



Echocardiogram

Patient's Name:	
Appointment Date & Time:	
Exam Ordered:	

What is it?

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

Your doctor may suggest an echocardiogram if he or she suspects problems with the valves or chambers of your heart or your heart's ability to pump. An echocardiogram can also be used to detect congenital heart defects in unborn babies.

Risks

There are minimal risks associated with a standard echocardiogram. You may feel some discomfort similar to pulling off an adhesive bandage when the technician removes the electrodes placed on your chest during the procedure.

What to expect during the test?

After undressing from the waist up, you'll lie on an examining table or bed. The technician will attach sticky patches (electrodes) to your body to help detect and conduct the electrical currents of your heart.

During the echocardiogram, the technician will dim the lights to better view the image on the monitor. You may hear a pulsing "whoosh" sound, which the machine is recording the blood flowing through your heart. You may be asked to breathe in a certain way or to roll onto your left side. Sometimes the transducer must be held very firmly against your chest. This can be uncomfortable - but it helps the technician produce the best images of your heart.

Preparation:

No special preparations are necessary for a standard echocardiogram.

If you have any questions, please call The Pichardo Clinic at (863) 421-9447.