

ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY (ECG, EKG)

OVERVIEW

An Electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG) captures the electrical activity of the heart. It can detect and monitor several heart conditions, including arrhythmias, coronary heart disease and electrolyte imbalance.

PREPARING FOR YOUR TEST

Avoid wearing any body lotion or oils before the test. These can keep the stickers from adhering to your skin. Otherwise, there are no limitations to taking medications, eating or drinking before or after the test. You will be able to drive yourself home.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR ELECTROCARDIOGRAM

Twelve small, circular stickers will be placed on your chest and limbs. These stickers contain electrodes, which monitor your heartbeat and transfer your heart's activity to a nearby machine. During the test, you will be asked to lay very still. The test is quick and painless; it only takes about 5-10 minutes.

AFTER YOUR TEST

Your doctor will review your test results with you immediately after the EKG is complete or at another appointment. Together, you will discuss any necessary treatment or next steps.