Graft Surveillance with Ultrasound

What is Graft Surveillance with Ultrasound?
Graft surveillance with ultrasound is a test which utilizes high frequency sound waves to obtain images of a graft or fistula. This test is used to determine if there are any problems with these structures. The technologist applies an acoustic gel on your body over the area to be viewed. Then a painless instrument called a transducer is gently moved across that portion of your body to visualize the inside of the graft or fistula.

How is the test completed?
During the test you will be asked to lie on your back (if possible), while a trained technician records the images made by the ultrasound. The test usually takes less than 45 minutes. Graft surveillance does not hurt and there are no documented complications from the use of this type of ultrasound. During the test you may hear several strange noises coming from the machine. Do not become alarmed; these noises are actually the sound of blood moving through your body.

Are there any special preparations?
For 3 hours prior to the exam you should not smoke or use nicotine products. Avoid coffee, tea and all caffeine products.

How will I learn the test results?
The technician will not discuss any findings or conclusions about the test with you. Your personal physician is responsible for providing you with this information.

Date: ___________________________ Time: ___________________________