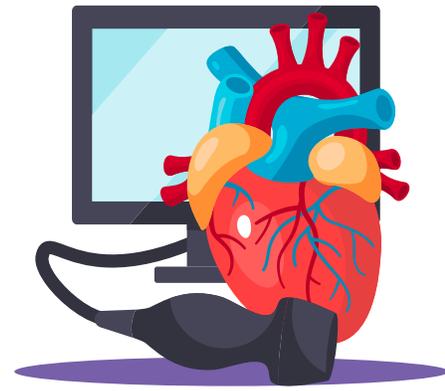


What is Echocardiogram?



Echocardiogram is a test that uses sound waves (ultrasound waves) to take pictures of your heart and the surrounding structures.



It helps doctors see how your heart muscle and heart valves are working. It can alert doctors to some heart abnormalities.

What Should I Know About This Test?



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



People usually get this test at a doctor's office or a hospital.

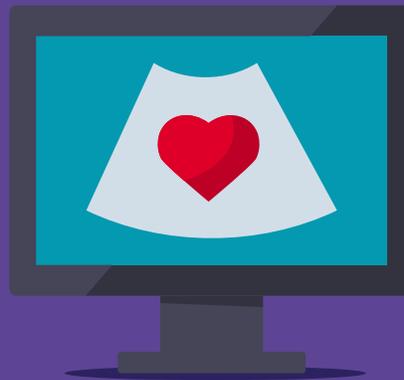
What Should I Expect When Getting Tested?



A technician will put a water-based gel on your chest. This will help the soundwaves pass through your body and will improve the quality of the pictures.



A small, handheld machine (called a transducer) will be run over your chest. A technician will move it around to see all the different parts of your heart. You will hear the sound waves as the technician performs the test. These soundwaves are made into pictures that your doctor can view



What Results Might Suggest I Have Cardiac Amyloidosis?



Usually, cardiac amyloidosis causes the heart walls to be thicker than normal and to not relax well between heartbeats.



When the heart muscle doesn't relax normally, it makes it harder for the heart to fill with enough blood for the next beat. This can make the heart not work as well as it should.



Your doctor will look at pictures from the echocardiogram to see how well different parts of your heart squeeze. There are specific patterns of thickness and squeezing that can suggest cardiac amyloidosis.

What Comes Next?

Your doctor will review your test results and talk to you about them.

Results will be different for each person. Here are some common examples of what your results might show:



The test results indicate you may have cardiac amyloidosis. If this happens, your doctor will want to run additional tests to find out what type of cardiac amyloidosis you have.



The test results indicate you may not have cardiac amyloidosis. If this happens, your doctor will talk to you about what the other medical condition is and what needs to be done to treat it. You may or may not need more tests.



It is unclear if you have a condition or not. This could mean your heart is healthy or it could mean that the test was unable to identify the problem. If this happens, you may need further testing.