

Exemplar of information to request when an ECHO is being performed

To: The on-call echocardiographer

From: Specialist Nurse – Organ Donation on behalf of NHS Blood and Transplant and all UK Heart Transplant Centres

Thank you for providing an urgent ECHO

Echocardiography is an important tool in assessing potential heart transplant donors, and in conjunction with other measures, allows the recipient centre to decide on the suitability of a particular heart for a particular recipient.

We would be grateful if you could perform a standard trans-thoracic echocardiogram and provide us with the following information and measurements. We recognise that it is difficult on some occasions to achieve adequate echocardiographic windows in the supine ventilated patient but we do ask that you attempt to provide us with as much information as possible. We appreciate the time and effort necessary to accrue this information

Assessment

We would ask you to provide your standard report for a trans-thoracic echocardiography and to comment on any major structural, anatomical and valvular abnormalities detected including the presence or absence of a pericardial effusion and any evidence of ventricular hypertrophy.

- If possible, please evaluate the left ventricular end systolic and diastolic dimensions – (either in M-mode or on 2D views) and estimate fractional shortening (FS) and ejection fraction (EF).
- If possible, please assess the heart for any global LV wall motion abnormality on all the available views and their severity. Please note that the regional LV wall motion abnormalities (RWMA) are common following brain stem death (30-40%) and do not necessarily preclude the heart being used for transplantation. In particular, basal LV wall motion abnormalities can occur, sparing the apex. **Please comment if these are found but note that they are not necessarily a contra-indication to donation when formulating your report.** In trauma patients, RWMA may indicate myocardial contusion and detection of this may be important.
- If possible, in your valvular assessment, please perform Doppler studies to assess any valvular regurgitation.
- If possible, please subjectively assess the size and function of the right ventricle.

Please can you provide the following measurements and any additional comments?

Estimated EF %

Intraventricular Septum thickness (mm)

Posterior wall thickness (mm)

End Systolic Dimensions (mm)

End Diastolic Dimension (mm)

Fractional Shortening (%)