

# Look before you Leap: A randomized controlled trial of the impact on length of hospital stay of ECHOCardiography Goal-directed Ultrasound Informed Decision-making for Elderly patients undergoing emergency noncardiac surgery - The ECHOGUIDE III trial

ACTRN12619000116123

---

Status	RECRUITING
Sponsor	Royal Melbourne Hospital
Enrollment	350 participants

## Plain Language Summary

Emergency surgery carries significant risks, particularly for older patients. One in twenty patients does not survive the month after emergency surgery, and one in five experiences a major complication. Doctors often have very little time to fully assess a patient's heart and lung condition before emergency operations, which can lead to missed findings and suboptimal management. A brief bedside ultrasound scan — of the heart, lungs, and leg veins — may quickly reveal important information that changes how patients are managed.

The ECHOGUIDE III trial tests whether performing this rapid ultrasound assessment before emergency surgery in patients over 65 leads to shorter hospital stays and better outcomes, compared to standard pre-operative assessment without ultrasound.

You may be eligible if you are over 65, have been admitted to hospital unexpectedly (due to acute illness, not social reasons), and are scheduled for emergency non-cardiac surgery within 48 hours that is expected to last more than one hour and require at least one night in hospital. Surgery types include general surgery, vascular, orthopaedic, ENT, and neurosurgery. You are not eligible if your surgery is elective, diagnostic, or minimally invasive, or if you are not expected to survive beyond 24 hours.

## Key Eligibility Criteria

### Inclusion (5)

- Age >65 years and admitted to hospital (unplanned admission due to acute illness)
- Scheduled for emergency non cardiac surgery within 48h of booking surgery
- Expected surgical duration >1 hour and at least 1 night hospital stay
- Surgery type: thoracic, arterial vascular, general including colorectal and hepatobiliary, ear nose throat, faciomaxillary, neurosurgery and major orthopaedic surgery
- Requiring overnight hospital stay

### Exclusion (4)

- admitted for social rather than medical reasons
- unable to obtain consent from patient or responsible person
- diagnostic, percutaneous or elective surgery
- patient not expected to survive >24hr

## Locations (2 total)

Royal Melbourne Hospital - City campus - Parkville, VIC, Australia  
Cape Town, South Africa

<https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?ACTRN=ACTRN12619000116123>

DISCLAIMER: This document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute medical advice. Always consult your healthcare provider before enrolling in any clinical trial. Information may not be up to date — verify details at [anzctr.org.au](http://anzctr.org.au). Generated by [ClinicalTrialsFinder.org](http://ClinicalTrialsFinder.org).