

Transthoracic Echocardiography



Cardiology services are provided in the Specialist Outpatient Clinic, Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit and as an inpatient service. A full spectrum of care is provided to cardiac patients as well as healthy individuals who wish to reduce their future risk of cardiovascular disease. Our patients may be referred from the polyclinics or from private practitioners.

What is transthoracic echocardiography?

Echocardiography (or echo for short) is a diagnostic procedure which uses ultrasound waves to look at the heart. Ultrasound waves are high-frequency sound waves which we cannot feel or hear. It is the same sound waves that doctors use to look at unborn babies and it is very safe. During the scan, ultrasound waves are sent from a probe (transducer) that is placed on the chest. These high frequency sound waves are processed by a computer to form moving images of the heart.

What is the purpose of the test?

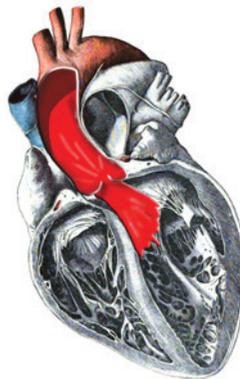
An echocardiogram (echo) is a safe method of acquiring information on the heart. It enables the heart chambers, major vessels and the blood that flows through them to be analysed in real time. It cannot, however detect blockages in the heart's arteries, but it can show if the heart's valves and muscles are functioning properly. Importantly, it can see how well the heart is functioning as a pump and help in the diagnosis of congenital heart conditions, such as a hole-in-the-heart or leaking heart valves.

Normal valve operation



Valve closes after left ventricle pumps blood into aorta

Leakage of valve



Valve does not close completely, leaking blood into heart

Before the test

No specific preparation is required for an echocardiogram unless you have been informed otherwise. You do not have to fast and can continue taking your medication.

You are advised to come at least **15 minutes** before your appointment. Please call us in advance to reschedule if you are unable to come.



During the test

Your height, weight and blood pressure will be taken and you will be asked to change into a gown.

Throughout the test, you will be lying down mostly on your left side and a water-soluble gel will be applied to your chest to facilitate better pictures of your heart. Three ECG leads will be placed on your chest to track your heart rhythm. The light in the room will be dimmed so that a cardiac technologist can see the pictures of your heart on the screen.



Is the test safe?

Ultrasound waves are extremely safe and no clinically-important adverse effects have been reported, even with repeated examinations. Sometimes, a slight pressure from the transducer on a specific area on the body may cause some discomfort during the test. When this happens, inform the sonographer.

When will I know the results?

A cardiologist will review and analyse the data from your test. You will be informed of the results at your next appointment. In some cases, test results may be available earlier. This happens when an abnormality has been detected and urgent attention is required.

For more information

Ng Teng Fong General Hospital and Jurong Community Hospital

1 Jurong East St 21, Singapore 609606

General enquiries: 6716 2000 Fax: 6716 5500

www.juronghealth.com.sg

Clinical and appointment line hours (closed on Sundays and public holidays)

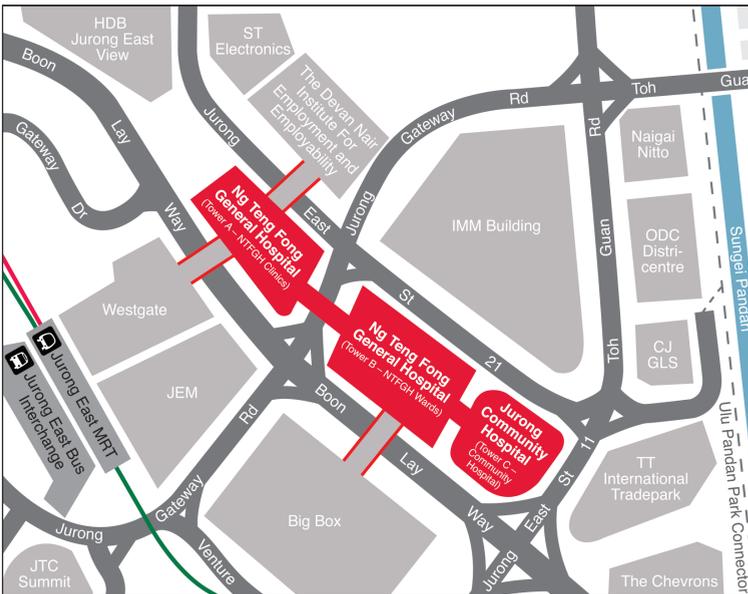
For appointments, please call 6716 2222

Monday - Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm, Saturday 8.00am - 12.30pm

For dental appointments, please call 6716 2233

Monday - Thursday 8.00am - 5.30pm, Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm

Getting there



By train

Jurong East MRT Station

By bus

From Jurong East Bus Interchange

SBS 51, 52, 66, 78, 79, 97, 97e, 98, 98M, 105, 143, 143M,

160, 183, 197, 333, 334, 335, 506

Along Boon Lay Way

SBS 99, Private bus service 625

Disclaimer:

The information in this brochure is meant for educational purposes and should not be used as a substitute for medical diagnosis or treatment. Please seek your doctor's advice before starting any treatment or if you have any questions related to your health, physical fitness or medical condition.