



Patient Information

Contrast Echocardiogram



What is a contrast echocardiogram?

An echocardiogram is a type of ultrasound scan that gives information about the pump function and the structure of the heart. It does not use radioactivity. During a Contrast Echo, a Contrast agent is injected which improves the quality of the images that are being recorded.

Why is it being done?

If your Doctor has decided that you need an Echocardiogram, but the picture quality is not very good, a contrast agent can be used to help improve the images. A Contrast Echo is also used to help diagnose if you have any holes in the heart.

What does it involve?

You will be taken into a darkened room. Two people will usually be present. The person performing the test will either be a Cardiologist or a Cardiac Physiologist, who may be male or female. This means that some questions you may have about the result may have to wait until you see your doctor in clinic.

You will be asked to undress to the waist and put on a gown that should be left open to the front. You will be asked to lie on a couch on your left-hand side.

Stickers will be attached to your chest and connected to the machine. These will be used to monitor your heart rate during the test. A drip will be placed in your arm.

The Sonographer will record a number of pictures of the heart. Whilst this is happening, a contrast agent will be injected into the drip to improve the quality of the images. If the Doctor is looking for the presence of a hole in the heart, you may be asked to cough and sniff whilst the images are being recorded.

The echocardiogram will take approximately 30-40 minutes to complete.

Any special precautions?

No. You can take all your medication as normal. You can eat and drink as normal.

After the Echocardiogram

Once the echocardiogram is complete you can get dressed and leave. There are no limitations to what you can do after the scan, for example, you may drive.

Are there any risks involved?

Visit www.mkuh.nhs.uk for accessibility and translation services.

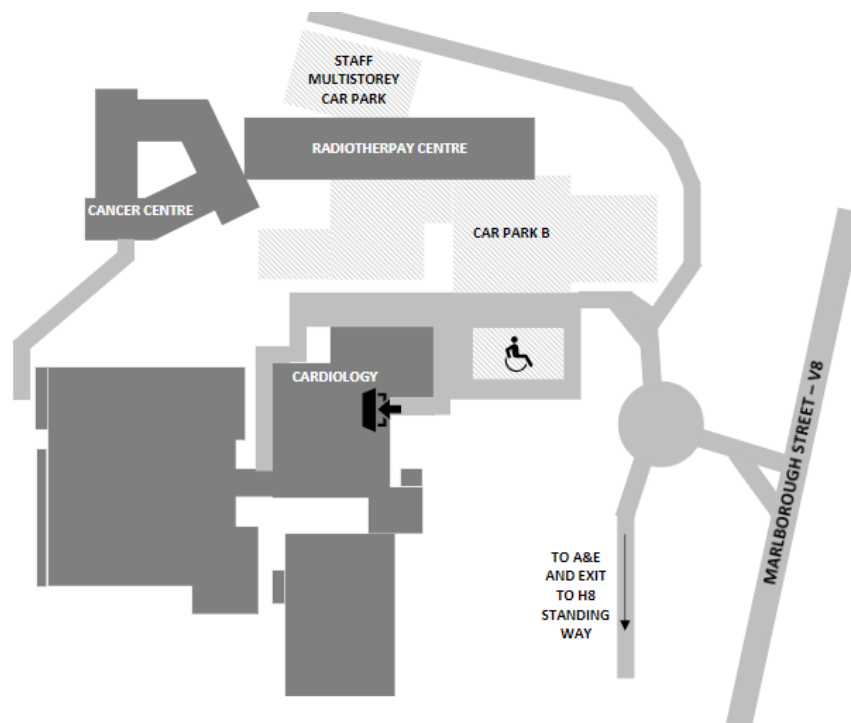


There is an extremely small risk (less than 1 in 10,000) of developing an allergic reaction to the contrast agent used. If you have had allergic reactions to any medicines before please inform us before starting the test.

Directions:

The nearest car park to Cardiology is Car Park B where payment is **CARD ONLY upon exit.**

Please enter via the Cardiology Reception entrance



If you have any questions about your Contrast Echocardiogram, please phone:

Cardiac Catheter Lab

01908 996539

(Monday - Friday 8.00am – 18:00pm)



We encourage patients to be involved in their care by:

1. Being part of the conversation and shared decision making
2. Asking questions if something is not clear
3. Speaking up if you have concerns

Checks are there to protect you and you can be part of them. Behave with respect and kindness towards healthcare professionals.

We ask for information about you so that you can receive proper care and treatment. This information remains confidential and is stored securely by the Trust in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018/GDPR. Further guidance can be found within our privacy notice found on our Trust website: www.mkuh.nhs.uk

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