

MIDTERM CLINICAL REFLECTION

During my clinical shift on heart center 5, I was able to observe a procedure called bubble echo or also called a saline contrast study. It is said, on a standard echocardiogram, a sterile salt solution containing tiny bubbles is given through IV or also known as microscopic bubbles. The bubbles travel to the right side of the heart. It can be seen on an echocardiogram. As a student, we were taught not to inject bubbles to the patient's IV, and my first thought was is this procedure safe? But as they said it is microscopic bubbles and is often done to help diagnose patent foramen ovale (PFO) which is a hole between the upper chambers of the heart. It is interesting to watch the microbubbles traveling to each chamber of the heart. The technician stated if the bubbles go through the other side of the chamber, it means there's a hole but luckily, we did not see that result to my patient. Also, I asked the patient after the procedure if she felt the bubbles travel through and she said for a moment she felt a tingly feeling. It was a really good experience for me and I was able to do a little research before the procedure was done.