

MYOCARDIAL SPECT WITH STRESS OR PHARMACOLOGICAL TESTING

Perfusion myocardial imaging is carried out using isonitrile radiotracers which are injected endovenously, and thereafter penetrate the myocardial tissue proportionally to the regional flow. The injection is carried out at the peak of physical exertion on a cycle ergometer, or shortly after the administration of a vasodilator (adenosine). In the case of adenosine, tea, coffee or chocolate must not be consumed on the day of the test.

The test, whether involving physical exertion or pharmacological stimulation, is carried out by a cardiologist using electrocardiographic stimulation with 12 derivations.

Main indications

- Diagnostic confirmation in the event of suspected heart disease (CAD), especially atypical angina and doubtful ECG, typical angina and negative ECG, positive ECG without angina pains, at-risk population screening;
- Assessment of the coronary flow reserve in the case of certified CAD (assessing the extent of the heart disease, as a prognostic index, for pre-op assessment and for follow-up);
- Pre-op assessment of coronary risk in the case of extracardiac surgery.

Warnings

1. Patients taking medication for heart conditions must consult with their cardiologist or family doctor;
2. In the case of adenosine testing, tea, coffee and chocolate must not be consumed on the morning of the test.

Overall duration of the investigation

The examination lasts approximately 120 minutes: 30 minutes to carry out the stimulation test, one hour following the injection and 30 minutes for the acquisition of tomoscintigraphic results.