

Ultravision Cardiac Imaging Ltd

Mercy Hospital

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DOBUTAMINE STRESS ECHOCARDIOGRAM

Ultrasound of the heart and blood flow

What is a Dobutamine Stress Echocardiogram?

A Dobutamine stress echocardiogram is performed to assess your heart's response to increased demand for blood flow. It will provide information about your heart and how it pumps, how the valves are working and most importantly, whether any areas of your heart are receiving too little blood due to narrowing in your coronary arteries.

The test is performed for patients who are unable to complete a treadmill test. During the test a drug called Dobutamine is given through a vein in your arm, this medication increases your heart rate and work load on the heart, simulating the effect of exercise.

What preparation is required?

No preparation is required. If you are taking a medication called a beta-blocker you will be advised if you need to stop this medication prior to the test.

How is the procedure performed and who performs it?

- The test will be done by a Specialist Cardiologist with a sonographer or nurse present.
- You will be given an explanation of the procedure, please feel free to ask questions.
- A few questions about your medications and recent symptoms will be asked, and your weight checked.
- An intravenous line will be inserted into your arm and connected to the Dobutamine infusion.
- You will need to lie on your left side for approximately 20 minutes while the Cardiologist or sonographer scans your heart while you are receiving the Dobutamine. The nurse will be recording your blood pressure and pulse at regular intervals.
- The entire test takes about an hour. You are encouraged to wait for 20 minutes after the test to rest before going home.

What is the cost of the procedure?

You will be advised of the cost of the procedure and where to park when you make your appointment.

How do I get my results?

A report will be sent to your cardiologist and/or GP within 5-7 days of having the procedure.

Where do I go to have this procedure?

- Ultravision Rooms, Gate 1, Mercy Hospital, 98 Mountain Road, Epsom
- Ultravision Cardiac Imaging, 1 Shea Terrace, Takapuna

For further information refer www.heartgroup.co.nz or phone 09 623 6377