



Echocardiogram

Name: _____

ECHOCARDIOGRAM

The following information is a brief description about Echocardiogram. If you have any questions after reading this information, please speak with your nurse.

WHAT IS AN ECHOCARDIOGRAM?

- In an echocardiogram, a microphone-like device called a transducer is placed on the chest. The transducer gives off ultrasound waves. The machine translates the “echoes” of these waves to a picture which is recorded on videotape. This “ECHO” or recording of your heart structures can then be interpreted by a cardiologist.

WHY IS IT DONE?

- The echocardiogram is a test that is used to evaluate heart structures such as valves and chambers.

WHERE IS IT DONE?

- Non-Invasive Cardiology, 2nd Floor, Tisch Hospital.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

- The test takes one half hour but the transportation to and from the Echo Department can add an extra one half hour to the total time you are away from your room.

WHAT PREPARATION IS NEEDED?

- There is no special preparation needed for this test. You may eat and drink normally and receive your regular medications.



Echocardiogram

- No sedative is necessary and you will be awake for the test.
- You will be sent to the non-invasive Echo Laboratory either walking or in a wheelchair.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE PROCEDURE?

- You will be helped to an examination table and asked to lie down.
- Your pajama top or gown will be removed.
- The technician will place a transducer, against your chest. This may be cold but it is not painful.
- The transducer gives off an ultrasound wave. The echo that this wave makes when it comes in contact with your heart structures is recorded on videotape which is later evaluated by a cardiologist.
- You may be asked to change your position or to hold your breath during the test.
- There are no x-rays used and there are no side effects.

WHAT YOU MAY FEEL?

- The transducer may feel cold but it is not painful.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PROCEDURE?

- You can return to your room when the test is finished.
- A formal report of the results will be sent to the nursing unit so your physician can discuss the results with you. Normally the results are available the same day.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR QUESTIONS
