

## About ECG

The electrocardiograph (ECG) is a display of the heart's electrical conduction system. It is a starting point in the investigation of many cardiac problems. It is a routine, non-invasive procedure for recording the heart's electrical activity. It is part of your initial physical examination, as well as a monitoring tool in many of the other cardiac investigations.

There is no discomfort involved with an ECG. You will be required to be bare-chested and lie down. For some male patients, a small portion of their chest hair may need to be shaved. The cardiologist or technician will then place some sticky tabs (electrodes) on your chest, wrists and ankles. After the electrodes are in place you will need to lie quietly for a short period whilst the ECG is taken.

## Preparation

There is no preparation required prior to the test.

## Results

You may resume normal activities immediately following your ECG. The results will usually be discussed with you following the test and a comprehensive report sent to your referring doctor. If your electrocardiogram is normal, you may not need any other tests. If the results show an abnormality, you may need further diagnostic tests. Your doctor will be able to advise the best course of action depending on your symptoms.