

Echocardiogram



Name: _____

Who to contact and how: _____

Notes: _____

Diana, Princess of Wales
Scarcho Road
Grimsby
DN33 2BA
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

Scunthorpe General Hospital
Cliff Gardens
Scunthorpe
DN15 7BH
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk

Goole & District Hospital
Woodland Avenue
Goole
DN14 6RX
03033 306999
www.nlg.nhs.uk



Information for patients

Introduction

This leaflet has been compiled to help you understand the test you are having and to give you some general information about what to expect.

Echocardiogram

An echocardiogram or 'echo' is a scan that uses ultrasound (sound waves) to produce pictures of the heart.

You will be taken into a darkened room. You will be asked to undress to the waist and put on a gown that should be left open to the front. You will be asked to lie on a couch on your left hand side. If you require a chaperone, you may bring a friend or relative.

Sticky pads will be attached to your chest and connected to the machine. These pads will be used to monitor your heart rate during the test.

An ultrasound probe covered by a small amount of gel is placed gently on the centre of your chest and will be moved to different positions – beneath the left breast, beneath the rib cage and to the base of your neck. This provides images of your heart from a number of different angles which are then recorded. During the echocardiogram you will hear sounds coming from the machine, which represent blood flow through the heart.

The echocardiogram will take approximately 30-40 minutes to complete.

Once the echocardiogram is complete you can get dressed and leave. There are no limitations to what you can do after the scan, for example, you may drive.

Your results will be explained at your next clinic appointment when you see the consultant or by your own G.P at your local surgery.

Benefits

A major benefit of an echocardiogram is that it gives information on the heart structures and blood flow without anything other than sound waves entering the body. The information from this allows the doctor to give an accurate diagnosis and further management. The test is painless and without side effects. It does not use radioactivity.

Alternatives

Please discuss alternative investigations with your doctor.

Information for patients

Reference Section

Information taken from the British Society of Echocardiography

www.bsecho.org

Should you require further information regarding heart investigations you may find the following websites useful.

The British Cardiac Society

www.bcs.com

The British Heart Foundation

www.bhf.org.uk

Contact Details for Further Information

Should you have any questions before the examination or during the time you are being monitored, please telephone the Cardiology Department:

At Diana Princess of Wales Hospital, Grimsby

Telephone number: 03033 303815

At Scunthorpe General Hospital

Telephone No: 03033 302815

Any Comments, Compliments, Concerns or Complaints

If you have any other concerns please talk to your nurse, therapist or doctor. Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) are available on 03033 306518 (Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Goole). You can also contact nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net.

As a Trust we value equality of access to our information and services, therefore alternative formats available on request at nlg-tr.interpreters@nhs.net

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