

# TEE (Transesophageal Echocardiogram)

TEE is a test that uses sound waves to show how the heart is working. The doctor guides a tube down the back of the throat and into the stomach. The end of the tube will be behind the heart. Pictures of the heart are taken.

An adult family member or friend needs to come with you to take you home after the test. It is not safe for you to drive or leave alone.

**Arrive on time for your test.** Plan on being here 1 to 2 hours. The test takes about 15 to 30 minutes.

## To Prepare

- Do not eat or drink anything, including water, after midnight before the test.
- Ask your doctor if you should take your medicines the morning of the test. If so, take with sips of water only.
- If you have a replacement heart valve, you will be given medicine before the test.
- Before the test, tell the staff:
  - ▶ About any medicines you are taking. Include all prescription and over the counter medicines, vitamins and herbs you use.
  - ▶ If you have any allergies.
  - ▶ About your health history and any surgeries you have had.
  - ▶ If you may be pregnant.

## During the Test

- You will wear a hospital gown.
- Staff will ask you to remove your dentures.

- An IV (intravenous) is put in a vein in your arm. Medicine may be given through the IV to help you relax.
- You lie on your left side and may fall asleep.
- You may be given oxygen through a small tube in your nose.
- Your heart rate, blood pressure and breathing are checked often.
- To numb your throat, you will be asked to gargle with a medicine or your throat will be sprayed with a medicine.
- As you swallow, the doctor guides the tube down the back of your throat. You may feel some pressure.
- The doctor moves the tube to view your heart from different angles.
- The sound waves show pictures of your heart on the screen.
- You may hear the sounds of the blood flowing through your heart.
- The tube is removed.
- Test results are sent to your doctor. Your doctor will share the results with you.

### **After the Test**

- Your heart rate and blood pressure are checked.
- Medicines given during the test will make you sleepy. You will need to have an adult family member or friend take you home for your safety.
- Do not eat or drink for at least 2 hours after the test.
- Do not drive or use power equipment the rest of the day.
- Do not drink alcohol the rest of the day.
- Your throat may be sore. Cold drinks or lozenges may help.
- Lie down if you feel lightheaded or dizzy.

Call your doctor **right away** if you have:

- Severe pain
- Shortness of breath
- Bleeding

**Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.**

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