

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. They will ask if you have any questions about the test and will ask for your consent. They 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 the first five minutes.

Questions or Concerns?

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach the Cardiology department at 519-464-4400 Ext. 5282.