



Your Doctor has decided that you should have an Echocardiogram with Ultracardiac Ltd.

What is it?

- An echocardiogram or 'echo' is a scan that uses ultrasound (sound waves) to produce pictures of the heart. The test is painless and without side effects. It does not use radioactivity.

Why is it being done?

- An echocardiogram gives your Doctor information about how well the heart pumps and whether your heart valves are working properly. It is not able to tell your Doctor whether you have angina.

What does it involve?

- You will be welcomed by an experienced Echocardiographer who may be male or female. If you have any specific needs or preferences ie, female echocardiographer, please advise us in advance and we will do our utmost to accommodate your wishes.

The Echocardiographer will usually NOT be a doctor. This means that some questions you may have about the result may have to wait until you see your doctor.

- You will be asked to undress to the waist in private and offered a modesty covering for your chest and asked to lie on a couch on your left-hand side. If you require a chaperone, you may bring a friend or relative with you, or Ultracardiac can provide a trained chaperone if requested in advance of the appointment.

Providers of quality echocardiography services

- Stickers will be attached to your chest and connected to the ultrasound machine. These will be used to monitor your heart rate during the test. 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 — beneath the left breast, beneath the rib cage and to the base of your neck. This provides images of your heart from a number of different angles which are then recorded.

The images will be reviewed by the echocardiographer and a report will be forwarded to the doctor who requested the echo. The images with the report will then be stored on a secure database which can only be accessed by selected medical personnel responsible for your care.

- During the echocardiogram you will hear sounds coming from the machine, which represent blood flow through the heart.
- The echocardiogram can take up to 45 minutes to complete.

Are there any special precautions that I need to take before the echocardiogram?

- No. You can take all your medication as normal. You can eat and drink as normal.

At the end of your echocardiogram

- Once the echocardiogram is complete you can get dressed and leave. There are no limitations to what you can do after the scan, for example, you may drive.

Please note — by attending this echocardiogram appointment we accept your implied consent. If at any time during this test you feel uncomfortable or wish the echocardiogram to stop, then please inform the echocardiographer performing your scan who will respect your wishes.