

Cardiology

Transthoracic echocardiogram (echo)

Information for patients, relatives and carers

Introduction

This leaflet explains what a transthoracic echocardiogram (TTE) is and what will happen at your appointment. If you have any questions, please contact your care team.

What is a transthoracic echocardiogram?

A transthoracic echocardiogram, also known as an 'echo', is a type of ultrasound scan. We use this scan to look at the heart and blood vessels. The scan shows your doctor specific information about:

- the structure of your heart
- the flow of blood to your heart

How do I prepare for my echocardiogram?

You don't need to do anything special to prepare for this scan. You can eat and drink as normal on the day and take all of your regular medication.

If you need a chaperone and/or an interpreter

If you need someone to come to the appointment with you (a chaperone), please tell the receptionist when you arrive for your appointment.

If you need an interpreter, please contact us on the number for your cardiac department (see below) three days before your appointment. We can then book an interpreter for your appointment.

Plan your journey

Many people benefit from planning their journey to the hospital. Knowing your route can help you get there in plenty of time for your appointment. There are a small number of general and disabled car parking spaces at the different hospitals (except for St Mary's Hospital).

For help with journey planning, please visit: www.imperial.nhs.uk > [our location](#) > choose the correct hospital > hospital map > parking and tfl.gov.uk/.

On the day of your appointment

Please arrive 10 to 15 minutes before the time for your appointment and go to the cardiology reception desk.

Charing Cross Hospital

- 020 3311 1028
- Cardiac Investigation Unit, Fifth floor, Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8RF

Hammersmith Hospital

- 020 3313 3948
- Cardiac Investigation Unit 2, Hammersmith Hospital, Ground floor, B block, Du Cane Road, London W12 0HS

St Mary's Hospital

- 020 3312 1241
- Waller cardiovascular unit, Ground floor, Mary Stanford Wing, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London W2 1NY

Before your scan

- a member of our team will explain the test and any potential risks and side effects
- you will be able to ask any questions you have
- they will then ask for your verbal consent to make sure you understand what happens during the test and that you agree to have it

During the scan

- we will ask you to undress from the waist up and give you a gown to wear
- we'll then ask you to lie on your left or right-hand side so we can do the scan
- we'll put a small amount of gel on your chest and place a scanner on your chest to allow the echocardiographer to see your heart.

Please note: Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust is a teaching hospital, so this means there might be trainee staff there during your test. We will ask you first if this is ok.

What if I cannot make my appointment?

If you cannot make your appointment, please contact us to cancel or reschedule. Use the number on your appointment letter.

Further information

nhs.uk: www.nhs.uk/conditions/echocardiogram/

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3312 7777** (10.00 – 16.00, Monday to Friday). You can also email PALS at imperial.pals@nhs.net The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:
Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street
London W2 1NY

Email: ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team:
imperial.communications@nhs.net

Wi-Fi

Wi-Fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: www.imperial.nhs.uk

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