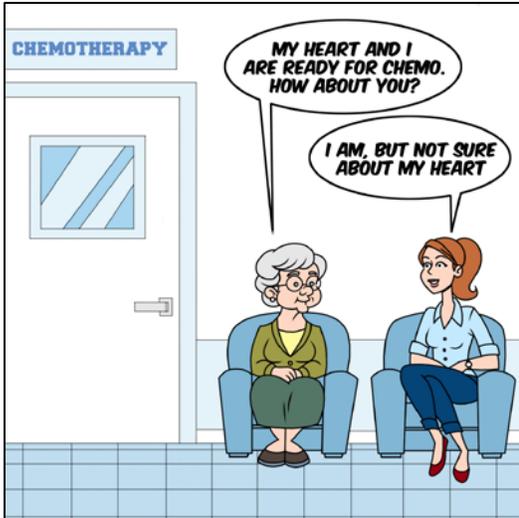


Heart Information for the Cancer Patient



Why should I care about my heart while receiving chemotherapy?

Chemotherapy drugs are fundamental in the treatment of cancer. Therefore, it is very important to understand that some of them may affect your heart function. It is critical to detect these changes early, so they can be rapidly treated while still continuing your cancer treatment. Since your cure from cancer is the goal, you can take action in preventing heart damage that may stay with you once your cancer is treated.

How can heart damage be detected and prevented?

Taking pictures of your heart will evaluate your heart function. An echocardiogram (cardiac ultrasound) is an easy, safe, and quick way of doing it. It can tell you how your heart is working before you start your chemo, and detect any damage as you go through your treatment.



Is there anything we should do at this time?

YES, talk to your cancer doctor. Ask if you should have a heart workup. Depending on the medications he/she is planning to give you, you may need an "echo" (again, a simple, safe ultrasound) before and during your chemo.

The Bottom Line

The recently published expert consensus recommends the evaluation of heart function in preparation prior to and during cancer treatment using cardiac ultrasound. The goal of the strategy is to FACILITATE the administration of your life-saving chemotherapy, rapidly recognizing and treating abnormalities detected in cardiac function during treatment.¹



Scan to access patient education resources.



ASEcho.org/Guidelines

1. [Expert Consensus for Multimodality Imaging Evaluation of Adult Patients during and after Cancer Therapy: A Report from the American Society of Echocardiography and the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging](#), Plana et al, Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography, September 2014.