



Goshen Health

Echocardiogram/Cardiac Ultrasound

Your doctor has scheduled you for an Echocardiogram/Cardiac Ultrasound. This exam of the heart takes special pattern images for interpretation by a Cardiologist. There are a few things you should know before your procedure.

PREPARATION: None. You may take all of your medications, eat and drink normally.

BEFORE THE TEST: For your safety, you will be asked a number of questions by the Cardiac Sonographer taking care of you. Among the things you will be asked are:

- What kind of symptoms are you having?
- Any previous cardiac surgeries?
- Medical history?

THE TEST: You will be asked to remove clothing from your waist up. You will then be asked to lie on your left side for this exam. The Cardiac Sonographer will apply gel to a hand-held camera/probe and then apply it to multiple areas on your chest. There will also be some additional views obtained from your abdomen and up by your neck, to evaluate the heart chambers, valves and other structures. This exam should not cause any discomfort, although you will need to lie in position for 20-30 minutes. If you have discomfort with this position the Cardiac Sonographer will help to make you more comfortable.

AFTER YOUR TEST: There are no restrictions from the Echocardiography Department after the test.

RESULTS: The cardiologist will study your images in great detail and he will generate a report which will be faxed to your ordering physician to review and discuss with you. The Cardiac Sonographer is unable to give any report at the time of testing.

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