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## **Echocardiogram Patient Information**

An echocardiogram involves taking ultrasound pictures of your heart using technology similar to that used to scan pregnant women. The test is safe and painless.

An echocardiogram involves placing a small probe, lubricated with some jelly on your chest wall. High frequency (inaudible) sound is transmitted from the probe. The probe then picks up echoes reflected from the various parts of the heart and displays them as a picture - an echocardiogram. By placing the probe in various positions on the chest multiple views of the heart can be obtained and the heart muscle function and the heart valves can be assessed.

The test usually takes 10 – 20 minutes to perform. You will need to undress above the waist during the procedure.