

# Transthoracic Echocardiogram



## What is a Transthoracic Echocardiogram (ECHO)?

An ECHO is an ultrasound test. This test allows your doctor to evaluate your heart and its function. The ECHO machine is able to show the size of your heart and the health of the heart's chambers and valves. This test is safe and painless.

## Before Your ECHO

Please use the bathroom if necessary; your ECHO may take up to 60 minutes.

Please inform the receptionist and your sonographer if you are here for any other procedures or appointments.

You will be asked to undress from the waist up and put on a gown.

- You will lay on your left side with your left arm above your head.
- The insertion of an IV may be required if an image enhancer is necessary.

## During Your ECHO

Most ECHO exams take between 30 and 60 minutes.

Small electrodes are placed on your chest that will monitor your heart.

A transducer with warm gel is held on your chest to produce images of your heart.

## After Your ECHO

You are able to return to normal activity unless otherwise instructed by your doctor.

Make sure to check with the receptionist for any follow-up appointments.

## Your Test Results

You should receive your test results in five to seven business days. If you do not hear from your doctor in seven days, please feel free to contact our office at 217.528.7541.



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