

What You Need To Know About Your Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE)



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Pg. 1 of 2

Cardiovascular Services

What is a Transesophageal Echocardiogram?

Echocardiography is a test of the heart using sound waves. It is often the best test to find out how well your heart is working.

How is the Test Done?

Transesophageal Echocardiography uses sound waves to draw pictures of your heart at work. It is done by having you swallow a flexible tube. Sound wave pictures of your heart are taken through your esophagus (which connects your mouth to your stomach). You will not feel the sound waves.

You must not eat or drink for at least 6 - 8 hours before the test. You will need to take off your clothes from the waist up and put on a hospital gown.

Your throat will be sprayed with a numbing medicine so that you don't gag when you swallow the tube. You may be given some medicine through your vein to make you drowsy and relaxed.

This test will take about twenty minutes. After the test is finished the tube will be removed. We will have you stay for about 30 minutes to make sure you are all right.

What Are The Risks For This Test?

There are no known harmful effects caused by the sound waves used in Echocardiography. Since you are swallowing a flexible tube, you may vomit and afterwards have a sore throat.

The risk of more serious complications is very small. These include

- Bleeding caused by the tube you have swallowed.
- Vomit getting into your lungs.

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To keep these from happening, we will have you lying on your side, and will clean fluids out of your mouth.

What Happens After The Test Is Done?

If you are given medicine to make you drowsy, you must have someone else drive you to your TEE test, wait for you, and drive you home. You will not be able to use any type of public transportation such as a bus, train or taxi.

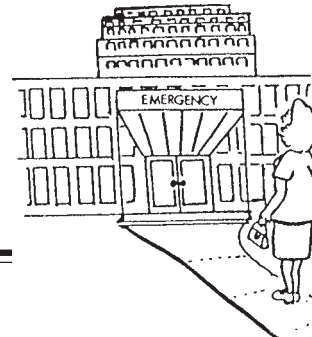
You should not:

- Eat or drink anything for 2 hours after the test.
- Drive or run machinery for at least 12 hours.
- Sign any important or legal papers for 12 hours.

For the next 24 hours you may have numbness or soreness in your throat.

Go to the Emergency Room right away if you have:

- Trouble breathing
- Chest pain
- Bleeding from your stomach or mouth.
- Chills and fever above 100° F (37.8° C).
- Pain when swallowing that gets worse



How will I get the results of the test?

- A Cardiologist (heart doctor) will check your test and send the results to your doctor.
- If you are a clinic patient, your doctor will tell you the results at your next visit.