lie on a patient table. Monitoring equipment will be attached to your chest and arm so we can watch your heart rate and blood pressure throughout the test.

The physiologist will rub the carotid artery on each side of your neck for a couple of seconds. If you feel dizzy or experience any other symptoms whilst this is being done, you should inform the physiologist because this will help them to decide the results of the test. The test is performed whilst you are lying down and then repeated whilst you are standing up. You will have safety straps placed around your chest, waist and knees to make you feel secure.

Feel free to ask the staff any questions you may have before the test begins.

How long will the test take?

The whole test including set up time will last approximately half an hour.

Do I need to do anything to prepare for the test?

No special preparation is needed for this test. You can continue to take any medications as normal. However, if you have been given an appointment for a Tilt Table Test on the **same day** you will need to fast (nothing to eat or drink) for two hours before the test.

What happens after the test?

Once the test is finished, you will be able to go home.

When will I receive the test results?

The test report is sent to your hospital consultant. You will usually be told the results of your test at your next outpatient clinic appointment. The hospital consultant may also send the results of the test to your family doctor (GP).

Further Information

If you have any queries please contact:

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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