



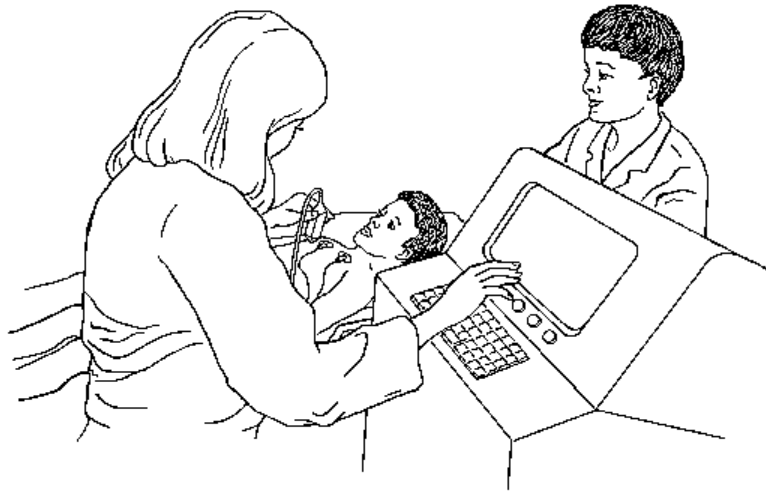
Name of Child: _____ Date: _____

Echocardiogram or Cardiac Ultrasound

What is it?

An echocardiogram is also called a cardiac ultrasound or sonogram.

It uses sound waves to make a moving picture of the heart. It is often done at the same time as a Doppler test, which uses sound waves to measure blood flow. When these two tests are done, the doctor learns more about your child's heart and how it works.



**Tell your child the test doesn't hurt and it may be fun.
The person who brings your child to the test
may stay in the exam room and watch.**

How to get your child ready for the test

Tell your child the test doesn't hurt, and may be fun. The person who brings your child to the test may stay in the exam room and watch.

Your child may eat, as usual, before the test. If your child is an infant, bring a bottle.

It is easiest if your child wears a shirt or blouse that opens in the front.

Your child will need to stay still for this test. Older children and teenagers may enjoy watching the test being done. Most children take this test easily, and don't need medicine to relax. Small children may be afraid of the room, the machine, and the new people. If your child is frightened, you may want him or her to get some medicine to relax. Ask your nurse or doctor if your child will be getting this medicine.

yes no Read the handout Home Care After Sedation, #43

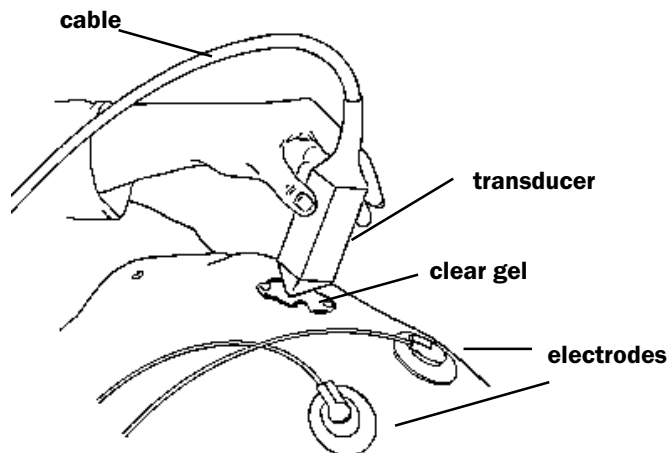
How is it done?

Your child's heart doctor (cardiologist) or a technician that specializes in doing ultrasound tests (cardiac sonographer) will do this test.

The ultrasound test is done with your child lying down on a bed or table. This test takes about an hour.

During the ultrasound test, your child's heartbeats will be recorded. This is done by EKG (electrocardiogram). To do this, the person doing the test will put a few stick-on patches (electrodes) on your child's skin. Cords from these patches go to a machine. That machine records the heartbeat.

yes no Read the handout EKG, ECG, or Electrocardiogram, #511



The person doing the test slides the part that sends and receives sound waves (transducer) across your child's chest.

The ultrasound machine is a computer that takes sound waves and makes them into pictures. The person doing the test slides the part that sends and receives sound waves (transducer) across your child's chest. A cable attaches the transducer to the ultrasound machine. The machine may make loud sounds during the test.

The person doing the test puts a small amount of cool clear gel between the transducer and your child's chest. This gel does not stain. It wipes off easily when the test is over.

The person doing the test may show your child and you some pictures on a TV screen. The picture changes as the transducer is moved. You may see the beating heart, and you may be able to see and hear the flow of blood.

Parts of the test may be recorded on paper, film, or videotape.

Does it hurt?

No, this test does not hurt. Sometimes the skin feels a little warm. Some transducers have small motors in them that may shake on the skin a bit. It is very hard to feel the sound waves. Sometimes, a child may feel uncomfortable when his or her skin is pressed.

When will we know the results of this test?

The doctor will look at the results, and tell you what it says about your child's heart.

Now that you've read this

- Tell your child's nurse or doctor how you will get your child ready for this test. (Check when done.)



If you have any questions or concerns,

- call your child's doctor or call _____

**If you want to know more about child health and illness,
visit our library at The Emily Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital:
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-546-1400
www.phoenixchildrenshospital.com**

Disclaimer

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.

Monday, August 26, 2002 • DRAFT in family review
#513 • Written by Sharon Pfeiffer, RN • Illustrated by Dennis Swain



Name of Health Care Provider: _____ Number: 513

For office use: Date returned: _____ db nb xls

Family Review of Handout

Health care providers: Please teach families with this handout.

Families: Please let us know what you think of this handout.

Would you say this handout is hard to read? Yes No

easy to read? Yes No

Please circle the parts of the handout that were hard to understand.

Would you say this handout is interesting to read? Yes No

Why or why not?

Would you do anything differently after reading
this handout? Yes No

If yes, what?

After reading this handout, do you have any
questions about the subject? Yes No

If yes, what?

Is there anything you don't like about the drawings?

Yes No

If yes, what?

What changes would you make in this handout to make it better or easier to understand?

Please return your review of this handout to your nurse or doctor or send it to the address below.

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Phoenix, AZ 85016**

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flondon@phoenixchildrens.com

Thank you for helping us!