



Grand Rapids Cardiology

What to Expect

Dobutamine Myocardial Perfusion Imaging Test

The test takes approximately 3 1/2 hours.

A Dobutamine Myocardial Perfusion Imaging test uses a radioactive substance (not a dye) to produce pictures of the heart muscle. The radioactive substance gives off a small amount of radiation which can be seen with a special camera. The amount of radiation exposure during this test is very small and poses no health risk. The test will help your doctor determine if there are areas of your heart which do not receive enough blood supply due to coronary artery disease. Areas of your heart which may have been damaged from a previous heart attack may also be seen. Prior to the test an IV will be started. During the rest portion of the test, you will receive an injection of the radioactive substance, and pictures will be taken of your heart. For the stress portion of the test, a medication (Dobutamine) will be given through the IV to stimulate the heart. During the infusion, you will be continuously monitored for blood pressure, heart rate, rhythm and ECG changes. You will be given an injection of the radioactive substance during the infusion. Following the Dobutamine infusion, pictures will be taken to determine blood flow to the heart muscle.

Patient Instructions:

1. Do not eat or drink anything four hours prior to the test. No caffeine 24 hours prior to your test.
2. Take all your regular medications, unless otherwise instructed by your physician.
3. Wear two-piece clothing and comfortable shoes. No shirts with metal snaps.
4. No smoking 24 hours prior to your test.
5. If you have a history of glaucoma, please notify the person doing your test.
6. Your physician will be notified of the results.

If you need to reschedule the test or have any questions regarding these instructions, please call our office at 616-717-5141.