

Until recently, cardiac echo or ultrasound allowed viewing of the heart in only two dimensions. 3-D echo is a new technological component performed along with the routine 2-D echocardiogram. These images generate 3-dimensional reconstruction of the heart chambers and valves allowing improved assessment and quantification of heart muscle pump function. 3-D echo can also provide additional information regarding heart valve structure and function, leading to more accurate diagnosis of heart valve 'stenosis' (obstruction to blood outflow) and 'regurgitation' (leakage of blood, or backflow).