

INFORMATION LEAFLET

Echocardiogram (echo / cardiac ultrasound)

What is it?

An echocardiogram is an ultrasound investigation of the heart. Sound waves are reflected off structures in the heart generating a 2D and 3D picture of the heart. An echocardiogram has become one of the most important cardiac tests providing vital information on the heart muscle and valve functions.



How is it performed?

The test is performed in a private room as you will need to take off the clothes from your upper body. You are welcome to bring along a friend or relative who can sit in with you. You will need to lie on a couch and a small probe will be placed on your chest with lubricating jelly to improve the picture quality. You may be asked to roll over or lie flat and to hold your breath at times.

How long does it take?

A detailed echocardiogram usually takes half an hour to acquire. The report can then take up to an hour to generate.

Are there any risks?

None. The ultrasound is harmless.

What happens next?

Once you have your echocardiogram recorded, it will be analysed and a report generated, usually within seven days.