

Transthoracic Echocardiogram



An echocardiogram (also called TTE or echo) is a procedure that uses high frequency sound waves or ultrasound to take pictures of the heart and is performed by a Cardiac Sonographer. The pictures obtain images of the heart to assess the muscle, valves, chamber size & function.

What do I expect of the test?

- This test is performed in the Diagnostic Cardiology Department, Clinic C- Level 1 of the Bendigo Hospital
- You will be asked to undress from the waist up and lie on a bed where the Cardiac sonographer will attach sticky electrodes to your body to monitor your heart rate. A gel will be spread on your chest and an ultrasound transducer held against your chest to take images of your heart. Sometimes the transducer must be held firmly against your chest, which will produce the best images of your heart. The sonographer will take a series of ultrasound pictures of your heart
- When the test is over, the gel will be wiped off and the ECG electrodes removed
- The test will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Why do I need an Transthoracic Echocardiogram?

- Measure the function and efficiency of your heart function. This will give your doctor information about your heart's pumping strength and whether all parts of the heart wall are contributing to the heart's pumping activity
- Measures the function and efficiency of your heart valves
- Assess for known or suspected cardiac disease including symptoms of chest pain, shortness of breath, murmur and other symptoms.

How do I prepare for the procedure?

- Please wear a two piece outfit such as a button through shirt and pants
- Please do not wear talc, body lotion or neck chains.

When does my Doctor get my result?

A report with the results of your test will be written and sent to your referring doctor 5-7 working days from your test date.

If you have any further questions or concerns about your upcoming Transthoracic Echocardiogram, please discuss with your GP or phone the Diagnostic Cardiology Department on 5454 8017.

References:

- MonashHeart.org.au
- Heartfoundation.org.au
- bendigohealth.org.au

Patient notes:

Diagnostic Cardiology (Clinic C- Bendigo Hospital) | 25/11/2020 (Review by 25/11/2023)



The information in this brochure is for educational purposes only and is not intended as a substitute for consultation with a doctor or health care professional.