



Pacific Cardiovascular Associates Medical Group

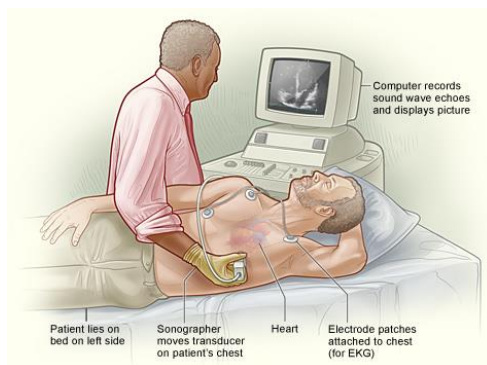
Echocardiography Test

What is an Echocardiogram Test?

An echocardiogram is a safe, non-invasive procedure used to examine your heart and potentially diagnose problems. It uses high-frequency sound waves (ultrasound) to literally see all four chambers of the heart, the heart valves, the great blood vessels entering and leaving the heart, as well as the sac around the heart. There are many reasons that your physician may request that you have an Echocardiography test. Physicians use Echocardiography to look for abnormalities in the large physical structures of the heart, including the heart chambers and valves. An echocardiogram may sometimes also be used to look for the cause of an abnormal heart sound (a murmur), to check the size of the heart chambers, to check for fluid around the heart, or to inspect the pumping capability (the muscles) of the heart.

Test Instruction:

1. In order to ensure effective communication, all non-English speakers are required to bring a translator to their procedure.
2. Wear comfortable clothing that can be removed from the waist up.
3. Please check in 15 - 20 minutes prior to your appointment time.
4. Please cancel your appointment AT LEAST 48 hours prior to your appointment. If you are unable to make your appointment due to a bona-fide emergency no cancellation fee will apply provided you provide written documentation or proof of the emergency. In all other instances a \$50.00 no show/cancellation fee will be charged, without exception, for un-kept appointments not canceled 48 hours before the scheduled appointment time.



Why is an Echocardiogram so important?

The information obtained through echocardiography examinations is extremely helpful to physicians in diagnosing a variety of conditions related to cardiovascular disease; disorders of the heart and blood vessels. Early detection of many heart disorders and disease is possible through the use of echocardiography procedures performed within PCA's Echocardiography facilities.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long will the test take?

The test will take about an hour.

What should I expect?

An echocardiography is a non-invasive test. Electrodes (small sticky patches) are placed on your chest and shoulders to record your heartbeat. In order to properly place the electrodes on your chest you are required to remove all clothing from the waist up and will be given a paper gown to wear. Then a technician will glide a small device, called a transducer, over your chest. This device sends sound waves and provides the necessary data your physician needs.

Is the echocardiography safe?

The echocardiography test is very safe. There are no known risks from the sound waves. You may feel a pressure when the transducer is held against your chest.

How do I prepare for my test?

There is no specific preparation for an echocardiogram test. Please wear comfortable clothing that can be removed from the waist up.