**DIAGNOSTIC POSSIBILITIES OF ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY AT THE PRESENT STAGE**

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Echocardiography provides information regarding cardiac morphology, function and hemodynamics non-invasively. It is the most frequently performed cardiovascular examination after electrocardiography and chest X-ray. In less than half a century, this technique has evolved to a mainstay of cardiovascular medicine. The historical evolution of echocardiography is succinctly described including that of M-mode, two-dimensional, Doppler, stress, transesophageal, intraoperative, contrast, digital, three-dimensional and intracardiac echocardiography. Over the last five decades the diagnostic capability of echocardiography has evolved dramatically from M-mode (1950s) to two-dimensional (2D) echocardiography (1970s) and an actual 3D display format which provides a better insight into the functional and anatomic properties of cardiac structures and decrease variability.