



NEWCASTLE ADULT & PAEDIATRIC HEART CENTRE ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY

CONSUMER INFORMATION

ECHOCARDIOGRAM WITH SEDATION

Your child requires sedation for their echocardiogram to be performed. This may be because your child has not been able to relax enough to obtain adequate images of their heart. You will need to attend one hour prior to the examination so that the medication can be administered. The medication is called Chloral Hydrate and is in oral form. The doctor or sonographer will administer the medication to your child.

Once the medication has been administered it takes about 30 minutes before your child is relaxed or asleep to have the echocardiogram performed. Your child will be taken into the ultrasound room, placed on the examination bed and the study commenced.

Your child will not be allowed to leave our surgery until he/she is fully awake.

Once you leave our surgery, you should be aware your child may still be drowsy, therefore you should not allow them to sit or walk unaided until you are sure that they are fully alert and coordinated.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Ultrasound is a safe technique with no known harmful side effects. There is no preparation for this test. The examination will be performed by a sonographer or one of our cardiologists.

In summary

- The sonographer/doctor will explain the procedure to your child.
- A standard scan takes approximately 30 minutes but please allow a little extra time as sometimes more views are required.

Results

The scan will be read and reported by a cardiologist. The report will then be sent to the referring doctor. The images are digital and are saved to our ultrasound machine.

The results should be at your doctors rooms within five working days of your scan. However we can fax a preliminary report prior to this if necessary.

The sonographer is not able to give results on the day. You will need to discuss the results with your doctor.