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Ultrasound examination of the carotid arteries

**Anatomy:**

There are two common carotid arteries (one at each side of the neck):

-the right begin at bifurcation of the brachiocephalic artery.

-the left comes from the arch of the aorta.

**Each common carotid artery divided into:**

External carotid artery :which supply the exterior of the head ,the face and the greater part of the neck.

Internal carotid artery: which supply the remaining part of the head within the cranial and orbital cavities.

**Appearance:**

it will appear anechoic with thin echogenic wall.

**Probe:**

linear (7-10 MHz) probe is used.

**View :**

1. Transverse: thyroids gland with the trachea and the muscle
2. Transverse: carotid and jugular vain
3. Longitudinal with color and PW to check the velocity of the blood flow , thickness of the wall , and if there is stenosis .

