

ELECTROCARDIOGRAM (ECG)

This examination involves the registration of the heart's electrical activity, which determines the rate and rhythm of the heartbeat. Adhesive electrodes are positioned on the chest and the four limbs, and are then connected to a machine that records on paper the heart's functioning, "seen" as it were from a variety of angles (derivations). There are twelve standard derivations which together provide information concerning the location of the complaint. Electrocardiogram serves primarily to verify the presence of heartbeat anomalies, but also variations in heart size and insufficient blood supply from the coronaries. This is of particular importance in the case of heart attack, the diagnosis of which can be based upon a simple electrocardiogram, making it possible to take immediate action with the appropriate drugs.