

PHARMACOLOGICAL STRESS ECHOCARDIOGRAM



PATIENT NAME: _____

APPOINTMENT DATE: _____ **APPOINTMENT TIME:** _____

Please note, you should allow 2 hours for completion of this test.

PURPOSE: A pharmacological (Dobutamine) stress echocardiogram is a test, which is done to identify blockages in your heart arteries or bypasses. It also evaluates your heart's pumping capacity. This test is used for people who cannot walk on a treadmill.

PROCEDURE:

1. You will be asked to remove your clothing from the waist up and to wear a gown which opens in the front.
2. A nurse will start an IV line in your hand or arm for the exercise-stimulating drug, Dobutamine, to be injected during the test.
3. You will be asked to lie on your side, with your back to the technician.
4. The technician will lubricate a transducer with gel and will place it on various areas of your chest. The special gel permits the high frequency sounds waves to pass from the transducer to the heart. The resting echo images are obtained which takes about 15 minutes. The sound waves are reflected off the heart and will be used to create an image on the screen.
5. The nurse will inject the exercise-stimulating drug, Dobutamine, into the IV line. Echo images will be taken at certain intervals during the infusion and after it has been discontinued.
6. If you experience any symptoms such as chest discomfort, shortness of breath or lightheadedness, you should tell the technician immediately.
7. During the recovery period of about 5 minutes your blood pressure and heart rate will be monitored.
8. The results of your test will be carefully reviewed and interpreted by the Cardiologist. The Care Group makes every effort to provide results of your test to your ordering physician within a 24-hour period.
9. Because of the volume of testing that we do, if you are scheduled to see your ordering physician after your test, it may take an hour or more to have the test read by the Echo Cardiologist.



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INSTRUCTIONS:

1. It is important that you are on time for your test. If you need to cancel, please call: 317-338-6666 or 1-800-732-1481.
2. You may take your medications the day of the procedure unless otherwise instructed by your ordering physician.
3. Eat only a light meal and drink fluids before your test.
4. You may be able to drive home, however, please arrange for someone to accompany you in case of any rare side effects from the Dobutamine.
5. The Care Group nurse will call you the day before your test to review these instructions and answer questions you may have.



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