



## **Contrast Echocardiogram (Echo with Bubble, Bubble study)**

An Echocardiogram is an imaging test that helps your doctor to evaluate your heart structure, size and blood flow, and function. It is a safe and painless test that can be done in a hospital, testing center, or doctor's office. An ultrasound emitting transducer is placed on your chest to obtain a real time image of your heart. A contrast echo is an exam which an IV is started and saline solution is mixed with O<sub>2</sub> and the mixture is agitated to create microscopic bubbles. These micro bubbles are then injected into the IV to see if they cross from the right side of the heart to the left side of the heart through a hole in the wall between the chambers of the heart. The hole is called a PFO (Patent Foramen Oval), ASD (Atrial Septal Defect), or VSD (Ventricular Septal Defect).

### **Registration**

- Arrive 15 minutes before your exam to register.

### **During your exam**

- You will undress from the waist up and put on a gown.
- An IV is placed in your arm or hand.
- Small pads (Electrodes) will be placed on your chest to monitor the electrical activity (heart rate and rhythm) of your heart.
- The Sonographer will then take pictures of your heart with ultrasound. This involves placing a probe on certain areas of your chest. Ultrasound gel is used to acquire the images.
- You may be asked to exhale, inhale or hold your breath for a few seconds to better view your heart.
- When your test is complete your IV will be removed.
- The images are captured and a digital copy is stored for medical records.
- Most echo exams can take from 20-45 minutes.

### **After your exam**

- You can return to normal activity as soon as we finish the exam.
- Make sure to keep your follow up appointment with your provider.

### **Exam results**

- A cardiologist will interpret your exam and a report will be generated and sent to your referring physician. If you don't hear from your doctor within 1-2 days then you may contact them for the results.

### **Billing**

- Verify your coverage and financial responsibility with your insurance provider before your exam.
- The billing for this procedure will show as two separate charges, one for the procedure and one from the physician who interprets it.

### **Questions**

- If you have any questions please contact your providers office. For Dr. Haws please call 801.965.3695. For Dr. Brown please call 801.262.1771, select option 2, then ext. 123.