**WHAT IS IT?** This is an ultrasound of the heart. It uses sound waves to take pictures of the heart, blood vessels, valves, and chambers. It is useful for detecting the heart’s pumping strength, narrowing of the vessels (stenosis), infection on the valves, blood leaking backwards through the valves (regurgitation), or holes between the chambers. It is frequently performed for symptoms of palpitations, syncope, chest pain, mitral valve prolapse, abnormal EKG, murmur or congestive heart failure.

ECHOCARDIOGRAM

**HOW DOES THIS TEST WORK?** When you arrive for your test the technologist will explain the procedure in detail, and answer any questions you may have. You will lie on the examination bed, and the ultrasound will be performed. Warm gel will be applied to the area being tested, then the ultrasound transducer (small microphone-like device) will be placed over the area being tested. The test will take approximately 30-45 minutes. In some cases a medication may be given through an IV to enhance the echo images (Echo with contrast), or with agitated saline (bubble study).



**PREPARING FOR YOUR TEST:**

* No fasting is required for this test.
* If you take medications, please do so as usual.
* Bring a list of current medications with you.

**WHERE DO I GO FOR MY TEST?** 1900 23rd St., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223. Come to Entrance 5 in the back of the hospital 15 minutes prior to your scheduled appointment time. Proceed to the **CARDIOVASCULAR** department for registration and testing. There is also a sign beside the door that reads Diagnostic Center. Please bring your order, photo ID, all insurance cards, and a list of medications you are currently taking.

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?** The study will be read by a cardiologist, and results will be sent to the ordering physician and PCP (if different than the ordering Dr.) within 48 hours; however, it may take additional time to be reviewed and scanned into your record once received by your doctor’s office, so we recommend allowing 4-5 days prior to contacting your doctor for results. If you would like a copy of your test results you can complete a ‘Release of Information’ request when you register for your test, and results will be mailed upon completion of the report.

Thank you for choosing Western Reserve Hospital for your healthcare. We look forward to serving you! Please contact the Cardiovascular Lab with any questions at (330) 971-7426. If you need to cancel your test, please contact Central Scheduling at (330) 971-7496.

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