

To the patient:

Your doctor has requested that we perform a Dobutamine Stress Echocardiogram on you. This is a special type of stress test for patients who cannot walk on a treadmill. Dobutamine is a medication designed to make your heart speed up, and raise your blood pressure without making you walk on a treadmill. Before we start the test we will record ultrasound pictures of your heart from four different angles. Because ultrasound is used, you are not exposed to any radiation or magnetic fields. Once the baseline pictures are recorded, an IV will be started and the medication will be administered. The amount of medication will be increased every two minutes until your heart rate is sufficient enough for us to record the second set of ultrasound pictures for comparison. During and after the administration of the medication, we will continuously monitor your heart rate, blood pressure and the ultrasound picture of the heart. The results of this test will give your doctor a good idea of whether or not you have significant blockages in the heart, and the general area of the blockages. The results of this test are immediately available to your physician.

Because of the nature of the Dobutamine, we must ask that you have nothing to eat or drink from midnight the night before the test. You can take your medications with a **small sip** of water.

If you are diabetic, DO NOT take insulin until after the procedure is over and you will be able to eat again.