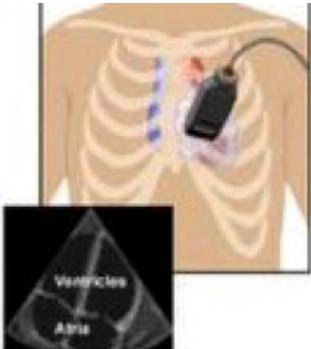


Echocardiogram



What is an Echocardiogram?

An echocardiogram is an ultrasound that uses sound waves to produce images of your heart. This test allows your doctor to see how your heart is pumping blood and beating. Your doctor can use the images to identify various abnormalities in the heart muscle and valves.

What will happen During an Echocardiogram?

The actual images are taken by a technologist using a device called a transducer. During the test, you will be asked to change into a patient gown and then lie down on your back. The technologist applies a gel to your chest over your heart before moving the transducer around. The transducer transmits sound waves and the waves reflected back from your heart creates a 3D picture of your heart.

You may feel some pressure from the transducer but this test not painful. Normally, it takes about 30-45 minutes to complete the test. Sometimes it is difficult to get a good picture of your heart. In these cases, a contrast medium may be injected by a Cardiologist through an intravenous (IV) inserted in your arm, and the echocardiogram will continue as outlined above. This allows the doctor to see different aspects of your heart better, like valves and blood flow through the heart. Side effects to this contrast medium are very rare and it is very safe. You will typically not feel any different after the injection.

What will happen after the Echocardiogram?

After your scan you may return to your normal activities.

The Echocardiogram report will be sent to your physician. The results will be given to you by your physician