

12 Lead Electrocardiogram (ECG)

An electrocardiogram (ECG) is a non-invasive medical test that is used to measure the electrical activity of the heart. An ECG has a characteristic pattern and irregularities in the heart rhythm will be indicated by changes in the ECG pattern.

Preparation

There is no special preparation required. It is advisable to wear a two-piece outfit for the test to allow easy access to the chest. Please be aware that any moisturiser will prevent electrodes from adhering to the skin.

Test Duration

Allow approximately 15 minutes for your ECG appointment.

Medicare Rebate Available

Yes.

Procedure

An ECG is a painless procedure. To ensure a good quality trace is obtained, skin preparation may be required (including light abrasion and cleansing with alcohol wipes). Some men may need to have their chest shaved to ensure electrodes adhere to the skin. Electrodes and leads are then attached to the extremities and pre-defined positions on the front of the chest. You will be asked to lie still for approximately 20 seconds whilst the tracing is recorded. In the positions where the electrodes are removed, the skin may temporarily appear slightly red.

Results

Your ECG tracing will be reviewed by a cardiologist and the report will be sent directly to your referring doctor, usually within 24 hours. All data is digitally stored to enable precise comparisons should you require future tests.