

Myocardial Perfusion – medication

Department of the test: Nuclear Medicine (NM)

Purpose of the test:

To evaluate the blood flow to your heart.

Notes before the test:

1. You will have some radiation in this test.
2. Please don't bring pregnant woman or children with you.
We don't want to expose them to unnecessary radiation.

Preparation before the test:

1. Nothing to eat or drink for 4-6 hours.
2. No caffeine products (coffee, tea, cola) for 24 hours.
3. No aminophylline and vasodilators (eg: nitrates and dipyridamole) for 12 hours.
4. The stress agent might be shifted to dobutamine if necessary, depends on your physical status. In case, please discontinue the usage of beta-blocker and calcium channel blocker before the test.

On the day of the test:

1. Please check in first at NM service counter.
2. Stress scan:
 - a. NM technologists will set up an intravenous (IV) access at your arm.
 - b. NM technologists will place electrodes and wires on your chest to monitor your heart rate.
 - c. NM physician will give you dypiridamole slowly for 4 minutes, and then a bolus of radioactive tracer 2-5 minutes later.
 - d. Please follow the orders of the technologist to do low-level exercise for 3-5 minutes.
 - e. Pictures will be taken for 15 minutes by NM technologists.
3. Rest/redistribution scan: You will be given a 3-hour break and asked to return for pictures.
4. Please don't move during these pictures.

Total duration of the test: About 5-6hours with a 3-hour break.

Adverse drug effect of the test:

Dipyridamole has the potential to cause chest tightness, chest pain, dyspnea, headache, dizziness, abdominal pain, nausea et al. If you have any significant adverse effect with Dipyridamole, we have an antidote that can take your discomfort away.