

About Your Electrocardiogram (EKG)



IH-III-30
R.D.11/03
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Cardiovascular Services

What is an Electrocardiogram?

An electrocardiogram, often called an **EKG** or ECG, is a simple, safe and painless test used to check the heart's electrical function. No electricity will flow into your body during this test.



Who does the EKG?

A specially trained technician will perform the test. If you are a patient in the hospital, the technician will come to your room. If you are an outpatient, the test will be done in the clinic or the EKG department.

What will happen to me during the EKG?

You will be asked to take off your clothes from the waist up, wear a hospital gown and lie down on your back. Your technician will put small, cold pads (like round stickers) called electrodes at special places on your arms, legs, and chest.

You will not need to remove your jewelry unless it is where an electrode needs to be put. The technician will ask you to relax and lie very still for about ten seconds. If you are not still and relaxed the technician may need to repeat the test to get the best possible results.

How long does the EKG last?

The EKG will take about 10 minutes.

(over)

What happens after the test?

You can go back to your normal activities. If you are a patient in the hospital, you can continue any activities that your doctor has said are OK.

When do I get the results?

- A Cardiologist (heart doctor) will check your test and send the results to your doctor.
- If you are a clinic patient, your doctor will tell you the results at your next visit.