



**You have been booked to have a
DOBUTAMINE STRESS ECHOCARDIOGRAM
at Hearts West.**

PATIENT NAME:

APPOINTMENT TIME:

DATE:

Purpose of the test

Dobutamine stress echocardiography (DSE) is used to measure how your heart responds to stress, under medically supervised conditions. The test gives us very important information, and is usually performed for suspected coronary artery disease.

The test itself

An echocardiogram is ultrasound of the heart. Images of the heart will be taken at rest, along with an ECG recording. An intravenous cannula (IV) will be inserted in your hand or forearm, and you will be connected to an infusion pump (“drip”) containing Dobutamine. Dobutamine is a drug which stimulates the heart to pump faster and harder, similar to the effects of exercise but with you resting on the bed. Continuous ECG recordings will be made until the end of the test, and dobutamine will be given at increasing doses every three minutes until you have reached an appropriate level of stress, similar to exercise. At the end of each stage, your blood pressure is taken, the ECG is printed, further ultrasound images are taken. The test will be stopped if you develop chest pain or other symptoms, or if the ultrasound shows an abnormality of your heart in response to stress.

Three staff will be present for each test – the cardiologist, sonographer and cardiac technician.

Symptoms you may feel

Many patients initially describe a tingling in their scalp when we begin the infusion of dobutamine. As the test progresses, you may feel your heart thumping as if you had just stopped running. When we stop the infusion, the symptoms usually go away within about 2 minutes. If you develop chest pain, palpitations, shortness of breath, dizziness or other symptoms it is important you tell the doctor immediately.

BETA BLOCKERS ARE TO BE CEASED PRIOR TO STRESS TESTING

AM APPOINTMENT – last dose 2 days prior

PM APPOINTMENT - last dose am day prior

ANSELOL (atenolol)
ATEHEXAL (atenolol)
BARBLOC (pindolol)
BETALOC (metoprolol)
BICOR (bisoprolol fumarate)
CARDOL (sotalol hydrochloride)
CORBETON (oxprenolol)
DERALIN (propranolol)
DILATREND (carvedilol)
GENRX ATENOLOL (atenolol)
GENRX METOPROLOL (metoprolol)
INDERAL (propranolol)
LOPRESOR (metoprolol)
METOHEXAL (metoprolol)
METOPROLOL-BC (metoprolol)
METROL (metoprolol)
MINAX (metoprolol)
NOTEN (atenolol)
SOTAHEXAL (hexal)
TENORMIN (atenolol)
TENSIG (atenolol)
TOPROL (metoprolol)
VISKEN (pindolol)