

Echocardiogram (Echo)

Preparing for your Echo Clinic Appointment

What is an echo?	An echo (echocardiogram) is an ultrasound of your heart. You will be having a transthoracic echo (TTE), with gel applied onto your chest wall and a probe put on the chest to look at the heart. It looks at the structure and the function of the heart when it is pumping.
How do I prepare for it?	You can eat and drink as normal before the test. Come at the appointment time. The whole process will take 45 min.
What happens during an echo?	You will be asked to undress your top and to put on a patient gown. You will be asked to lie on your side, and gel will be applied to the chest. The lights in the room may be dimmed so that it is easier to see the images on the ultrasound machine. You may be asked to hold your breath at times for ultrasound pictures to be taken. There will be a female chaperone in the room for all female patients. It is a pain free procedure.
Where do the results go?	The results will go to your GP, as well as in the electronic medical record for your anaesthetist.
What is the cost?	The cost is covered by Medicare.



**For more questions or to change your appointment, call (02)
8759 3223**

Reference: St Vincent's Hospital Heart Health.