

Electrocardiogram (ECG)

An electrocardiogram - or ECG - is a useful test which records the rhythm, rate and electrical activity of your heart.

It can help doctors tell if you're having/or if you've had a heart attack in the past, an enlarged heart that's under strain, fast, slow or irregular heartbeats called arrhythmias and valve disease.

An abnormal ECG often leads to further cardiac testing, an echocardiogram or longer monitoring maybe advised.



Why have an ECG?

An ECG is a safe way to evaluate and assess the electrical activity, rhythm and rate of your heart at rest. You may require one for any (but not inclusive) of the following reasons:

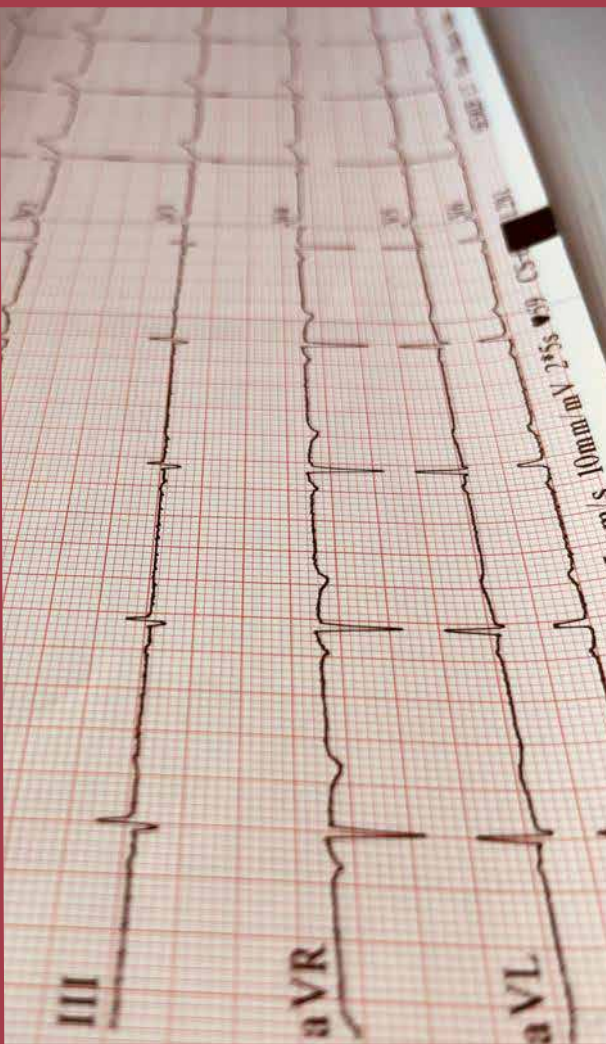
- Your doctor may have advised you because you have experienced –
 - Chest pain
 - Palpitations (when you can feel your heart thumping, pausing, or racing)
 - Irregular heartbeat
 - Dizziness or blackouts
 - Shortness of breath
- High blood pressure (to check for enlargement of the heart)
- Occupational screening
- You may have a family history of heart problems

You can also refer yourself for an ECG, for reassurance that your heart is healthy as part of your own health well-being.

Before your appointment

No special preparations are needed for your ECG. You may eat and drink as normal and continue to take your usual medications*

**It may be helpful to bring a list of current medications*



What to expect on the day

You will need to remove or pull up your top, we have disposable gowns for your privacy if you require this.

You will lie on a couch on your back, you will not need to lie completely flat for this test. Your skin will be prepared by wiping the areas that the electrodes (small sticky patches) are going to be placed, to remove dry skin and natural oils allowing a good contact to be made, if you have a hairy chest we may need to shave the area.

10 electrodes in total are placed on your chest, arms and ankles, cables from our ECG machine will then be attached to the electrodes.

At this point all you need to do is relax and lie still, as our machines are very sensitive and will pick up muscle movement. The ECG is then recorded and digitally uploaded for analysis. Once the test is over, the cables and the electrodes will be removed, and you will be free to get dressed. The whole process takes no longer than 15 minutes to perform.

How and when will I get my results

Your ECG will be analysed. Several measurements need to be done and therefore the results are not available immediately after the test is complete. The results will be emailed to your referring clinician. If you have self-referred for this test, both yourself and GP will receive a copy. We aim to have your results to you within 3 working days.

We hope this information helps you make an informed decision on booking an ECG. Please contact us to ask any questions you may have.

An ECG costs £75.00
Book online or by telephone



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and other languages**