

OUTPATIENT PROCEDURES

Huntsville Memorial Hospital and Huntsville Heart and Vascular Center staff are dedicated to providing our patients with innovative care, exceptional outcomes, and excellent service in a safe and pleasant environment.

OUTPATIENT TESTING

24-HOUR HOLTER MONITORING

The Holter monitor is used in diagnosing heart rhythm disturbances that may occur at times when you are away from the doctor. It is used in conjunction with a written diary or log of your daily events and activities. The Holter monitor allows doctors to relate those symptoms to actual variations in heart rhythms, providing them with further diagnostic information for determining the best course of treatment.

ELECTROCARDIOGRAM (EKG)

An EKG is a test that records the electrical activity of the heart. This test is performed to determine if there is any damage to the heart, how fast the heart is beating and whether or not it is beating normally. It can also evaluate the effects of drugs or devices, such as a pacemaker, used to control the heart.

ECHOCARDIOGRAM (ECHO)

A graphic outline of the heart's movement. During this test ultrasound is used to provide pictures of the heart's valves and chambers. It allows the physician to evaluate the pumping action of the heart.

FULLY EQUIPPED LABORATORY

The lab is equipped to draw blood and send it to a processing laboratory that is contracted with your insurance plan.

NUCLEAR CARDIOLOGY

Using a high resolution detector-camera in conjunction with a pharmacologic radionuclide and treadmill test, your doctor can perform a number of different nuclear cardiology studies of the heart:

A Myocardial Perfusion test can assess coronary artery disease utilizing the treadmill and a pharmacologic agent. We utilize several different agents in conjunction with the radioisotope depending on the diagnosis and patient history.

Cardiac Blood Pool Imaging, also known as a MUGA, is used to evaluate the left ventricular function including wall motion and blood ejection fraction.

TREADMILL TESTING

Commonly referred to as the Stress Test. Treadmill Testing takes about 45 minutes and evaluates the heart's response to increased activity, blood pressure and heart rhythm response to activity. It is also used in several ways to diagnose coronary artery disease.



STRESS ECHOCARDIOGRAM

This test involves exercising on a treadmill while having your heart monitored. An echocardiogram will be performed prior to the test while at rest, and again after exercising to determine how the heart tolerates activity, evaluate the function of the heart and valves, and to determine the likelihood of having coronary artery disease.