

# Echocardiography

see also [Transesophageal echocardiography](#).

An [echocardiogram](#), often referred to as a cardiac echo or simply an echo, is a sonogram of the heart. (It is not abbreviated as ECG, because that is an abbreviation for an electrocardiogram.)

Echocardiography uses standard two-dimensional, three-dimensional, and Doppler ultrasound to create images of the heart.

## Indications

[Neurogenic stress cardiomyopathy](#), may appear compatible with an MI on echocardiography, yet, troponin levels are typically lower (often < 2.8 ng/ml) than would be predicted given the level of myocardial impairment.

[Blood cultures](#) and [LP](#) may identify the infectious organism in [mycotic aneurysms](#). Patients with suspected [infectious aneurysm\(s\)](#) should undergo [echocardiography](#) to look for signs of [endocarditis](#).

For [cardiogenic brain embolism diagnosis](#), most centers rely on [echocardiography](#) (without [transesophageal echocardiography](#) ability). Using restricted criteria (i.e., excluding mitral valve prolapse), about 10% of patients with [ischemic stroke](#) will have potential cardiac source detected by echo, and most of these patients have other manifestations of cardiac disease. In [stroke](#) patients without clinical heart disease, only 1.5% will have a positive echo; the yield is higher in younger patients without cerebrovascular disease <sup>1)</sup>.

May be used for right atrial catheter placement <sup>2)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>  
Cerebral Embolism Task Force. Cardiogenic Brain Embolism. Arch Neurol. 1989; 46:727-743

<sup>2)</sup>  
Szczerbicki MR, Michalak M. Echocardiographic Placement of Cardiac Tube in Ventriculoatrial Shunt. Technical Note. J Neurosurg. 1996; 85:723-724

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:58**

