

ECHOCARDIOGRAM TEST

What is an echocardiogram?

An echocardiogram, also called an echo, is a test that uses ultrasound waves to produce images of the heart.

A microphone-like device, called a transducer, sends out ultrasound waves that bounce off the heart to produce images of the heart.

It is a safe and painless test that helps your doctor identify a variety of heart problems.

Why has your doctor ordered an echocardiogram?

Determine the size and pumping strength of the heart.

Show the shape and motion of the heart valves.

Detect the presence of fluid, blood clots or masses in or around the heart.

Detect abnormal holes between the chambers of the heart.

How do I prepare for an echocardiogram?

No special preparations are necessary.

Wear a two-piece outfit.

What happens during the echocardiogram?

You will be given an explanation of the test and asked to sign a consent form.

You will be asked to undress from the waist up and put on a short gown.

Electrodes are placed on your chest to monitor your heartbeat.

While you lie on an exam table, an echo technician moves the transducer over your chest to obtain images of your heart.

The echo takes about 30-45 minutes.

When will I know the results of the echo test?

Final interpretation of the test results is completed by a cardiologist.

The physician ordering your test and family doctor will receive a report within 3 days.