



EKG Records Changes in Heart's Electrical Activity



An electrocardiogram, or EKG, records the electrical impulses moving through the heart.

EKG electrodes are placed on the chest, arms and legs with small suction cups. The electrical impulses generated by the heart are then recorded on a piece of graph paper. The entire procedure takes about five minutes.

Why get an EKG?

Symptoms such as chest pain, chest pressure, shortness of breath, dizziness or irregular heartbeat may prompt your physician to order an EKG. There are two main reasons to get an EKG:

- **To record the heart rate and rhythm.**
- **To help diagnose a possible heart attack or other heart disorder.**

An EKG may also be done prior to a surgical procedure or during a routine visit to your doctor's office.

Is it safe?

Very. There are no risks, pain or complications associated with an EKG exam.

What are the benefits?

An EKG exam is a very quick and easy way for your physician to learn about potential heart problems or to continue to monitor an existing one.

How soon will you know the test results?

The electrocardiogram is done by a technician, immediately interpreted by computer, and confirmed by a physician within a few hours. Your physician will contact you immediately if there are any serious abnormalities. Otherwise your physician will discuss the results with you at your next appointment.

