



Patient Information: Echocardiographic Enhancing Contrast Agent

WHAT IS DEFINITY ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC ENHANCING AGENT?

At times it may be difficult to obtain clear images during your echocardiogram. If this is experienced, the Cardiac Sonographer may suggest using an echocardiographic enhancing agent in order to improve image quality and provide greater detail of the structure and function of your heart.

The contrast agent used at Bluewater Health is called Definity. This echocardiographic enhancing agent is made up of lipid encased gas microspheres that reflect sound waves from the ultrasound machine ultimately enhancing the details of your heart.

WHO SHOULD NOT USE THE ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC ENHANCING AGENT?

- Those who have had perfluten Definity Echocardiographic Enhancing Contrast Agent previously and had a reaction.
- Those who are or could be pregnant.
- Those who are breastfeeding.
- Those currently undergoing treatment for kidney stones.
- Those who have been previously diagnosed with a ventricular septal defect (VSD), an atrial septal defect (ASD) and/or a patent foramen ovale (PFO).

HOW IS CONTRAST GIVEN?

Definity echocardiographic enhancing agent is always given by a qualified member of the Cardiology team. He/she will begin by inserting a peripheral intravenous (IV) catheter into your arm. Once the IV catheter is in place and the Cardiac Sonographer is ready, the Definity Contrast will be injected into the IV to mix with your blood. It will then take approximately five minutes to take the images needed. When the Cardiac Sonographer has completed the images, the IV will be removed. The gas will naturally leave your body as you breathe.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DEFINITY?

As with any injection of any substance, there is a risk of an allergic reaction. Reactions can range from mild to very severe. The incidence of a severe reaction is very rare. We have treatment available should a reaction occur. If you experience pain at the injection site, immediately notify the technologist.

Patients should be monitored for a minimum of 20 minutes following the injection of Definity.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.



Patient Information: Agitated Saline Study

WHAT IS AN AGITATED SALINE STUDY?

An Agitated Saline study is used as an additional component to a regular transthoracic or transesophageal echocardiogram in order to assist in detecting an intracardiac shunt. This test involves agitating saline between two syringes and then administering that agitated saline through a peripheral intravenous (IV) catheter located in the arm. An Agitated Saline study is often ordered when more information is needed about your heart.

WHO SHOULD NOT RECEIVE AGITATED SALINE?

There are no contraindications for an Agitated Saline study

HOW IS THE AGITATED SALINE STUDY PERFORMED?

Agitated Saline is always given by a qualified member of the Cardiology team. He/she will ask if you have any questions about the test and will ask for your consent. He/she will begin by inserting a peripheral intravenous (IV) catheter into your arm. Once the IV catheter is in place and the Cardiac Sonographer is ready, the saline will be agitated between two syringes and injected into the IV to mix with your blood. It will then take approximately five minutes to take the images needed. When the Cardiac Sonographer has completed the images, the IV will be removed.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS?

Reports of complications are limited. Rarely, the agitated saline study can lead to ischemic complications including: stroke & TIA within in the first five minutes.

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

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