

ECG

A patient's advice sheet

What is an ECG?

The ECG (electrocardiogram) test is painless and harmless. The ECG machine records electrical impulses coming from your body - it does not put any electricity into your body.

ECG is a recording of your heart's electrical activity that is displayed as a graph on squared paper. The recording aids the physician in diagnosis of cardiac conditions.

You may have an ECG to help find the cause of symptoms such as palpitations or chest pain. Sometimes it is done as part of routine tests, for example, before you have an operation.

ECGs are carried out on a wide range of patients and are not restricted to those thought to have a heart problem.

What happens?

The professional performing the ECG will clean and, if necessary, shave or clip your hair on your body.

You are asked to undress from the waist up and lie down. Small sticky patches (electrodes) are affixed to your arms, legs and chest. Cables are connected to these patches for a diagnostic ECG.

Medications/eating and drinking

Carry on taking your medications unless otherwise instructed by your physician.

You can eat and drink as you would normally prior to the test.

Useful contacts

If you have further questions, please telephone 01480 364374.