

# ECHOCARDIOGRAM

## **Purpose:**

To evaluate anatomy and function of the heart, measure chamber size and muscular thickness. It will also evaluate the motion of the heart walls (muscles) and the opening and closing of the valves. If indicated, Color Doppler will be used to evaluate the movement of blood through the heart.

## **How long will the procedure take?**

Allow 30 to 60 minutes for this exam.

## **Preparation:**

None.

## **Procedure:**

You will wear a hospital gown opening in the front. Leads will be placed on your chest as with a regular cardiogram. The echocardiographer will place a transducer on various areas of your chest to produce images of your heart from several different angles.

## **After the examination:**

The radiologist will study your films and dictate a report which will be sent to your physician within 24 hours.