

How long does the test take?

The test takes approximately 30 minutes to perform and the analysis and report can take up to 45 minutes to generate.

What happens after my Echo?

The pictures of your heart and the measurements are analysed and a report sent to your doctor usually within 24 to 48 hours. If the Echo is part of a heart screening test then you will be provided with the result usually within 14 days.



heartscan

ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY & SPORTS SCREENING

The Osborne Clinic, 22 Osborne Avenue
Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1JQ.

t: 0191 646 1066 f: 0191 247 5885 e: info@heartscan.co.uk

www.heartscan.co.uk

Heartscan is registered with the Care Quality Commission



**British Society
of Echocardiography
Accredited Department**



heartscan

**Private
Echocardiography**

www.heartscan.co.uk

An echocardiogram, commonly known as an Echo, uses ultrasound to examine the heart. It is a similar technique to the scans performed in pregnant women to examine the unborn baby and is completely safe and painless. It provides information on the structure of the heart and how the heart is working.

Measurements are obtained to assess the size of the heart chambers and the thickness of the heart muscle. Echo also measures the pumping action of the heart, the function of heart valves and determines whether there are any congenital abnormalities.



Is there any special preparation for an Echo?

No, you do not need to make any special preparations for an echocardiogram. Fasting is not required for an Echo so you may eat and drink as normal before and after the test. All medications can also be taken as usual.

Can someone accompany me?

You may, if you wish, bring a friend or relative who may be present during the scan. If you require a female operator or chaperone please advise HeartScan before your appointment.

How is an Echo performed?

- Three small sticky patches (electrodes) are applied to the chest to record the heart rate.
- A small device called a transducer is used to obtain images of the heart.
- Ultrasound gel is applied to the surface of the transducer so that it makes contact with the skin.
- The transducer is then placed on the chest and pictures of the heart are obtained from different angles.
- The transducer sends out harmless ultrasound waves which reflect off structures in the heart allowing a picture of the heart to be made on the screen.
- Audio information is also used to indicate blood flow through the heart so 'whooshing noises' can be heard.

The test takes approximately 30 minutes to perform.

What happens when I attend for my Echo?

- You will be escorted to a private room to have your Echo.
- Your height and weight will be measured so that measurements of your heart structures can be related to your body build.
- The physiologist will need to access your bare chest. If you are female you will be required to loosen or remove your bra and you will be provided with a gown to wear.
- You will be asked to lie on a couch.
- The lights will be dimmed when the scan is performed so that the pictures of your heart are seen clearly on a monitor which is a little like a television screen.
- You may be asked to slightly change your position, lie flat and hold your breath at times.
- At the end of the test the operator will remove the electrodes from your chest and wipe off any gel from your skin.

You are then free to dress and leave the scanning room. If you require help at any time such as getting on or off the couch the operator will be pleased to assist you.