

## Examinations Available

### *General Ultrasound*

Abdomen, Renal, Breast, Thyroid,  
Testes

### *Obstetric & Gynaecological*

First, Second & Third Trimester,  
First Trimester Screening, (NT  
Down Syndrome Screening), Pelvic

### *Musculoskeletal*

Shoulder, Groin, Hip, Ankle etc  
(cortisone injections)

### *Vascular*

Deep Vein Thrombosis, Arterial  
Studies, Renovascular, Carotid  
Duplex, Abdominal Aorta

### *Echocardiography*

Adult & Paediatric

## Appointment Times

8.30 am—5.00 pm  
Monday to Friday

Appointments can be made during  
office hours which are:

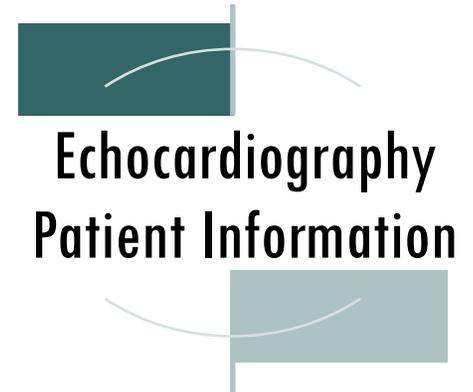
9.00 am to 5.00 pm  
Monday to Friday

**Dr Mario Vlasic**

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## Echocardiography Patient Information

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Fetal Medicine Foundation - NT accredited  
HDAA Accredited Practice

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## Echocardiogram Examination

An echocardiogram (Echo) is a safe non-invasive procedure used to examine your heart. The information obtained through Echocardiography examinations is extremely helpful in diagnosing a variety of conditions related to cardiovascular disease. It uses very high-frequency sound waves (ultrasound) which produces images of your heart. This allows assessment of the heart muscle, heart chambers and structures within the heart such as the valves.

## Why is an Echocardiogram Done?

An Echo can be carried out for many different reasons. It may be done to check how well your heart is working after a heart attack, to look at how well the valves are moving inside the heart or to check the pumping capability of the heart if a patient is short of breath or has complained of certain symptoms during exertion. An Echo can also help to see any fluid that may have collected around the heart and to review congenital diseases of the heart.

## What Happens During This Test?

You will need to undress to the waist and lie on the couch. Electrodes will be attached to your chest similar to

when you have an ECG at the doctors surgery. A transducer with gel is then placed on your skin. The transducer is connected by a cable to the ultrasound machine and monitor.

Echoes are detected by the transducer and sent to the ultrasound machine. They are displayed as a picture on the monitor. The picture is constantly updated so the scan can show movement as well as structure. (For example, the valves of a heart opening and closing.) The operator moves the transducer around over the skin surface to obtain views from different angles.

You may have to turn on to your side during the test so that the operator can scan the heart from different positions.

## Is Echocardiography Safe?

There are no known harmful effects associated with the medical use of ultrasound. Widespread clinical use of diagnostic ultrasound for many years has not revealed any harmful effects.

## Preparation

There is no preparation required for this particular ultrasound examination.

## Post Procedure

After the examination, the electrodes

are removed and the gel is simply wiped from your skin.

## Examination & Reporting Time

Echo examinations usually take approximately 20-40 minutes. The report is generally issued to your referring doctor within the hour.

We strongly advise that you return to your referring doctor in order for your doctor to discuss your echo report with you.

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