

# Echocardiography is an ultrasound examination of the heart



**Premier Imaging is accredited in Ultrasound at all clinics**

The echocardiography is a non-invasive look at your heart and will provide your doctor with valuable information about the blood in your heart. This test requires no preparation and takes about 45 minutes.

Ultrasound, or sonography, uses high-frequency sound waves to produce pictures of the inside of the body. Ultrasound images can show the structure and movement of the body's internal organs, as well as blood flowing through blood vessels.

## **Exam Preparation Page**

- If you are on any medications that are necessary to take on a daily basis, please DO NOT withhold these medications without checking with our staff. If you are DIABETIC AND TAKE GLUGOPHAGE, METFORMIN, GLUCOVANCE, METAGLIP, ADVANDAMENT please alert our office at the time of scheduling your examination. You will be given specific information after your examination is completed.
- If you have any allergies to Iodine, other medications, or have asthma, please contact our office prior to your examination.
- If there is a possibility that you might be pregnant, please let our office know at the time of scheduling.
- If you have any questions regarding your examination, please be sure to contact our office and we will be glad to help you.

If for any reason you cannot make your scheduled appointment, please call to reschedule your appointment. If you need further directions, please contact our office at 816 941-1400.

## **Registration Process and Forms**

On the day of your exam, please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment, in order to allow for registration and processing of paperwork. You must check in, and register with the clerical staff. Your insurance card is required for registration, and depending on your insurance carrier you may have a co-pay. If you have had X-rays or scans (or any exams on compact discs) to diagnose this same or similar problem at another facility, please make sure you bring them with you. These films or scans will be kept for reporting and then mailed back to the facility of origin.

## **Patient Preparation**

After registration, when it is time for your examination, a technologist will escort you to the examination room. If you have a condition that requires you to take medication on a regular basis, you should keep to your regular medication schedule. Depending on your examination you will be given preparation instructions prior to the day of your exam. Some ultrasound exams require fasting and others require that you have a full bladder. Vascular exams require no prep.

## **Exam Procedure**

The technologist will go over the examination with you, explain the procedure and answer any questions that you might have. During the examination you will have a "gel" applied to your skin. Then the technologist will run a transducer over the area of the body to be examined. If you are having a vascular exam (blood vessels in the body) you will hear your heartbeat at certain times during the exam. You will be asked to hold your breath several times during the exam for short periods of time. We will take several pictures of each area of the body that will be examined.

There are no side effects from any ultrasound examination. There is no possibility of allergic reaction from the "gel." The "gel" is water soluble and will not stain clothing.

## **After the Exam**

After the exam, the cardiologist and technologist will review the images to ensure diagnostic quality. If the quality is acceptable, you can go home. If more images are needed, they will be taken right away.

## **Your Ultrasound Report**

Your scan will be reviewed by a cardiologist. The ultrasound report will be sent to your physician, and your physician will be the one to discuss the results with you. It usually takes 2-3 days before your physician has the full, signed written report.