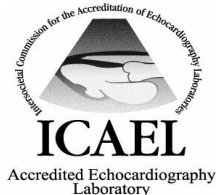
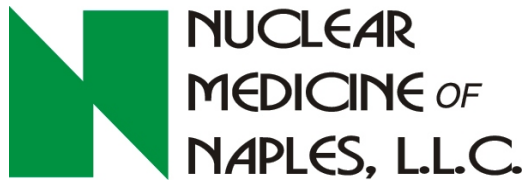
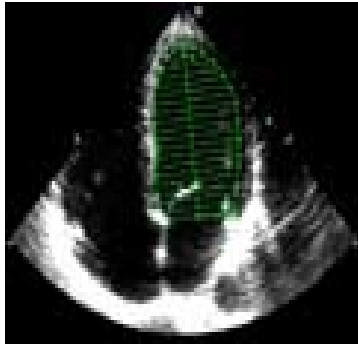


What is An Echocardiogram (Echo)?

- ◆ How Should I Prepare For It?
- ◆ What Can I Expect During the Test?
- ◆ Answers to common questions.



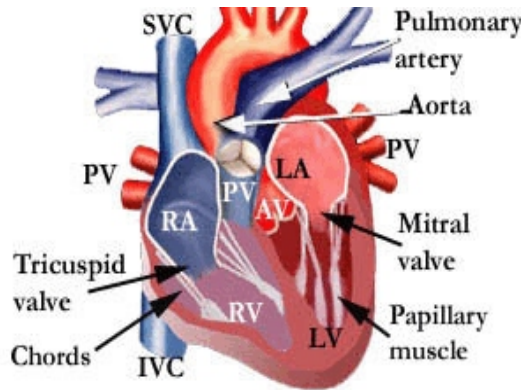
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What is an Echo?

An Echocardiogram (echo) is an imaging test that uses ultrasound waves to demonstrate how the heart muscle pumps and how the valves within the heart open and close.

It is also useful in determining the size and thickness of the four heart chambers as well as pressures within the heart chambers.

An instrument called a transducer (a device that resembles a microphone) is used to transmit sound waves through



your body as well as detecting the echos after bouncing off structures within your heart. A computer will then convert the detected sound waves into images that are visible on a "TV" screen. These images will be analyzed by a cardiologist and a typed written report will be generated. The Echocardiogram is very safe and painless.

Before Your Echo

You do not have to stop any

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medications, nor are there any eating or drinking restrictions before your test. Ladies, please wear a two piece outfit because you will be required to undress from the waist up. Gentlemen will just remove their shirts.

Please check in with reception when you enter the facility. Please have your insurance cards available as well as the requisition form from your doctor. The test itself lasts less than 45 minutes. During the test Our Registered Cardiac Sonographer will perform the test as follows:

- ◆ You will lie down on your Left side on an exam table.
- ◆ Small pads (electrodes) are placed on your chest to monitor your heartbeat.
- ◆ A transducer coated with gel is moved firmly over your chest. This device creates the sound waves that make the images of your heart.
- ◆ At times, you may be asked to exhale and hold your breath for a few seconds. Air in your lungs can affect the images.
- ◆ The images of your heart are recorded on a video tape and then given to your doctor or a Cardiologist to interpret. **Your Results**

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Your doctor will discuss the results with you. These results will help your doctor plan a course of treatment.



This brochure provided by
Nuclear Medicine of Naples
www.nucmedofnaples.com

YOUR APPOINTMENT INFORMATION

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

Directions:

599 - 9th Street St. N., Suite 211
SW Corner of 6th Ave. N & Hwy. 41
(west side of Hwy. 41{ Tamiami Trail })
in TIB Bank Building - (3 story orange Building)



Phone: 239-263-8001