

THE HEART GROUP

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Dobutamine Echocardiogram Stress Test

Name: _____ Date of Test: _____ Time of Test: _____

PLEASE READ THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY

This sheet explains the diagnostic test that your physician has prescribed for you.

DESCRIPTION: You will be receiving an injection of a medicine called Dobutamine. This medicine increases your heart rate just as exercise would do. You also will have an ultrasound of your heart that will be helpful to identify any decreased blood flow to your heart muscle due to heart disease or prior heart attacks.

PURPOSE: Dobutamine is given to those patients with low exercise tolerance, patients who cannot achieve increased heart rates due to medications, those patients with artificial limbs or arthritis and those who experience leg cramps during exercise. This study is performed to detect coronary artery disease, damage from prior heart attacks and to determine the result of stents, bypass, balloon and rotablator procedures.

PREPARATION: No food 3 hours PRIOR to your test. You may take your morning medications with a small amount of water or juice, unless instructed otherwise by your physician. If you are diabetic and use insulin, please take 1/2 of your regular insulin dose with fruit juice and toast at least 2 hours PRIOR to your appointment. **NO CAFFEINE PRIOR TO YOUR TEST** (this includes decaffeinated coffee, tea, soda and hot chocolate). No nicotine 12 hours prior.

PROCEDURE:

1. When you arrive for your study you will be asked to read and sign consent for the study to be performed.
2. You will have ECG patches placed on your chest that will be used to record ECGs before, during, and after the Dobutamine injection to monitor heart rate and rhythm.
3. The stress technologist will obtain your medical history and current medications. Please bring a list of your current medications with you.
4. An IV line will be placed in your arm for the Dobutamine injection.
5. Dobutamine will be injected through your IV line for up to 15 minutes. Your ECG and blood pressure reading will be recorded every minute for the infusion. Side effects can occur from Dobutamine. They include headaches, flushing, or nausea. If serious effects should occur, a drug called Brevilbloc can be used to reverse the effects.

If you are pregnant or currently nursing, please inform your doctor or technologist before this study is performed.

The total time for the procedure will be 1 1/2 hours.

PLEASE NOTE:

If you are unable to keep your appointment, a 24-hour notice will be required. If you must cancel your appointment please call 481-7384 between 7:00 am and 4:00 pm or 397-5484 between 8:30 am and 6 pm.