A myocardial perfusion scan is a test that is used to look for major blockages to the blood supply of the heart, commonly known as coronary artery disease. This test has several parts. The order of these parts can change. This usually depends on your condition and what needs to be investigated.

The following are the parts of the test;

i. **Rest Scan** – A special camera takes pictures of your heart when you have been resting.

ii. **Stress test** – This part of the test is where your heart will be ‘stressed’. This may be done with exercise (on a treadmill or stationary bicycle) or by using medication (Adenosine, Dipyridamole, Dobutamine) which increase the blood flow to the heart muscle.

iii. **Stress Scan** – A special camera takes pictures of your heart after it has been ‘stressed’.

iv. **Re-distribution Scan** – This scan only occurs in certain conditions. You will be informed by the staff whether this scan is required.

**C. Risks of the procedure**

In recommending the myocardial perfusion scans the doctor believes the benefits to you from having this procedure exceed the risks involved.

The risks and complications with this scan can include but are not limited to the following:

**Common risks and complications include:**

- Metallic taste
- Less common risks and complications include:
  - Chest pain
  - Abnormal heart rhythm
  - Asthma or wheezing with the drugs Dipyridamole or adenosine

**Rare risks and complications include:**

- Minor pain, bruising and/or infection from IV cannula site. This may require treatment with antibiotics.
- Heart attack
- ‘Mini’ stroke
- Stroke
- Tingling, nausea, a rash, flushing, itchy skin, seizures, headache, vomiting, abdominal discomfort, low blood pressure, difficulty in breathing, burning of mouth, unusual odour, mild increase in the white blood cell count and fever.
- Death as a result of this procedure is rare

*If serious complications occur, admission to hospital maybe required.*

**D. Women of child bearing age**

*This scan can not be performed if you are pregnant.*

Are you or could you be pregnant?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure ☐

If unsure, I agree to have a urine or blood pregnancy test;

Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you breastfeeding?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you have answered ‘yes’ or are unsure of any of the above questions, the health practitioner will obtain further advice and consult with a Medical Officer.

**E. Risks of radiation**

The risks of the radiation exposure from this scan needs to be compared to the risks of a serious heart condition not being treated.

Exposure to radiation may cause a slight increase in the risk of cancer to you over your lifetime.
F. Patient consent

I acknowledge that the doctor/doctor delegate has explained the proposed procedure.

I understand;

- the risks and complications, including the risks that are specific to me.
- that this diagnostic procedure is necessary as part of the management plan for my condition.
- if immediate life-threatening events happen during the procedure, they will be treated based on my discussions with the doctor/doctor delegate or my Acute Resuscitation Plan.
- a doctor/doctor delegate undergoing further training may conduct this procedure.

I have been given the following Patient Information Sheet:

☐ Myocardial Perfusion Scan

- I was able to ask questions and raise concerns with the doctor/doctor delegate about the proposed procedure and its risks. My questions and concerns have been discussed and answered to my satisfaction.
- I understand I have the right to change my mind at any time including after I have signed this form but, preferably following a discussion with my doctor/doctor delegate.
- I understand that image/s or video footage may be recorded as part of and during my procedure and that these image/s or video/s will assist the doctor to provide appropriate treatment.
- I understand that Queensland Health may release my relevant de-identified information obtained from this and related procedures for education and training of health professionals.

On the basis of the above statements,
1. **What is a Myocardial Perfusion Scan?**

A myocardial perfusion scan is a test that is used to look for major blockages to the blood supply of the heart commonly known as coronary artery disease. This test has several parts. The order of these parts can change. This usually depends on your condition and what needs to be investigated.

The following are the parts of the test:

i. **Rest Scan** – A special camera takes pictures of your heart when you have been resting.

ii. **Stress test** – This part of the test is where your heart will be ‘stressed’. This may be done with exercise (on a treadmill or stationary bicycle) or by using medication (Adenosine, Dipyridamole, Dobutamine) which increase the blood flow to the heart muscle.

iii. **Stress Scan** – A special camera takes pictures of your heart after it has been ‘stressed’.

iv. **Re-distribution Scan** – This scan only occurs in certain conditions. You will be informed by the staff whether this scan is required.

This test may take between 4 - 6 hours. Sometimes this test is done over 2 days.

2. **Will there be any discomfort, is any anaesthetic needed?**

A myocardial perfusion scan is painless, no anaesthetic is required.

3. **Preparation for the procedure**

The nuclear medicine department will give you instructions on how to prepare for your procedure. Please read and follow these carefully.

The instructions will include:
- fasting requirements
- caffeine restrictions.

- Please tell the staff if you are taking medication called Asasantin or Persantin.
- Please tell the staff if you have Diabetes as some changes to your diabetic medication may need to occur.

- You must not have a Myocardial Perfusion Scan if you are pregnant or there is any chance you might be pregnant. If your pregnancy status is uncertain it will need to be confirmed with a urine or blood test. This is done by the Nuclear Medicine Department prior to the procedure commencing.
- List or bring all your prescribed drugs, those drugs you buy over the counter, herbal remedies and supplements.

4. **During the procedure**

A needle (IV cannula) will be put into a vein in your arm, making it possible to inject the radioactive liquid required for the scans, and possibly medications for the stress test.

The scanning part will require you to lie down on a bed. Your arms will preferably be raised above your head for the scans. Please inform the health professional before the scan if you are unable to raise your arms above your head.

Pictures will then be taken by a gamma camera. This camera will slowly rotate around your chest taking pictures of your heart. Your heart may be monitored by an ECG during these scans. The scans may include a CT scan from which you will receive another radiation dose.

It is important to keep very still and to breathe normally for the entire scan. Each scan will take between 15 and 30 minutes.

The stress test may be done either by exercising (on a treadmill or a stationary bicycle) or by an IV drug infusion using medications (Adenosine, Dipyridamole or Dobutamine). The exercise treadmill or bicycle will get harder every 3 minutes. You need to exercise for as long as you reasonably can. A monitor will continually check your heart rate.

If you cannot do the exercise an IV drug infusion may be used to increase the blood flow to the heart. Some low-level exercise during the infusion such as slow walking or leg-raising may be included.

5. **After the procedure**

The small needle or IV cannula will be removed after the last scan is completed.

You will be informed if you are required to come back the following day for anymore pictures.

6. **What are the risks of this procedure?**

In recommending the myocardial perfusion scan the doctor believes the benefits to you from having this procedure exceed the risks involved.

The risks and complications with this scan can include but are not limited to the following.

**Common risks and complications include:**
- Flushing, chest or stomach discomfort, nausea, headache dizziness palpitations or low blood pressure if certain drugs (Adenosine, Dipyridamole) are used. This can be relieved by medication.
- Tremor (shakiness), palpitation or low blood pressure if the drug Dobutamine is used.
- Metallic taste

**Less common risks and complications include:**
- Chest pain
- Abnormal heart rhythm
7. Risks of radiation

The risks of the radiation exposure from this scan needs to be compared to the risks of a serious heart condition not being treated.

Exposure to radiation may cause a slight increase in the risk of cancer to you over your lifetime.

8. What are the safety issues when you leave the hospital?

There are no specific safety issues when you leave the hospital. Contact your GP or go to the nearest Emergency Department if you become unwell.

Notes to talk to my doctor/health practitioner about

If serious complications occur, admission to hospital maybe required.