



Echocardiogram

Your Appointment

Day/Date:

Time:

Location:

A new referral is required PRIOR to this appointment:

YES

NO

What is it?

An echocardiogram (or "echo") is an ultrasound of your heart which is performed by a cardiac sonographer. It provides essential information about the structure and function of your heart chambers, valves and related vessels. This test takes approximately 40 minutes.

Preparation

There is no specific preparation required. Comfortable two piece clothing is desirable as you will need to undress to your waist. Access to a bare chest is required to take ultrasound pictures of the heart. A loose fitting gown will be provided.

Procedure

The test will last approximately 40 minutes. During this time you will be required to lie on your left side. The lights will be dim to allow the sonographer to view the images more clearly.

A small probe will be placed over different areas of your chest in order to assess the heart from multiple views. A water soluble gel is used as a contact medium between the probe and your chest wall to improve image quality.

You will be able to hear noises of blood flow. You will feel pressure on your chest where the sonographer is imaging. A series of standard measurements will be taken throughout the test. All images are stored digitally and reported by a cardiologist.

The sonographer is unable to provide you with the results of the test. If you have a concurrent review appointment with a cardiologist you will receive your results on that day, otherwise the test will be reported by a cardiologist and the results forwarded to your referring doctor.

Please allow 5 working days before making an appointment with your doctor or notify the sonographer if you have an appointment within the next 5 days.

What to bring on the day

You will need to bring:

- Medicare, concession and/or health insurance cards

Risks

There are no known adverse effects from cardiac ultrasound.

**FULL PAYMENT WILL BE REQUIRED ON
THE DAY OF THE TEST**

Please note we require all patients to arrive 15 minutes prior to a test appointment. Arrival after your appointment time may result in your appointment being forfeited.

Please note that a cancellation fee will apply for less than 24 hours notice of appointment cancellation.

If you need any further information please phone (08) 8297 6888 or visit our website at saheart.com.au