

Fetal Echo



What is a fetal echo?

A fetal echocardiogram (echo-cardio-gram), often called a fetal echo, is a non-invasive, painless ultrasound test that focuses on the growth and development of your baby's heart and heart vessels. This test does not cause any harm to you or your baby.

How is a fetal echo performed?

During the test, you will remain clothed while lying on an ultrasound table. You will be asked to adjust your top so the sonographer (the ultrasound specialist) can see your belly. They will apply a painless gel to your abdomen. This gel helps the ultrasound machine capture images of your baby. Then, the sonographer will move the ultrasound wand or probe around your belly to gather measurements and pictures of the structure and function of your baby's heart and heart vessels.

The fetal cardiologist will be present and will review the images and other information from the test to confirm a diagnosis and evaluate the overall well-being of your baby and their heart.

During the test, you will be able to see your baby's heart and hear their heartbeat, and you are welcome to ask questions. Fetal echocardiograms can take anywhere from 30 to 45 minutes.

When are fetal echocardiograms done?

Fetal echocardiograms are typically done anytime after 20 weeks of pregnancy. The goal is to conduct the fetal echo at the point in your pregnancy when we can get the best view of your baby and their heart. This will vary depending on your pregnancy and your baby's diagnosis. In some cases, you may have multiple fetal echocardiograms throughout your pregnancy.

A Cardinal Glennon St. Louis Fetal Care Institute nurse is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to discuss referrals with physicians and potential families by calling 314-268-4037, option 2.

Phone 314-268-4037, option 2
Toll-free 1-877-SSM-FETL (776-3385)
Web stlouisfetalcare.com
Email fetalcare@ssmhealth.com
Facebook facebook.com/fetaldocs

Why would I need a fetal echo?

Many expectant mothers will have a fetal echo performed. There are several reasons why your doctor would want to have the information learned through the test, including:

- » If your baby has suspected congenital heart disease (a heart disease a person is born with).
- » If your baby has a suspected arrhythmia (abnormal heartbeat).
- » If your baby has been diagnosed with another fetal medical condition.
- » If you or your baby's father have a family history of fetal or infant heart disease.
- » If you have gestational or regular diabetes or another medical condition that may affect the baby's heart.

When can I expect results from a fetal echo?

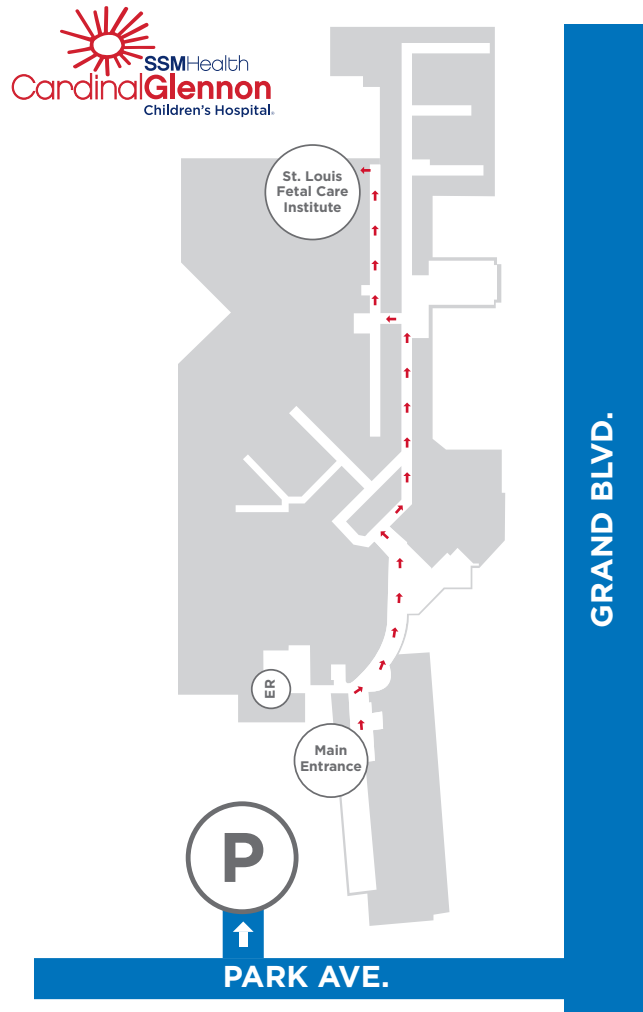
Typically the fetal cardiologist is present for the fetal echo and able to tell you the results at the completion of the test.

Where are fetal echocardiograms done?

The SSM Health Cardinal Glennon St. Louis Fetal Care Institute does fetal echocardiograms in a private ultrasound room inside their clinic on the first floor of SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital.

While we can't change the diagnosis, we can provide you expert care and support. If you're facing a diagnosis, schedule an appointment with us at the Cardinal Glennon St. Louis Fetal Care Institute. You may call our team directly at 314-268-4037, opt. 2 or speak with your doctor about the potential of a referral.

How to Find Us



Location

The St. Louis Fetal Care Institute is located within SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, 1465 S. Grand Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63104

Parking

Enter the Cardinal Glennon parking area from Park Ave. There are two reserved parking spots for expectant mothers near the north entrance of the parking garage, near the helipad. If those spots are not available, you may park anywhere in the garage or parking lot.

Directions Inside The Hospital

- As you come in the main entrance, check-in at the front desk.
- Veer to the left, past the gift shop through the atrium, and continue through the double set of doors.
- Make a right and follow signs to the Fetal Care Institute.

All fetal ultrasounds and fetal echocardiograms take place on the ground floor inside the Cardinal Glennon St. Louis Fetal Care Institute, not the Dallas Heart Center or Imaging.