

Dobutamine Stress Echocardiography (Echo)

Dobutamine Stress Echocardiogram (dobutamine echo, pharmacological echocardiogram)

An echocardiogram (often called "echo" or "echocardiography") is a graphic outline of the heart's movement, valves and chambers. The dobutamine stress echo test involves infusing a medication through an intravenous (IV) line, called dobutamine, while you are closely monitored. The medication stimulates your heart and makes it "think" it is exercising. The test is used to evaluate your heart and valve function when you are unable to exercise on a treadmill or stationary cycle.

Echocardiography is often combined with Doppler ultrasound and color Doppler to evaluate blood flow across the heart's valves.

Your doctor uses dobutamine stress echo to:

- Determine how well your heart tolerates stress or exertion
- Evaluate the function of your heart and valves
- Evaluate the effectiveness of your cardiac treatment plan
- Determine the likelihood of having coronary artery disease and the need for further testing

