



REGIONAL CARDIAC CARE PROGRAM Transesophageal Echocardiogram Patient Information

Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE) is a special ultrasound test of your heart. This test will give your doctor additional information about your heart's function and structure.

How is a Transesophageal Echocardiogram performed?

The cardiologist will insert a probe into your mouth and down your esophagus until it is positioned directly behind your heart. The probe is a soft, flexible tube that is about the diameter of your little finger and includes an ultrasound camera. The tiny camera allows the cardiologist to obtain exceptionally clear images of your heart's structure.

Before and after the test:

- ❖ It is necessary that you have nothing to eat or drink after midnight, the night prior to your test.
- ❖ You must arrange for a responsible adult to drive you home from the hospital after your test because of the sedative you will receive. **YOU ARE NOT TO DRIVE FOR 24 HOURS.**
- ❖ A registered nurse will go through a checklist with you to ensure you have a safe test.
- ❖ The cardiologist will answer any further questions you may have and you will be asked to sign a consent form.
- ❖ A fine anaesthetic mist will be sprayed into your throat to make passage of the probe smooth and painless. A mild sedative will be given to you through an intravenous line in your arm.
- ❖ The entire test will take approximately 30 to 45 minutes. The room will be darkened in order to see the images better. It is important to lie still during your test.
- ❖ After the test your nurse will stay with you until most of your sedative has worn off. Discharge instructions will be explained to you and your family member/friend.