

ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY

What is it?

An Echocardiogram is an ultrasound test conducted with a microphone that is placed on your chest to examine the heart. The test is painless and allows us to see the structure, function of the heart, its ability to contract and the function of the heart valves. It is a very valuable test in patients with murmurs, shortness of breath, palpitations or in those with high blood pressure.

How long does it take?

The echo takes about 45 minutes to complete. Our echo technicians are all experienced operators and will ensure an accurate test. Our dedicated cardiac echo machines guarantee you a test of the highest quality.

What preparation do I need?

There is no specific preparation needed. You will be required to lie flat for 45 minutes so an empty bladder is advisable and it is best not to eat a large meal just before the test.

What are the risks?

There is no known risk from ultrasound. Occasionally very ill patients find it difficult to lie flat. You should let us know if you are having difficulty with your breathing.