

Transthoracic (standard) echocardiogram

An echocardiogram (echo) uses soundwaves to look at the structure, function and size of your heart. You might need this test to see if you have heart-related disease or heart failure.

A transthoracic echocardiogram is a standard echocardiogram where the heart is scanned using a small wand that is moved across the surface of your chest.

How do I get ready?

No special preparation is required.

You will need to undress to the waist in a private space and a hospital gown will be provided.



What happens?

The technician places a wand on different areas of your chest. The wand sends out sound waves that produce an echo image of the heart walls and valves on the computer screen.

The test will take about 45 minutes.

What are the risks of a transthoracic echo?

There are no significant risks involved in a standard transthoracic echocardiogram.

You may feel some discomfort similar to pulling off an adhesive bandage when the technician removes the electrodes placed on your chest during the procedure.