# What is **Electrocardiogram?**



An electrocardiogram (sometimes called an EKG or ECG) is a test that measures the electrical signals that make your heart beat.



It helps doctors see if there are any abnormalities with your heart's electrical function.

### What Should I Know About This Test?



People usually get this test at a doctor's office or a hospital, but it can be done in many places.



It will take about 10 minutes to complete this test.

#### Is This Test Safe? Will It Hurt?



This test is common and safe. It is not painful.



The test uses sticky pads that are placed on your skin. Rarely, the sticky substance on the pads can irritate your skin and cause a slight rash. This rash does not last long and is not dangerous.

## What Should I Expect When Getting Tested?



You may be asked to put on a hospital gown or to remove or lift your shirt.



You will lie down on a padded table. You will have sticky pads placed on your chest, arms, and legs. These pads are called electrodes. They have wires that connect to a machine.



While you are lying down, the machine will record the electrical activity in your heart.



In order to get a good test, you cannot talk or move for 10 seconds.

# What Results Might Suggest I May Have Cardiac Amyloidosis?

Some results that may be signs of cardiac amyloidosis include:



atrial fibrillation (known as Afib) or other irregular heart rhythms.



spikes on the EKG that are smaller than normal. This is called "low voltage."



heartblock, or blocks in the heart's electrical system that tells your heart to beat.

#### What Comes Next?



Your doctor will review your test results and talk to you about them. Results will be different for each person.



Cardiac amyloidosis cannot be diagnosed based on an electrocardiogram alone.

Depending on your results, your doctor might ask you to do more testing.