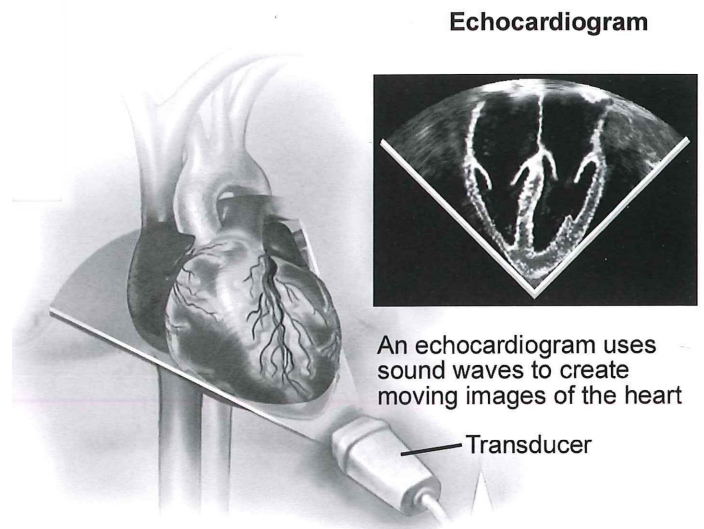


A Patient's Guide to HEART ULTRASOUND

Heart Ultrasound is a test that takes “moving pictures” of the heart with sound waves. It provides your doctor with pictures that will help to evaluate your heart's health. A heart ultrasound uses the same technology that allows doctors to see an unborn baby inside a pregnant mother. This examination does not involve radiation.



© medmovie.com

A HEART ULTRASOUND IS:

- Safe (no radiation, no side effects, no pre-medication)
- Appropriate for all ages (from infants to the elderly)
- Painless
- Fast (45-60 minutes)
- Non-invasive (no needles, no hospital stay needed)
- Comprehensive (provides your doctor with valuable information about the health of your circulatory system)

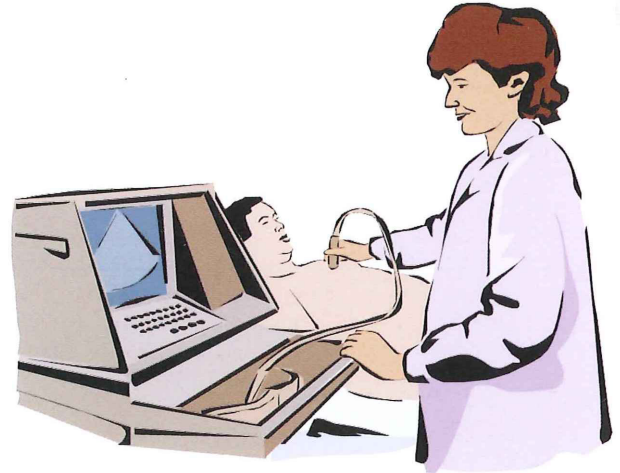
YOU MAY BENEFIT FROM THIS IF YOU'VE EXPERIENCED:

- Unexplained chest or upper arm pain
- A heart murmur
- A heart attack

Many other possible reasons, including a history of heart disease in your family, might lead your doctor to want to evaluate your heart health.

WHAT IS HEART ULTRASOUND?

A heart ultrasound is a useful tool to evaluate the structure and function of the heart and associated vessels. It is a fast, easy, and painless evaluation that uses ultrasound waves to produce images of the heart. In North America, the test is performed by a specially-trained technologist, called a sonographer, and is interpreted by a physician, usually a cardiologist, specially-trained in reading heart ultrasounds. Heart ultrasounds provide your doctor with moving pictures of your heart that allows for in-depth evaluation of your heart's health.



INSTEAD OF HEART ULTRASOUND, YOUR DOCTOR MAY CALL IT A:

- Transthoracic echocardiogram (TTE for short)
- Echocardiogram (Echo for short)

WHAT WILL THE HEART ULTRASOUND SHOW?

A specialized physician, usually a cardiologist, will study your information and report the findings to your doctor.

They may include:

- The size and shape of your heart
- How well your heart is performing
- How your heart valves are functioning



HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?

Go to www.SeeMyHeart.org to see live videos of the heart ultrasound procedure, to read about other ultrasound options of the heart and circulation evaluation, and to find a quality heart and circulation ultrasound lab (IAC Echo and/or IAC Vascular accredited) in your area.



See My Heart
American Society of Echocardiography

The American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) is a professional organization of physicians, cardiac sonographers, vascular technologists, nurses and scientists involved in the use of ultrasound to image the heart and cardiovascular system. The organization was founded in 1975 and has around 17,000 national and international members. For more information please visit us online at www.asecho.org.