



Signal averaged electrocardiogram

What is it?

A **signal averaged electrocardiography**, or **SAECG**, is a simple, non-invasive test that gives a more detailed look at your heart's electrical activity than a standard electrocardiogram (ECG).

Why is it done?

Your doctor may recommend an SAECG to:

- Look for tiny, abnormal electrical signals in the heart.
- Assess your risk of certain heart rhythm problems.
- Provide additional information as part of a wider cardiac risk assessment.

How is it done?

The test is simple and painless:

1. You will be asked to sit or lie down comfortably.
2. Several small sticky pads (electrodes) will be placed on your chest.
3. These electrodes connect to a machine that records your heart's electrical activity.
4. Unlike a standard ECG, the SAECG collects and averages the signals over several minutes. This helps identify electrical changes that are too small to see on a normal ECG.
5. It is important to keep still and relaxed, so the recording is clear.
6. The test usually takes 20–30 minutes.

Once the test is finished, the electrodes will be gently removed. There are no side effects, and you can return to your normal activities right away.

The test cannot be performed accurately in patients with certain types of cardiac pacing devices, but your doctor will inform you if that is the case. If you would like a chaperone from the department, please ask upon your arrival.

Department address and contact information:

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Accessibility

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