

Electrocardiogram (ECG/EKG)

An electrocardiogram – also called an ECG or EKG – is a simple test that provides valuable information about your heart's health.

Each beat of your heart is initiated by an electrical impulse generated from cells in the right upper chamber of your heart. An electrocardiogram records these electrical signals as they travel through your heart. Your doctor can look for patterns between these heartbeats and rhythms to diagnose various heart conditions.

An electrocardiogram is a painless way to diagnose common types of heart disease. Your doctor may use an ECG to detect irregular heart rhythms, structural abnormalities in your heart, or problems with the supply of blood and oxygen to your heart. An ECG can also confirm if you are having a heart attack or if you have had a heart attack in the past.

What to Expect During the ECG

A standard ECG only takes a few minutes. You will lie on an examination bed. 10 electrodes will be attached to your chest and/or arms and legs.

You can breathe normally during the electrocardiogram. Make sure you are ready to lie still. Moving, talking or shivering may distort the test results.