WHAT IS A VASCULAR EXAM?
Vascular exams are used to evaluate blood vessels in the body. There are several common exams used to diagnose abnormalities of blood vessels including Vascular Ultrasound, CT and MRI.

ULTRASOUND
A vascular ultrasound study is a noninvasive exam used to evaluate vessels for injury, narrowing or blockages. Ultrasound can be used to evaluate major arteries or veins in the abdomen, arms, legs and neck.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR AN ULTRASOUND EXAM?
There is no preparation necessary for this exam.

CT
CT Angiography (CTA) is a noninvasive diagnostic exam using intravenous contrast for evaluating arteries and guiding clinical management. Contrast material that contains iodine is injected into the blood (intravenously) during the CT scan. This makes blood vessels inside the body more visible. The exam can be used to evaluate any large- or medium-sized artery in the body. Commonly evaluated arteries include head, neck, chest, abdomen, pelvis and extremities.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR A VASCULAR CT?
Let your doctor know if you have allergies to iodine or to X-ray contrast. If you are allergic to contrast material, medication may be prescribed for you to take prior to the testing. Let your technologist know if you are, or think you may be, pregnant.

MRI
MR Angiography is a noninvasive diagnostic exam used to evaluate blood vessels. The exam uses a powerful magnet, radio waves, and a sophisticated computer system to produce images of various parts of the body. For some exams, contrast will be injected into a vein in your arm during the procedure to enhance the images. The contrast used for MRI does not contain iodine.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR A VASCULAR MRI?
If you are allergic to MRI contrast, notify the technologist. If you have renal disease or history of renal or liver transplant, please inform your technologist prior to the examination. Alternative types of imaging may be necessary in these cases.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE EXAM?
Vascular scans follow the same protocol as standard ultrasound, CT or MRI studies. For a detailed description, click on the link for these studies.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE EXAM?
You may resume your regular activities and diet, with any special instructions provided to you by your technologist, per your doctor’s orders. All exams are interpreted by a board-certified radiologist and results provided to your referring physician within 24 hours of the exam.

QUESTIONS?
If you have any questions or concerns about your exam, please call 913.676.2505 or e-mail smmcimaging@shawneemission.org.