



## 2-Day Dobutamine Stress Test

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about procedure: (319) 221-8500

### What is a Dobutamine Stress Test?

A Dobutamine stress test is a test that uses a drug and special imaging to determine if your heart is receiving enough blood and if you have coronary artery disease. Coronary artery disease occurs when the heart's vessels become partially blocked or narrowed by the build-up of fatty materials preventing the heart from receiving the blood it needs to function properly. There are three parts to this test and it usually involves two different days.

### Why should I have a Dobutamine Stress Test?

Your doctor has decided that you are not physically able to walk on a treadmill and chosen to stress your heart with a drug called Dobutamine. The test results help your doctor plan your treatment and decide whether any additional tests are necessary.

### Preparation:

Please review with your doctor or your doctor's nurse.

- Don't have any caffeine 24 hours before the stress part of your test, usually the second day. You may have a light meal, then don't eat or drink anything for two hours before the test (**both days**).
- You will need to stop taking Beta Blocker medications 24 hours **before day two of the test**. Check with your doctor to see if you are taking any of these medications.
- If you use an inhaler for breathing problems please bring it to the test (**both days**).
- Wear a comfortable two-piece outfit (**both days**).
- Bring a list of your current medications to the procedure (**both days**).
- Please bring photo ID.

## **Procedure:**

**DAY ONE:** You will report to the Nuclear Medicine section of the X-Ray Department. You'll be asked to undress from the waist up and put on a hospital gown. An intravenous (IV) line is started in your arm. A small amount of radioactive material, Cardiolite, is given through the IV. This material travels to your heart to make imaging of the heart possible. After waiting for 30 minutes you will be asked to rest on your back, usually with your arms comfortably extended above your head. For the next 20 minutes a special camera takes images of the blood flow to your heart. The camera doesn't come in contact with you, cause discomfort, or emit radiation. The Cardiolite is cleared from your body through its natural processes.

Plan to allow 1-2 hours from arrival to the time you can leave.

**DAY TWO:** The second part of the test takes place in the Non-Invasive Cardiology Department. You will meet and talk with the doctor who will supervise your test. You'll be asked to undress from the waist up and put on a hospital gown. Small pads (electrodes) are placed on your chest to record your heartbeat and your blood pressure will also be monitored. An IV line is started in your arm. Next, the drug Dobutamine is given slowly through the IV. You may feel your heart pounding and become slightly short of breath. This is a normal reaction to the drug. A small amount of Cardiolite is given through the IV. When the Dobutamine is stopped your heart rate will gradually return to your pre-test rate. You will be observed for 5-10 minutes, and then disconnected from the EKG and blood pressure monitors.

You will be directed to the cafeteria to get something to eat. After 1 hour you then return to the Nuclear Medicine department for the final imaging part of the test. This takes approximately 20 minutes. The images from day one and day two are then compared and the results are sent to your doctor.

Plan to allow 2-3 hours from arrival to the time you can leave.

## **Outpatient Registration:**

Park in the Mercy parking ramp, located at the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 8<sup>th</sup> Street SE. Enter the hospital at the South Entrance, Ground Level. On Day one you will proceed to the Radiology department on ground floor and they will direct you to nuclear medicine. On day two you will proceed to the Non-Invasive Cardiology department on the ground floor.

**Your appointment date and time Day One:**

**Your appointment date and time Day Two:**