

DANBURY HOSPITAL

Patient Education Sheet

What is a Transthoracic Echocardiogram?

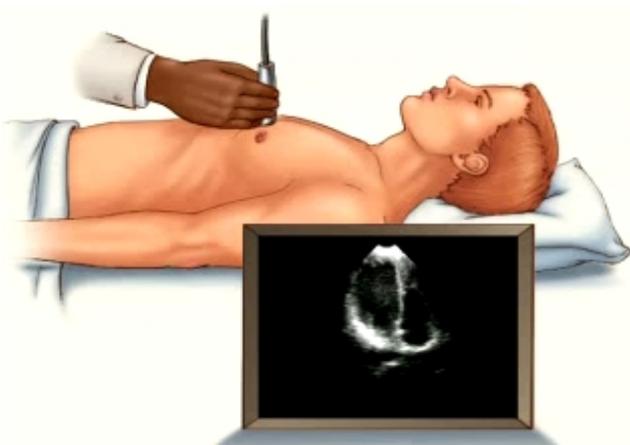
What is Transthoracic Echocardiogram?

An echocardiogram, also called an “echo” or TTE, is a test that uses ultrasound waves to examine your heart. This is a safe and relatively painless procedure that helps your physician diagnose a variety of heart problems. This test is performed to evaluate the valves and chambers of the heart in a noninvasive manner. The echocardiogram allows doctors to evaluate heart murmurs, check the pumping function of the heart, and evaluate patients who have had heart attacks. It is also a very good screening test for heart disease in certain groups of patients.

At all of our Echocardiography Labs, the echocardiographic information is obtained by trained Cardiac Sonographers, and the results are interpreted by trained Cardiologists.

How long will this test take?

The length of the exam varies, and can take approximately 20-45 minutes, depending on the number of images that are obtained.



Prior to the test- What can I expect?

No special preparations are necessary before you come to the lab for the test. Please make sure you wear a two-piece outfit, as you will need to change into a gown after you remove your clothing above the waist.

Day of the test- What can I expect?

- Sticky patches or electrodes are placed on your chest and connected to wires, which attaches you to the echo machine. The wires help to record the electrocardiogram (EKG) during the echocardiogram. You will be lying on your left side for the first half of the test, and on your back for the remaining time.
- A colorless gel is applied to your chest to help conduct the sound waves, and the lights in the room are dimmed.
- The cardiac sonographer guides a small microphone-like device, called a transducer over your chest to obtain different views of your heart.
- Instructions may also be given for you to breathe slowly or to hold your breath. This helps in obtaining higher quality pictures. The images are constantly viewed on the monitor and are stored digitally for the cardiologist to read.

There are no restrictions following the examination.

How will I get the results of the test?

Results are not available to you at the time of the test. The test will be interpreted by a cardiologist, who will then send the results to the physician who ordered the test for you. These results are normally available within one (1) working day.

****There are five locations, make sure you know which location your appointment is for.***

Directions to your appointment

Danbury Hospital Medical Arts Center-

Located at 111 Osborne Street, park in any available parking or in the Gold parking garage. Enter the main lobby on the first floor for registration, and then proceed to the third floor.

If you have further questions please call **(203) 739-4999**.

Ridgefield Cardiology- Located at 21 South Street, Ridgefield, CT., upon arrival please register at the reception desk.

If you have further questions please call **(203) 438-1323**.

Southbury Cardiovascular Center-

Located at 22 Old Waterbury Road, Southbury, CT. upon arrival please register with Cardiology Reception, in Suite 107.

If you have any further questions please call **(203) 262-4234**.

Danbury Hospital-

Located at 24 Hospital Ave., Danbury, CT. Follow directions to the BLUE parking lot and park in the Purple section. Enter the main lobby on the fifth floor; at the information desk ask for directions to Cardiology Stress Testing/ Echo Lab.

If you have further questions please call **(203) 739-4999**.

Brookfield Cardiology-

Located at 2 Old New Milford Road, Brookfield CT. Enter the main lobby on the first floor and take the elevator to the 2nd Floor. Upon arrival, please register at the reception desk, in Suite 2D.

If you have further questions please call **(203) 775-6292**.

Additional information can also be found at our website;

www.westernconnecticuthealthnetwork.org

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