



# Grand Rapids Cardiology

## What to Expect

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### **Persantine (Dipyridamole) Myocardial Perfusion Imaging Test**

**The test takes approximately 3 1/2 hours.**

A Persantine Myocardial Perfusion Imaging test uses a radioactive imaging agent (not a dye) to produce pictures of the heart muscle. The imaging agent 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 imaging agent, and pictures will be taken of your heart. For the stress portion of the test, a medication (Persantine) will be given through the IV to simulate exercise by dilating the blood vessels of 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 imaging agent following the infusion. Following the Persantine infusion, pictures will be taken to determine blood flow to the heart muscle.

#### **Patient Instructions:**

1. **No caffeine 24 hours before your test.** (This includes decaffeinated beverages, chocolate, and caffeine containing medications such as Anacin and Excedrin.)
2. Do not eat or drink anything two hours prior to the test. **No caffeine 24 hours prior to or on the day of testing.**
3. Diabetics should eat a light breakfast and take their insulin.
4. If you have lung problems such as asthma, emphysema, or COPD, please let the nurse or technologist know prior to the test.
5. Take all your regular medications, unless otherwise instructed by your physician.  
**If you take any medications for breathing problems, please consult with the nurse or technologist. Any medications containing Aminophylline or Theophylline should not be taken for 48 hours prior to the test.**
6. Wear two-piece clothing and comfortable shoes. No shirts with metal snaps.
7. No smoking 24 hours prior to the test.
8. 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.