

# CASCADE HEART



## INFORM CONSENT: MYOCARDIAL PERFUSION SCAN (STRESS or DIPYRIDAMOLE THALLIUM)

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The myocardial perfusion scan is a non-invasive means of detecting the presence and significance of coronary artery disease (narrowing or blockage of the arteries supplying blood to the heart muscle).

Upon arrival to our Nuclear Department, you will be given the opportunity to ask any questions not answered by this form. A nurse will prepare you for the test by first obtaining a finger-stick blood test to rule out anemia and then placing an Intravenous line (IV) in your arm or hand. The nuclear medicine technician will inject a small, safe amount of radioactive material (Thallium or Technetium) into the IV. There are no sensations or side effects associated with this injection. Images of the heart will then be obtained with a special camera while you are at rest. This requires you lie on your back with your left arm supported above your head for approximately 15-20 minutes.

You will then be prepped and hooked up to the EKG machine for monitoring during the exercise phase of the test. (Your chest will be shaved if needed.) Exercise is required in order to increase the heart rate and may be accomplished simply by walking slowly on the treadmill and increasing speed and incline of the treadmill at 3 minute intervals. For those unable to walk on a treadmill, a pharmacologic agent called Persantine (Dipyridamole) is given through the IV to mimic the effects of exercise. In some, but not all patients, a side effect of mild headache may occur with the use of Dipyridamole. Aminophylline may be given IV if needed to reverse this side effect. A physician assistant and nuclear medicine technician will be present during the exercise phase of the test. You should alert the health care provider immediately of chest discomfort or heaviness, unusual shortness of breath or other symptoms not ordinarily part of exercising.

When peak heart rate is achieved, you will be given a second injection of Technetium. Again there are no sensations or expected side effects with this injection. You will then proceed to the camera room again where a second and final set of images of the heart will be obtained which completes the test. In some cases, the stress portion will be performed first and the resting pictures may not be required.

There are potential risks associated with any medical treatment. Although it is impossible to list them all, some of the possible risks, complications and side effects of this procedure include but are not limited to the following:

Irregular heart beats, changes in blood pressure and very rarely heart damage or sudden death.

My signature certifies that I have read or had read to me the contents of this form. I agree to follow any patient instructions related to this procedure. I understand the potential risks, complications and side effects involved with any medical procedure and have decided to proceed with this procedure. I declare that I have had the opportunity to ask questions and all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

PATIENT: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERPRETER: \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

2/04