

Thoracic Cardiovascular Institute
Consent for Heart Station Diagnostic Testing

Graded Exercise Test/ Nuclear Stress Test

You will perform a graded exercise test on a motorized treadmill. The workload will begin at a level you can easily accomplish and will be advanced in timed stages depending on your work capacity. We do not wish you to exercise at a level which is abnormally uncomfortable for you.

For further evaluation your doctor may have ordered this test with the addition of **nuclear imaging** which allows us to take pictures of your heart after an injection of **a radioactive isotope**. These isotopes (Thallium 201 or Technetium 99) are a water based potassium substances that are slightly radioactive.

Persantine/Adenosine/Dobutamine Nuclear Stress Test

If you are unable to walk on a treadmill your doctor may have ordered a stress test in which we give Persantine, Adenosine or Dobutamine intravenously to stress your heart without walking on the treadmill. All of these medications are well tolerated. **Please read consent on back of form and initial here _____.**

Echocardiogram

An echocardiogram is a test that uses ultrasound (high frequency sound) to create images of the heart. It is a safe procedure. The echo test gives doctors useful information about the heart size, wall thickness, and the heart's pumping strength. The doppler portion of the echo is used to assess the flow of blood through the heart chambers and valves. If it is difficult to get good quality images, the administration of a cardiac contrast agent will be given intravenously. This material is composed of tiny bubbles filled with a gas. These bubbles reflect sound waves improving the images of the heart.

Exercise Stress Echocardiogram

This test is a combination of an exercise test and an echocardiogram. This test allows doctors to evaluate how the heart works when made to beat faster and harder. The exercise echo shows which areas of the heart do not receive enough blood supply. These ultrasound images are taken at rest before exercise and immediately after exercise is completed.

Dobutamine Stress Echocardiogram

An echo test is performed while the heart is beating normally. Dobutamine is then injected very slowly intravenously. The drug causes the heart to pump faster and harder as if you were exercising. Additional echo images are taken during and after the injection of Dobutamine. These pictures are compared side by side.

Risks and Discomforts of an exercise stress test: There exists the possibility of certain changes occurring during the test. They include: abnormal blood pressure, fainting, disorders of the heartbeat, and very rare instances of a heart attack. Every effort will be made to minimize them by preliminary examination and by observation during the testing. Emergency equipment and trained personnel are available to deal with unusual situations, if they arise. **Any questions about the above procedures are welcome.** If you have any doubts or questions, please ask us for further explanation. Permission for you to perform any of the tests mentioned above is voluntary. You are free to deny consent or participate if you so desire.

FEMALES OF CHILDBEARING AGE:

ARE YOU OR COULD YOU BE PREGNANT _____?

ARE YOU CURRENTLY BREASTFEEDING _____?

DATE OF LAST MENSTRUAL PERIOD _____.

Please Print Name: _____

Please Sign Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian signature: _____

Witness: _____