

Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE)

What is a TEE?

A transesophageal echocardiogram, or TEE, is a test that doctors use to take pictures of the heart. The TEE produces a clearer picture than the regular echocardiogram. The test can evaluate functioning of the heart muscle, chambers, and valves.

How a TEE works

A flexible tube goes down the throat with a probe that produces sound waves, which are converted into pictures on a screen.

Before your procedure

- **DO NOT EAT OR DRINK** anything after midnight the night before the test. If your test is in the afternoon, you may be asked to have a light breakfast the morning of.
- You may take your medications with small sips of water.
- Tell your doctor about any allergies, difficulty swallowing, or any problems involving your throat or stomach, the day prior to procedure.
- You will **NOT** be allowed to drive for at least 12 hours after receiving sedatives.
Someone must drive you home after the test.

What to expect during the TEE

To reduce discomfort, your throat will be numbed with a local anesthetic spray before the procedure and you will receive a light sedative.

You will be asked to lie on your side as the tube is placed down your esophagus. Patients often become sleepy or fall asleep during this procedure due to the light sedative.

The test may take 10-15 minutes.

After the TEE

- You may have a sore throat for 1-2 days after the test. Cold drinks, ice pops, or cough drops may ease the discomfort.
- **DO NOT eat or drink anything for at least 2 hours after the test.**
- Call your doctor if you have any issues or questions.