



Echocardiogram





Having an echocardiogram

An echocardiogram or 'echo' is a scan that uses sound waves (ultrasound) to produce pictures of your heart. It's a completely painless test that doesn't have any side effects and doesn't use radioactivity. An echocardiogram tells us how well your heart is pumping and whether your heart valves are working properly.

Preparing for your test

You can take all your medications as usual and eat and drink as normal. If you would like to bring a chaperone with you, you're welcome to bring a friend or relative. Alternatively, we can provide a chaperone for you upon your request.

At the appointment

The test will be performed by a Cardiac Physiologist, who may be male or female. A Cardiac Physiologist is a qualified specialist who operates ultrasound equipment and not a doctor.

You will be asked to undress to the waist, but you'll be covered up appropriately. You'll need to lie on the couch on your left-hand side.

We'll attach stickers to your chest, which will be connected to the machine, and these will monitor your heart rate during the test.

The lights in the room will be dimmed to make it easier for the specialist to see the images of your heart. An ultrasound probe covered by a small amount of gel is placed gently on the centre of your chest and will be moved to different positions throughout the test – beneath the left breast, beneath the rib cage and to the base of your neck. This enables us to see images of your heart from a number of different angles, which are then recorded.

During the echocardiogram

You will hear sounds coming from the machine, which represent blood flow through the heart. The echocardiogram will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Once the echocardiogram is complete you can get dressed and leave. There aren't any limitations as to what you can do after the scan so you can carry on as normal. You can drive to and from your appointment.

Giving your consent for the procedure

This information is intended to provide you with an overview of the echo scan procedure. Prior to any medical examination being carried out, the Clinician will describe the nature of the examination. It is your right to be given sufficient information to be able to make any informed decision as to whether you wish to continue with the examination.

What happens after your echocardiogram?

The clinician who has performed the echocardiogram will review the scan and write a report on the findings. Your diagnostic report will be sent to your referring GP or specialist within a few days of your scan.

More information can be found on the following NHS link:

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/information-support/tests/echocardiogram>



All enquiries:



0800 652 4157



appointments@healthsharediagnostics.org.uk



healthshare.org.uk

Important Information

This is a general patient information leaflet only.

The information you are given may be different to that provided here. This is because the information given to you is tailor made to your individual treatment.

It is very important that you follow the instructions that are given by your clinician.



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