



Other Investigations Which May Be Necessary

♥ MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)

- An MRI is a diagnostic procedure that produces detailed pictures of the human body. Since the MRI provides tomographic high-resolution pictures of the heart, it has recently become an important new test well suited for the assessment of the size and extent of left ventricular hypertrophy in HCM. In addition, a cardiac MRI may also be performed to define the precise extent of wall thickening

♥ Cardiac Catheterization

- Patients with breathlessness, which does not respond to therapy may require cardiac catheterization. In this test a fine tube is passed from a blood vessel (usually in the groin) to the heart using x-ray guidance. Pressures inside the heart are then measured and an x-ray of the heart is taken (angiography) to assess mitral regurgitation and overall function.

♥ Coronary Angiography

- Patients who experience chest pain which does not respond to therapy, may require coronary angiography. This is an x-ray of the coronary arteries to determine if they are diseased and it is performed during cardiac catheterization.

♥ Exercise Test

- The severity of the exercise limitation and the effect of therapy can be assessed with bicycle or treadmill exercise testing. Exercise testing also provides an objective measurement of improvement, stability or deterioration over time.

♥ Holter Monitor

- This test is a continuous recording of the heart beat over 24 to 48 hours. A Holter monitor is a simple and safe test which will detect irregularity of the heart beat (otherwise known as arrhythmia).

♥ Electrophysiological Studies

- These are a special form of catheterization performed to define the risk of electrical instability which may predispose to sudden death. This test involves the passage of fine wires from the veins in the groin, arm or shoulder to the heart under x-ray guidance. These wires are then used to apply electrical stimuli to record the response of the electrical system of the heart.

ⁱ Gersh BJ, Maron BJ, Bonow RO, et al. 2011 ACCF/AHA Guideline for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy: A Report of the American College of Cardiology Foundation/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines Developed in Collaboration With the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, American Society of Echocardiography, American Society of Nuclear Cardiology, Heart Failure Society of America, Heart Rhythm Society, Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions, and Society of Thoracic Surgeons. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2011;58(25):e212-e260. doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2011.06.011.