

# Transesophageal Echocardiography

## What Is It?

A Transesophageal Echocardiogram or "TEE" allows the physician to get a closer look of your heart. An ultrasound probe is passed down your esophagus/food pipe. The esophagus lies behind the heart, so the images obtained from the TEE usually are clearer and help the cardiologist treat problems that may be harder to identify with a transthoracic echocardiogram from the chest.

## What will happen during the test?

Prior to starting the test you will be required to sign an informed consent form. An RN will start an IV for administration of sedation. Local anesthesia will be sprayed to the back of your throat to diminish the gag reflex. You will be positioned on your left side and your vital signs will be monitored throughout the procedure. Once sedated the ultrasound probe will be passed down your esophagus/food pipe by an experienced staff Cardiologist. Moving images of your heart will then be recorded. Following the procedure you will continue to be monitored until your vital signs and level of consciousness have returned to baseline.

## Why is this Test Done?

A Transesophageal Echocardiogram allows the physician to see higher quality images of your heart with ultrasound. Such higher quality images may be required for the following:

- Endocarditis/Bacteremia
- Valvular structure/function
- Congenital heart disease
- Patent Foramen Ovale
- Septal Defects
- Thrombus/Clot in the heart
- Aortic Dissections
- Aortic Aneurysms

To see the heart if diagnostic quality transthoracic echo images cannot be obtained.

## How Do You Prepare for the Test?

You will be asked to do the following prior to your transesophageal echocardiogram:

1. Do not eat or drink: 6 hours before your test
2. you will need an escort to drive you home if you are an outpatient
3. Wear comfortable clothes
4. Bring a list of your medications

The entire procedure will take approximately 90 minutes, including preparation and recovery time. Instructions after the test include no driving and nothing to eat or drink: for 1 hour