



Transesophageal Echocardiogram

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(616) 719-5939

How to prepare?

Morning of Test:

1. Avoid eating or drinking anything for at least six (6) hours before the test.
2. Bring a responsible person with you.
 - a. To receive results with you after the tests.
 - b. To drive you home.

What can I expect?

First, you will be asked to sign a form that gives Dr. Manohar permission to do the test. Then, leads will be connected to your chest so your doctor can see your heart rhythm. An IV will be placed in a vein in your hand or arm to allow medicine to be given to you. Dr. Manohar, a cardiac sonographer and registered nurse or anesthesiologist will be with you during the test. Before the test starts, you may receive medication to numb the back of your throat. You will receive medicine through the IV to make you feel sleepy. If necessary, you may receive oxygen to you during the test.

Finally, once you are relaxed, the physician will gently guide the probe into your mouth. You will be monitored closely throughout the test. The time the probe is taking pictures is approximately 10-15 minutes. However, expect the entire time you spend to be 2 hours.

Recovery

You will stay in the hospital until the effects of the medication wear off enough to allow you to go home. This may take 30-60 minutes or longer. You may not drive for the rest of the day so you will need to have a responsible person accompany you to drive you home after the test.

What is a Transesophageal echocardiogram?

An Echocardiogram or echo is an ultrasound of the heart that allows your physician to see the size and shape of your heart, the movement of the heart muscle and valves and the flow of blood through the heart chambers. A Transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE) is performed by inserting a flexible tube about the width of your pinky through the mouth and into the esophagus (swallowing tube). The heart sits right behind the stomach and esophagus so Dr. Manohar can get a clearer picture than a regular echocardiogram. The TEE probe has a transducer, a device similar to a microphone, which sends out sound waves. The sound waves move through the heart tissues, where the signal is transformed into moving pictures of the heart muscle, valves and the flow of blood through the heart.

Why do I need a Transesophageal Echocardiogram?

A TEE may help evaluate your heart valves, heart muscle and overall heart structure. It is also needed in patients with stroke /or mini stroke to see if there may be a source for the stroke in the heart such as a clot.

You will receive the results of your test from Dr. Manohar before you go home.

If you have any questions about your test or test instructions, please call us at (616) 719-5939.