

YOUR TEE APPOINTMENT

(Transesophageal Echocardiography)

TEE Instructions:

- **Do not eat or drink after 12 midnight the night before**
- **Do not smoke after 12 midnight the night before**
- **Take your heart and blood pressure medications the morning of your exam with just a small sip of water**
- **Arrive 2 hours early (for registration & preparation)**
- **Please make sure someone accompanies you because you will be sedated. Therefore you will need to be driven home by someone. DO NOT DRIVE FOR 24 HOURS AFTER EXAM.**
- **DO NOT drink alcoholic beverages for 24 hours after exam**
- **Make sure you bring your Insurance Card(s), ID & Script from your physician**
- **Please make sure you have a follow up appointment to see your doctor AFTER the exam**

****** Please turn page over for TEE Procedure description ******

WHAT IS A TEE?

There are several ways to create an image of the heart and show how it functions. The TEE is one of these ways.

Transesophageal echocardiography is a painless ultrasound imaging exam. It will show the heart structure and the blood flow through the heart. This procedure can detect heart problems such as blood clots, aneurysms, valve dysfunction, septal defects, valve regurgitation, endocarditis (infection of the heart valve) and cardiac masses.

The instrument used is inserted through the mouth and passed into the esophagus. Because the heart and esophagus are close together and there are no boney structures between, TEE can provide a clear image of the heart.

The TEE probe is a long flexible instrument with an ultrasound sensor located at the tip. The probe is passed through the mouth, down the back of the throat, and into the esophagus and stomach. This allows the doctor to examine the heart and valves through ultrasound images. No biopsies (tissue samples) are taken from the heart during the TEE.

The exam is extremely well tolerated with little or no discomfort. The probe does not interfere with breathing. There is no risk of heart damage from the exam.

Call your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:

- Unusual pain or difficulty swallowing
- Unusual abdominal or chest pain
- Vomiting of blood
- Black or bloody stools
- Temperature above 100.6F