

Cardiology

University Heart Center

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Information and patient consent form

Stress echocardiography

Dear patient,

A stress echocardiography (cardiac ultrasound during stress) has been scheduled for you. As part of this examination, the function of the heart muscle is examined with the ultrasound device before, during and after stress, in order to detect possible circulatory disorders or to assess a heart valve under stress. In healthy people, the heart muscle works more strongly during and immediately after the stress test than at rest. However, if the coronary artery is constricted, which can lead to a circulatory disorder, this can be detected by determining the reduced thickness of the heart muscle with the ultrasound.

Practical implementation:

The stress echocardiography is more sensitive than a normal bike or treadmill stress test, in which, besides the possible symptoms, you can only rely on the ECG. In stress echocardiography, stress is applied either through the bike or medication. In the so-called dobutamine stress echocardiography, a small plastic cannula is inserted into a vein in the arm immediately before the examination and the drug dobutamine is infused for about 5-20 minutes. Dobutamine enhances the strength of the heart muscle and has already been used for decades in healthcare to temporarily strengthen the cardiac muscle in case of cardiac insufficiency. If the dobutamine dose is increased, the heart not only beats more strongly, but also increasingly more quickly, which means that it simulates physical stress. If the heart rate increases insufficiently, atropine is given in increasing doses.

Conducting a stress echocardiography takes about 60 minutes, including preparation and after-care time. You need to fast on the day of the examination.

Possible side effects:

The risk of the stress echocardiography carried out using a cycle corresponds to a normal stress test. Cardiac ultrasound itself has no side effects. Dobutamine infusion is usually well tolerated. The most common side effects are tingling in the head and hands, palpitations, urge to urinate and possibly a feeling of pressure in the head or chest. Nausea or mild (rarely severe) arrhythmias may occur. Dobutamine is broken down in the body within a few minutes, even if liver or kidneys are not functioning properly. After releasing the stress, an antidote is injected to mitigate the effect and shorten the recovery time.

Space for a sketch / personal notes:

Please contact us,

if you do not understand something or if something seems to be important that was not mentioned in this document or in the personal consultation with your doctor.

Declaration of consent

Dr. med.

held an informed consent discussion with me. I have understood the information provided to me and could make all the pertinent questions. After sufficient time to think and answering of all my questions I hereby declare myself ready for the proposed therapy. I express my consent for any follow-up procedures that may become necessary.

Signature of patient: _____

Signature of doctor: _____

Place and date: _____

Consent to data collection and evaluation

I agree with the collection and analysis of scientific data of my treatment in an encrypted, electronic form. If necessary, the traceability of data for quality assurance is ensured. We assure you with an unrestricted right of access to inspect the data archived about you.

Signature of patient:

Place and date:

