

Cardiology

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:

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

This information cannot be detected with an ordinary electrocardiogram (ECG).

How do I prepare for my echocardiogram?

- you do not need to prepare for this scan
- you can eat and drink as normal on the day
- you can also take all your regular medication

On the day of your appointment

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

Before your scan

1. A member of our team will explain the test and any potential risks and side effects.
2. You will be able to ask any questions you have.
3. They will then ask for your verbal consent.

During the scan

1. When you enter the examination room, we will ask you to undress to the waist and give you a gown to wear.
2. We'll then ask you to lie on your left or right-hand side to be able to scan (please see photo below).
3. 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. This means 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. 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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