

An echocardiogram is an ultrasound or sound wave test of the heart. It is used to evaluate the size, thickness and pumping action of the heart. It can also help evaluate murmurs, valve problems or fluid around the heart.

The test is noninvasive, which means no needles, catheters or dyes are used. Ultrasound is used to create a picture of the heart, including the blood vessels, valves, atria and ventricles. Gel is placed on your skin over the area to be studied. A transducer is placed on your skin and sound waves are transmitted from it. The sound waves reflect off your tissues and organs to create a picture that can be seen on a screen. Blood flow through your blood vessels can be heard as the test is being completed.

### Patient Instructions:

1. No special preparation is needed for this test.
2. Wear 2-piece clothing.
3. Allow approximately 1 hour.
4. Your physician will be notified of the results.

If you need to reschedule your appointment, please call 904.202.3111. If you have any questions about your test or your test instructions, please call the physician's office that referred you for the test.