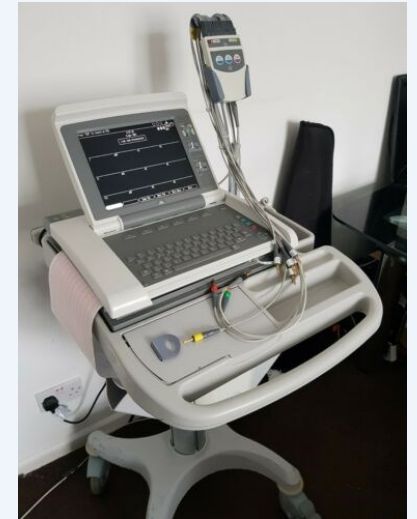


ECG

What is an ECG

An ECG or Electrocardiogram is a test to look at the electrical activity of your heart. It's a quick and painless test done at the GP surgery.



Why am I having it done

There can be many reasons for routine ECGs such as monitoring long term conditions, medication use, pre operation assessment. It may be that your Doctor has asked you to have an ECG to gain a better understanding of your current health symptoms and look for any cause relating to your heart.



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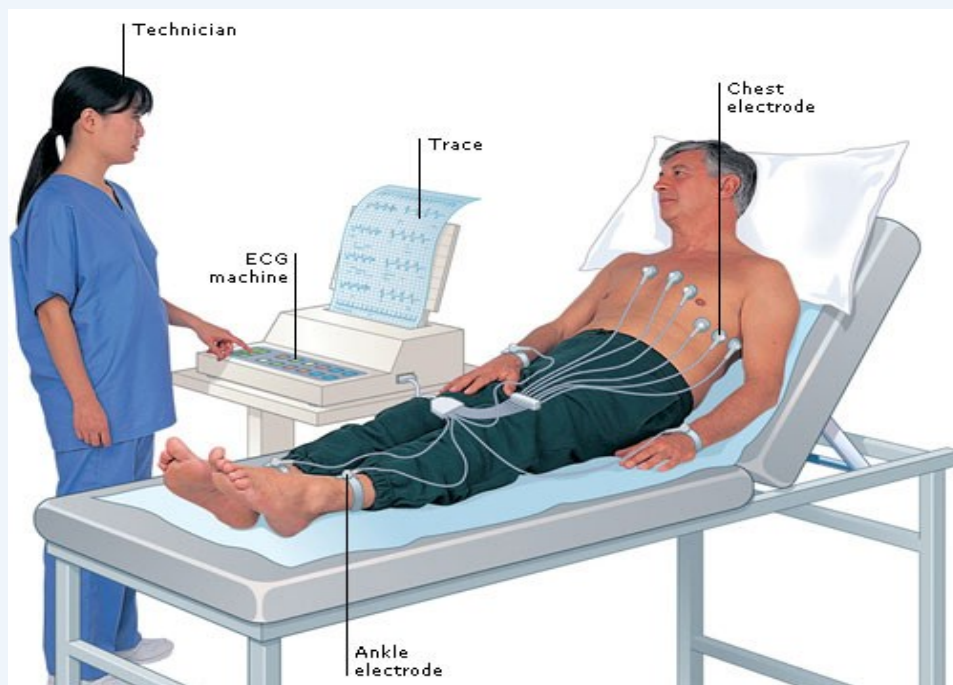
Before the appointment

To get a clear ECG reading it is important **NOT to apply any cream to your skin** and to remove any excess chest hair, **please do this before your appointment as cream and hair will interfere with the reading**

How is the ECG done

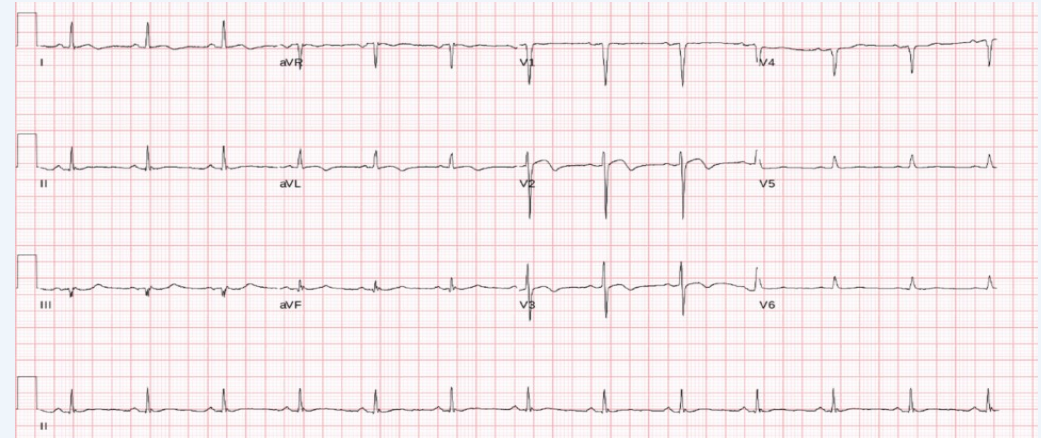
You will need to lie almost flat and keep as still as possible as any sudden movements will affect the reading. Small sticky patches (called electrodes) are put on your chest and on your ankles and wrists. These are connected to leads and the ECG machine. You will be asked to remove your top half clothing (including if you wear a bra)

The ECG reads the electrical activity of your heart in around 6 seconds and records a print out which is stored in your patient record.



What will the ECG show

An ECG can help show if your heart is beating in an abnormal rhythm, too fast or too slow. It can also help to show if there are any problems with your heart valves or if there is any sign of heart disease.



What happens after the ECG

Once the ECG is completed by the nurse this will be sent to the GP / Clinical Practitioner to review the reading. Any follow up that may be required will then be arranged.

