

Echocardiogram

Information for patients, relatives and carers

Introduction

This leaflet explains what will happen when you come to hospital for an echocardiogram. We hope it will answer some of the questions that you or those who care for you may have at this time. This leaflet is not meant to replace the discussion between you and your medical team but aims to help you understand more about what is discussed.

Why do I need to have an echocardiogram?

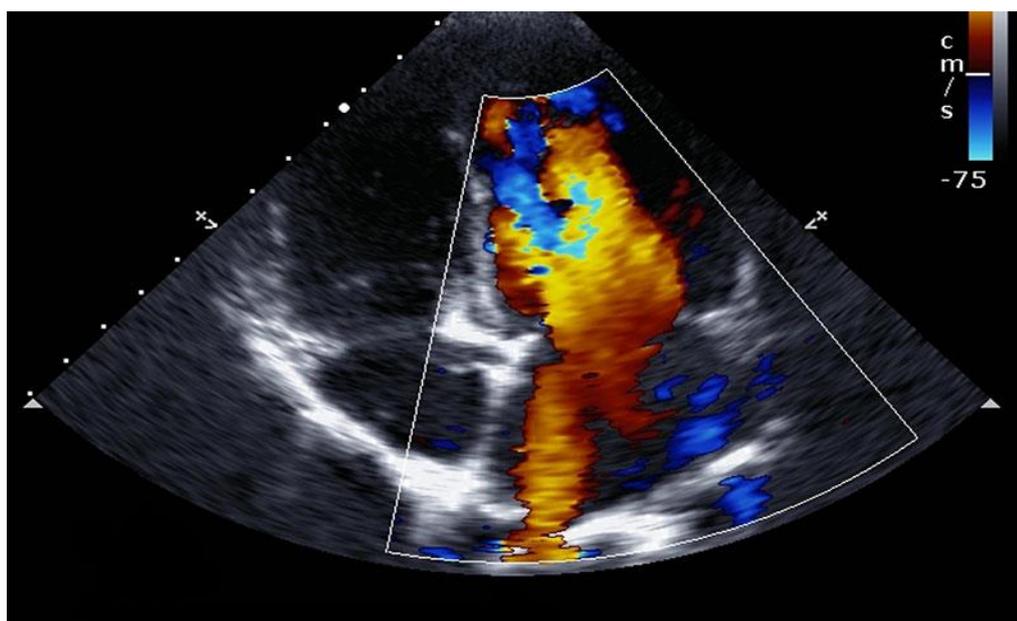
The scan provides your doctor with specific information about both the structure of your heart and the flow of blood to your heart which cannot be detected with an ordinary electrocardiogram (ECG).

How do I prepare for my echocardiogram?

No preparation is needed for this scan. You can eat and drink as normal on the day and take all of your regular medication

On the day of your appointment

Please arrive on time for your appointment and report to the cardiology reception desk.



An example of an echocardiogram study

Before your scan

A member of our team will call you and ask you to change into a gown. They will then 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

During the scan

When you enter the examination room we will ask you to undress to the waist and give you a gown to wear. We'll then ask you to lie on your left side. We will apply a small amount of gel to your chest and place a probe on your chest to allow the technician to see your heart.

Please note: Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust is a teaching hospital and there may be trainee medical staff present during the test (with your consent).

What if I cannot make my appointment?

If you cannot keep your appointment, please contact us to cancel or reschedule on the number on your appointment the 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 3313 0088** (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals). 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