Cheyenne Cardiology Associates

CHEYENNE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Nuclear Stress Test

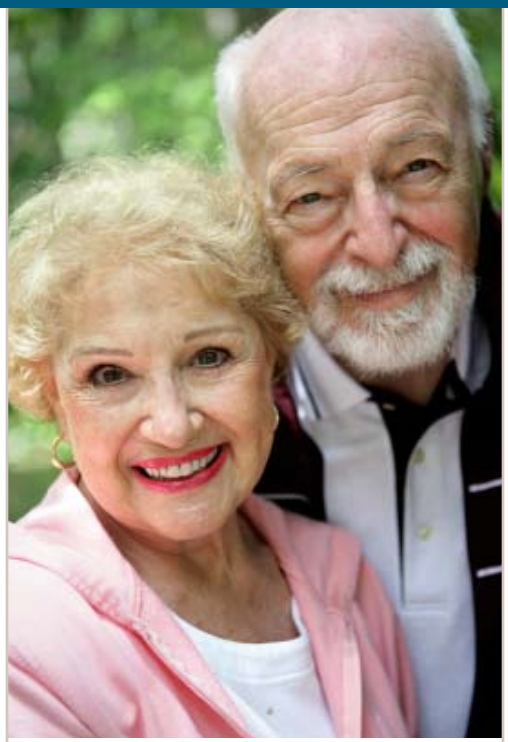
Enhancing quality of life through excellence in cardiovascular care.

A nuclear stress test measures blood flow to your heart muscle at rest and during stress. It is performed similar to a routine exercise stress test, but provides images in addition to electrocardiograms.

During a nuclear stress test, a radioactive substance is injected into your bloodstream. This substance mixes with your blood and travels to your heart. A special scanner — which detects the radioactive material in your heart — creates images of your heart muscle. Inadequate blood flow to any part of your heart will show up as a light spot on the images because not as much of the radioactive substance is getting there.

There are several types of nuclear stress tests, including:

- Mycocardial perusion scan. During this procedure, you exercise on a treadmill of pedal a stationary bicycle. When you reach your maximum heart rate, you're given the injection. Images are made of your heart shortly after exercise and also a few hours later. This test shows how well blood flows into the heart muscle and can detect narrowing of the coronary arteries (coronary artery disease).



- Multiple gated acquisition (MUGA) scan. In this test, you receive the injection before exercising. Images are made of your heart before and after exercise. A MUGA scan shows the motion of the heart and how well it pumps out blood (ejection fraction).

If you're unable to exercise, you may be injected with a medication that increases blood flow to your heart muscle, simulating exercise, for the test.

Cheyenne Cardiology Associates is dedicated to serving patients and regional partners through comprehensive cardiovascular care with expertise, innovation and compassion.

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