

700 Children's Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43205-2696
nationwidechildrens.org

EKG (ELECTROCARDIOGRAM)

The EKG, also called an electrocardiogram (ee-lek-tro-CAR-dee-o-gram), is a recording of the electrical activity in your child's heartbeats.

HOW THE TEST IS DONE

Before the EKG, you or the technician will remove your child's pajama top or shirt. Girls may be asked to wear a hospital gown. Your child will lie on an examination table. A very young child may prefer to sit on your lap.

The EKG technician will place six stickers (electrodes) on your child's chest and one on each arm and leg (Picture 1). Then a plastic-covered wire (called a lead) will be connected to each sticker. Your child may cover up with a sheet after the six stickers are in place.

These electrode stickers do not hurt him or her and will be removed at the end of the test.

After the electrodes and leads are in place, your child must lie still for 10 to 20 seconds for the leads to carry the heart's electrical impulses to the machine. The machine draws a picture of the electrical activity for each heartbeat on a piece of paper. This paper is removed from the machine and is given to the cardiologist. The entire test takes only about 5 minutes if your child stays very still. The test does not hurt and your child does not feel the test being done. There are **no lasting effects** on the child when the test is over.

AFTER THE TEST

The cardiologist will read the tracing from the machine.

If you need to change your appointment or if you have any questions, please call the EKG office at (614) 722-5550.

For Outpatient Use Only

Child's name _____

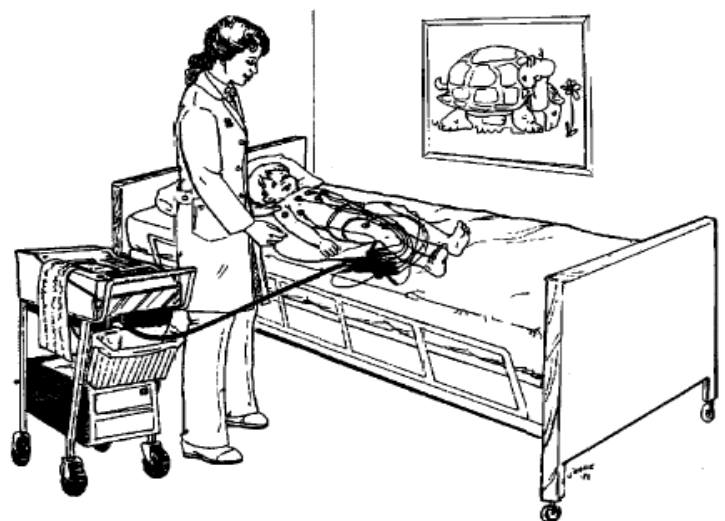
APPOINTMENT:

Date _____ Time _____

Please bring your child and a prescription for the test to:

- Outpatient Care Center, 555 South 18th St. (Register on the First Floor. Testing is done on the Fifth Floor, Suite D.)
- Emergency Desk
- Other

Please come 15 minutes early to allow time to register.



Picture 1 Having an EKG does not hurt.