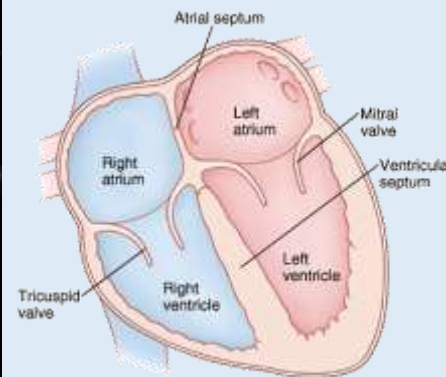
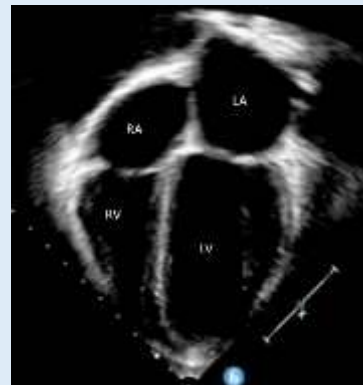


ECGs show how the heart conducts electricity, by looking at traces of the heart from all different angles. From this, physiologists can make a picture in their head of how the heart is beating. We can tell if the heart is beating too fast (tachycardia) or too slow (bradycardia).



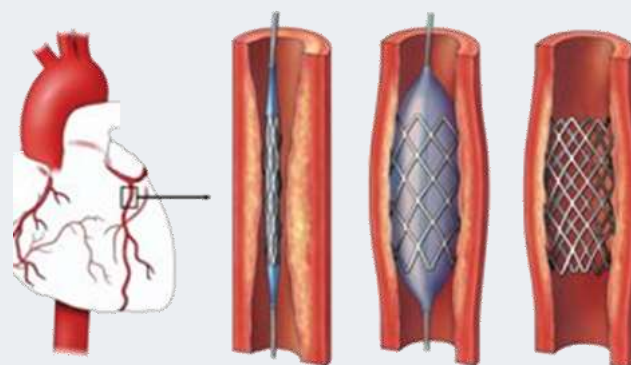
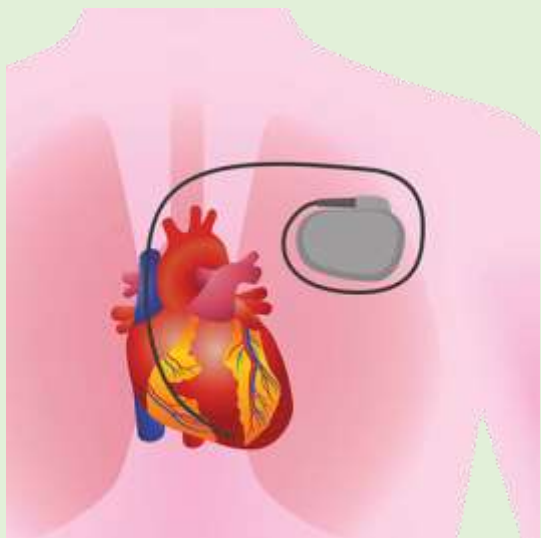
Another type of test is called a **Cardiac Echo**. This time, we use ultrasound waves to look at the structure of the heart – how the heart is moving, and the size and shape of the muscle and valves. We can see if there are any holes or lumps that shouldn't be there, and make sure the blood is flowing properly.

Cardiac Physiology

A poster by Caroline Davie, Student Cardiac Physiologist, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow

Cardiac physiologists use lots of different tests to work out if someone has a heart problem. We work with doctors and nurses to help people have healthier hearts. Sometimes we do the test on our own independently, and sometimes we work in a big team, like in an operating theatre.

Do you know anyone who has a **pacemaker**? A pacemaker makes sure the heart isn't beating too slowly. If the pacemaker thinks there's too much time between beats, it'll send a small electrical signal to prompt the heart to start the next beat.



Every organ in your body needs blood – this includes the heart! If someone is having a heart attack, it means the blood to their heart is blocked. A procedure called an **angiogram** is done in a special room called a Cath Lab. We can use special dye inside the arteries to check for blockages. We can open up the block and put a small tube called a stent in to make sure it doesn't close again anytime soon.