



The Rowan Suite

World Class Private Heart & Chest Care

Echocardiogram

Ultrasound scan of the heart



Information for Patients & Families

This leaflet has been written to provide information about a test that allows a Physiologist (a specially trained technician) to examine your heart using ultrasound waves (Echocardiogram). We hope it answers some of the questions or concerns you may have about the test. It is not intended to replace talking with medical, nursing or technical staff.

What is an Echocardiogram?

An Echocardiogram (Echo) is a test that allows a Physiologist to examine the structure of your heart and the heart valves using ultrasound waves.

How is it done?

The test involves placing gel on your chest and moving a probe over your chest area. High frequency sound is passed through your skin. The probe then picks up echoes and shows them as a moving picture of your heart on a screen.

Will I have any pain or discomfort during the test?

The test is completely painless.

How long does it take?

The test can take up to 30 minutes.

Do I need to prepare for the test in any way?

No. You can eat and drink normally before the test. You will be required to undress to the waist, but you will be given a hospital gown to wear. Please note - if possible wear a two piece outfit and avoid wearing a dress or slip e.g. skirt or trousers and a top.

What are the benefits of having the test?

The test will provide your doctor with important information about your heart muscle and the heart valves. It is often useful to assess the function of the heart after a heart attack, to assess people with heart failure and to routinely assess people with disease of the heart valves.

Are there any risks involved?

The use of ultrasound to obtain images of the heart is very safe and there are no known risks.

What alternatives do I have?

Your doctor will be happy to discuss any alternative tests if they are applicable to you.

What can I expect after the test?

Once the test is over you will be able to go home. The results of the test will be sent to your cardiologist.

For further information visit:

- www.lhch.nhs.uk
- www.bhf.org.uk
- www.nhs.uk
- www.dipex.org

Or contact:

The British Heart Foundation Heart Information Line on 0845 070 8070.

If you require a copy of this leaflet in any other format or language please contact us quoting the leaflet code and the language or format you require.

<p>إذا لديك الرغبة في الحصول على نسخة من هذه المعلومات بأي لغة أخرى أو بشكل آخر (على سبيل المثال بخطوط كبيرة) ، الرجاء الاتصال علينا على الرقم 0151 600 1257 موضحاً الشكل أو اللغة التي ترغب فيها.</p>
<p>如果您想索取一份以其他語文或形式（如大字體）編印成的資料傳單，請致電 0151 600 1257 向我們查詢，並說明您所需要的形式和語文。</p>
<p>ئەگەر ئەم زانیاریانەت بەھەر زمانیکی تر یاخود شیۆلۆژیکی تر دەوئیت (بۆ نموونە بە چاپی گەورە) ئەوا تکایە بە ژمارە تەلەفۆنی 0151 600 1257 پەیوەندیمان پێوە بکە و ناماژە بدە بەر زمانەیی یاخود شیۆهییەیی کە دەتەوئیت</p>
<p>W celu uzyskania niniejszej informacji w innym języku lub formacie (np. dużym drukiem), prosimy o kontakt z nami pod numerem 0151 600 1257 podając wymagany format lub język.</p>
<p>Haddii aad u baahan tahay koobiga wargelintan oo luqad ama qaab kale (sida far waaweyn) fadlan nagala soo xiriir 0151 600 1257 adiga oo noo sheegaya luqadda ama qaabka aad wax ku rabtid.</p>