Non-Invasive Tests and Procedures

AT-A-GLANCE

American Heart Association | American Stroke Association

Name of Test	What the Test Does	Reason for Test
Electrocardiogram (Also known as ECG or EKG or Electrocardiography)	Records the electrical activity of the heart including the timing and duration of each electrical phase in your heartbeat.	Determines that a heart attack has occurred. Helps predict if a heart attack is developing. Monitors changes in heart rhythm.
Ambulatory Electrocardiography (Also known as Holter Monitoring or Ambulatory ECG or Ambulatory EKG)	Records the electrical activity of the heart during daily activities.	Documents and describes abnormal electrical activity in the heart during daily activities to help doctors determine the condition of the heart. Helps determine the best possible treatments.
Chest X-Ray	Takes a picture of the heart, lungs and bones of the chest.	Determines whether the heart is enlarged or if fluid is accumulating in the lungs as a result of the heart attack.
Echocardiography (Also known as echocardiogram)	A hand-held device placed on the chest that uses high-frequency sound waves (ultrasound) to produce images of your heart's size, structure and motion.	Provides valuable information about the health of your heart. Helps gather information about abnormal rhythms (arrhythmias) in the heart.

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Computer Imaging (Also known as Tomography) (This section includes CT, CAT scan, EBCT, PET, DCA, DSA, MRI and SPECT)	Computer imaging (tomography) refers to several diagnostic-imaging tests that use computer-aided techniques to gather images of the heart.	Evaluates aortic disease (such as aortic dissection), cardiac masses and pericardial disease.
Exercise Stress Test (Also known as Treadmill Test, Exercise Test, Exercise Cardiac Stress Test and ECST)	A monitor with electrodes that are attached to the skin on the chest area to record your heart function while you walk in place on a treadmill. Many aspects of your heart function can be checked including heart rate, breathing, blood pressure, ECG (EKG) and how tired you become when exercising.	Helps diagnose coronary artery disease (CAD). Helps diagnose the possible cause of symptoms such as chest pain (angina). Helps determine your safe level of exercise. Helps predict dangerous heart-related conditions such as heart attack.