Imaging in Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy (HCM)

What Is Cardiac Imaging?
Each of the following noninvasive cardiac imaging tests provides essential information about your heart’s structure and function that can be used to:

- Provide an accurate diagnosis
- Determine how best to manage your HCM
- Assess treatment options

Echocardiogram (“Echo”)
This noninvasive test uses sound waves to make images of your heart, which:

- Measures the thickness of your heart walls
- Shows how well your heart is pumping blood
- Demonstrates how your heart valves are working
- Shows if you have the obstructive form of HCM

Stress (or Exercise) Echocardiogram
This is a safe test that shows how well your heart works after exercise, similar to your daily activities.

- Your heart rhythm and blood pressure are monitored while you use a treadmill or a stationary bike.
- After you exercise, an echo is done to see how your heart recovers from exercise.
- This shows whether an HCM patient develops an obstruction to blood flow during exercise.

Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging (CMR/MRI)
A cardiac MRI uses strong magnets and radio waves to take high-resolution images of your heart, which:

- Helps diagnose HCM when other test results are inconclusive.
- Provides a complete assessment of all your heart’s structures and functions.
- Can identify any scarring or damage to your heart muscle.

To learn more about your imaging options, visit: 4hcm.org or heart.org/hcm