

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October 1, 2014

October is Medical Ultrasound Awareness Month

Lanham, MD October 1, 2014 – The Society for Vascular Ultrasound (SVU) is celebrating Medical Ultrasound Awareness Month (MUAM) during October to help increase the public's knowledge about medical ultrasound and more specifically, vascular ultrasound. SVU will be educating the public on the variety of uses medical ultrasound has in health care and how to utilize the best vascular ultrasound practitioners and resources available.

What is Vascular Ultrasound?

Vascular ultrasound exams are very safe and non-invasive, meaning that it does not require the use of needles, dye, radiation or anesthesia. Additionally, vascular ultrasound is widely available, easy-to-use and less expensive than other imaging methods. Vascular ultrasound uses transducers to transmit high frequency sound waves into the body that reflect off the vessels of interest. The reflected sound waves are then processed to form high resolution, images of the blood flow through major arteries and veins in the abdomen, arms, legs, neck and head. The images gathered during the procedure are then reviewed to see if there are any blockages to blood flow such as clots, narrowing of vessels or congenital vascular malformations.

Patients should take an active role in ensuring they know all the information about a vascular ultrasound exam. When looking to schedule an exam make sure that the vascular ultrasound procedure is performed at an accredited lab. You can check whether or not a lab is accredited by going onto the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission's website at www.intersocietal.org. Also, make sure to ask the technician performing the exam if they have been certified by the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography or Cardiovascular Credentialing International. Before your vascular ultrasound exam make sure that you follow the lab's instructions about pre-exam procedures.



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Celebrate MUAM with SVU

SVU will be celebrating MUAM all month long, especially through social media. SVU has created a variety of resources that are available for the public to share. Resources include:

- Vascular Testing & You Informational Flyer
- Social Media images and cover photos to celebrate MUAM
- Terminology for the Vascular Ultrasound Technologist/Sonographer
- How to Contact Members of Congress regarding the Care Bill

View these resources and many more at www.svunet.org/MUAM.