



Cardiology

Transesophageal Echocardiography

Transesophageal Echocardiography (TEE) is a useful tool that uses ultrasound waves to produce images that will allow your cardiologist to see small detailed structures and vessels within the heart by placing a tube into your mouth and passing it into the esophagus. Your physician has ordered a TEE to evaluate the effectiveness of medical or surgical treatments or because more detailed views of the heart chambers, valves and associated vessels are necessary.

Preparing for the Study

1. Do not eat or drink for six hours prior to the examination.
2. Take medications only with a small sip of water. If you have Diabetes, you will receive special instructions from your nurse or physician.
3. Tell your nurse or physician if you have any problems with your esophagus such as difficulty swallowing.
4. Bring someone with you who will be able to drive you home after the examination.

What to Expect

You may expect to spend several hours in the laboratory. The nurse or sonographer will ask you questions about your medical history, surgical history and if you have had this type of procedure before. You will then have a blood pressure cuff applied to your arm, EKG electrodes attached to your chest, an oxygen sensor applied to your fingertip and an IV line started. You will also be given oxygen. If you wear dentures, you will be asked to remove them.

You may be given medication to help you to relax. Your mouth will be numbed by an anesthetic spray or gel. The physician will ask you to lie on your side and will place the tube into your mouth and ask you to swallow. This tube is an endoscope that has an ultrasound transducer that will send and receive sound waves. Precise movement of the scope will produce ultrasound images and audio, which allow the physician to view and record images, which will later be interpreted. You may feel drowsy during the procedure. Your vital signs will be closely monitored throughout the test.

After the Procedure

Your mouth may feel numb or sore after the test. Do not eat or drink anything for at least one hour after the test and begin with cool liquids as tolerated. You will receive detailed instructions from your nurse or physician.

Date of Procedure _____ **Hospital** _____

Your follow up appointment is scheduled on _____ at _____.

Thank you for allowing the cardiologists of the Florida Medical Clinic to participate in your healthcare needs.