

Echocardiographic Enhancing Contrast Agent

What Is Definity Echocardiographic Enhancing Contrast 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 contrast 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**; and
- 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 contrast agent is always given by a qualified member of the Cardiology team. 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 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.

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