



EKG

An electrocardiogram (EKG) is a medical recording of the electronic impulses generated by the contractions and relaxations of the heart. Surface electrodes (which are attached to various points on the body) transmit these electronic impulses to the EKG machine which generates a graphical recording to be interpreted by a trained medical professional.

EKGs help to determine the over-all health status of the heart by detecting abnormalities in cardiac rhythm and calculating estimates of cardiac size. The EKG recording often reveals the scars of old heart attacks and other previous heart damage. Although the test cannot predict future heart attacks or other heart problems, a combination of personal/family history and additional examinations may give your doctor a good idea of what to expect.

An EKG is a very simple and painless procedure. The patient is instructed to lie face up on an examination table while electrodes are strategically placed on his/her body. The electrodes are attached to cables which, in turn, are attached to the EKG machine. The electrodes send electronic impulses to the machine and result in a graphical representation of heart function. The procedure usually takes about 10 to 15 minutes.

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