

Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE)

Your doctor has scheduled you for a TEE procedure. This procedure obtains images of your heart and surrounding structures from the inside of your esophagus. There are a few things you should know before your procedure.

PREPARATION: *Do not eat or drink anything* for 8 hours before the procedure. Please allow about 3 hours for this procedure. If you wear dentures, they will need to be removed before the test. Bring someone with you to drive you home.

BEFORE THE TEST: For your safety, you will be asked a number of questions by the staff taking care of you. Among the things you will be asked are:

- What kind of symptoms are you having?
- Any previous cardiac surgeries?
- Medical history?
- How you prepared for your test?

THE TEST: You will be brought to the Catheterization Lab on a bed/cart. You will need to lie on your left side for this procedure. Your throat will be sprayed with an anesthetic. The nursing staff will give you a sedative through an IV to relax you. Then, the doctor will guide the probe/camera through your mouth into your esophagus. This exam may cause some discomfort, but the Cardiac Sonographer will help to make you more comfortable. The nursing staff will also provide medication to help with your discomfort. The actual scan time is between 10-15 minutes; however the preparation before the images are taken may take up to 20 minutes.

AFTER YOUR TEST: You will be returned to your day surgery room for observation for 2 hours. Driving in not permitted for 12 hours after the procedure (due to the sedation).

RESULTS: The cardiologist will study your images in great detail after you have left the Cath lab, and will generate a report which will be faxed to your ordering physician to review and discuss with you. The Cardiac Sonographer is unable to give any results at the time of testing. If you have family members present, the Cardiologist may go out and explain the findings to your family: you won't remember what he says due to the sedation.