

## Echocardiogram

### What is an Echocardiogram?

An echocardiogram is an ultrasound (uses sound waves) scan of the heart. It is used to visualise the four chambers of the heart as well as the four heart valves and surrounding structures. It provides information about the structure and function of your heart.

### What happens during an Echocardiogram?

During an echocardiogram you will have to lie on your back or left hand side for approximately 40 minutes with your chest exposed. A probe and some gel will be placed on the surface of your chest which will allow the heart to be imaged. You may be asked to take a few deep breaths at several stages during the test.

### Is an Echocardiogram dangerous?

No. An Echocardiogram is completely safe. It will not interfere with any electronic devices.



### What do I have to do to prepare for an Echocardiogram?

No specific preparation is required for the test. We advise patients that the test takes approximately 40 minutes. You may wish to visit the restrooms prior to the test.