

## ECHO TEST (ECHOCARDIOGRAM)

**PURPOSE:** An ultrasound used to examine the heart

**LENGTH:** Approx. 20 minutes

**PREP:** NONE

### **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

This test is pain-free

Sticky patches (electrodes) are attached to the chest and shoulders and then connected to wires. A clear gel is then applied to the chest before the echo transducer is used. The echo technologist then studies different parts of the chest to obtain several views of the heart. Patients may be asked to move from their back or to their side. Instructions may also be given for the patient to breathe slowly or to hold their breath. This helps obtain higher quality pictures. The images are viewed on the monitor by the technologist. The results are recorded on paper and reviewed by the physician prior to completion of the final report.