

Echocardiograms

The purpose of an echo is to evaluate the structure, anatomy, and function of the heart. Echocardiograms allow us to actually visualize the heart and all the chambers and valves inside of it. This procedure is painless and not invasive. There are no drugs administered and usually takes 30-45 minutes. You are required to undress from the waist up but metal, jewelry, or cell phones will not affect the test. We use warm water based gel on top of a probe placed on the chest to transmit the sound waves into the body which in turn produces the picture of the heart. There is no preparation for this exam.

Bubble Studies

Bubble studies are sometimes ordered by your doctor along with an echocardiogram. The purpose of this simple test is to rule out any hole inside the heart. An IV will be started in the arm. We then use agitated saline solution, which is sterile salt water, and inject it through the IV. This causes no side effects and is painless. You may experience a slight metallic taste in your mouth for a few seconds but it goes away quickly. There is no preparation for this exam.