

Trans-esophageal Echocardiogram (TEE)

What is a TEE?

A TEE is done by putting an ultrasound probe down the throat and into the esophagus while you are under heavy sedation. The probe uses sound waves to create images of the heart.

Why do I need a TEE?

A TEE can help your doctor evaluate the following:

- The valves of your heart
- Look for a blood clot in your heart after a stroke or before cardioversion or ablation
- How well your valves and chambers are working
- Growths or tumors in or around the heart
- A tear (dissection) of the aorta
- Birth defects of the heart

What can I expect?

A TEE is done under close monitoring in a hospital setting. Your throat is numbed and you are given heavy sedation. A flexible tube is guided down your throat and into your esophagus, which connects your mouth to your stomach.

How can I be prepared?

- Do not eat or drink anything for at least 6 hours before the procedure. Unless directed otherwise, you may take your morning medicines with a small sip of water.
- Arrange to have someone drive you to your procedure and take you home afterwards. The sedating medicine given to you during the procedure will affect your judgment and reflexes for much of the day.
- Arrive 60 minutes before your procedure time to check-in.
- The procedure itself lasts for about 15 minutes. After being monitored for a couple of hours, most patients are able to go home.

Date: _____

Hospital: _____

Arrival Time: _____

Procedure Time: _____

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