*Instructions before the translation:*

1. *Maintain same formatting*
2. *Place your translation on the next page under “Your Translation”*

**TEXT FOR TRANSLATION**

**What is an ECG?**

ECG (electrocardiogram) is a test that measures the electrical activity of the heart. The heart is a muscular organ that beats in rhythm to pump the blood through the body.

The signals that make the heart's muscle fibres contract come from the sinoatrial node, which is the natural pacemaker of the heart.

**What is the ECG used for?**

* It is a good to have an ECG in the case of symptoms such as dyspnoea, [chest pain (angina)](http://www.netdoctor.co.uk/diseases/facts/angina.htm), [fainting](http://www.netdoctor.co.uk/diseases/facts/fainting.htm), palpitations or when someone can feel that their own heart beat is abnormal.
* The test can show evidence of disease in the coronary arteries. Unfortunately, in many people who have significant narrowing of the arteries supplying the heart muscle, the ECG recording made at rest is often normal. Therefore, if a significant narrowing is suspected, an ECG recording is often made when the patient is exercising (an exercise stress test) because this is more likely to reveal the problem.
* An ECG can be used to monitor the effect of medicines used for coronary artery disease.
* To demonstrate thickening of a heart muscle (left ventricular hypertrophy), due to long-standing [high blood pressure](http://www.netdoctor.co.uk/diseases/facts/hypertension.htm).
* To see if there are too few minerals in the blood.
* It may be used to assess the success of drug treatment or coronary revascularisation, such as coronary intervention or bypass surgery.
* It may be necessary to supplement an ECG with additional tests, such as a radioisotope perfusion scan, which uses low-dosage radioactive dye to show which areas of the heart muscle receive the best and worst blood supply or [angiography](http://www.netdoctor.co.uk/health_advice/examinations/angiography.htm) (X-ray examination of arteries), to determine the extent of the illness and the cause of symptoms.

**YOUR TRANSLATION**