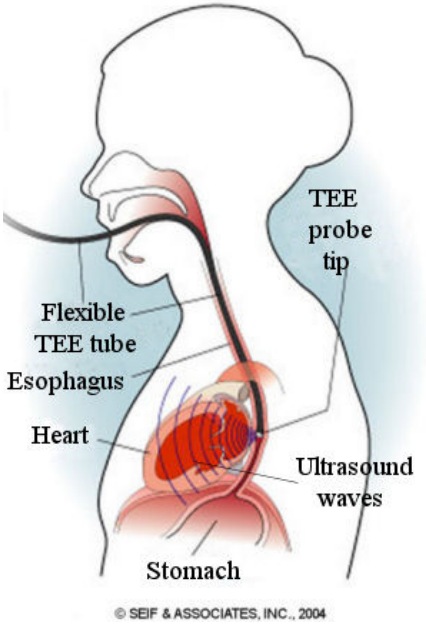
Transesophageal Echocardiogram
(TEE)

A transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE) is a picture test of your heart using sound waves. The pictures taken can give very detailed pictures of your heart. This can help your doctor see if there are problems with your heart.

WHY IS A TEE DONE?



- A TEE is done because your doctor may need to find out more about your heart. A TEE can check:
  - If your heart has blood clots in it.
  - How well your heart valves are working.
  - If you have swelling on the inside lining of your heart.
  - Some of the major arteries of your heart.

HOW IS A TEE DONE?

- A TEE is done by passing a flexible tube down your swallowing tube (*esophagus*).
- An IV will be started in your hand or arm. Medicine will be given to keep you relaxed during the TEE.
- A numbing medicine will be sprayed in the back of your throat to help numb it.
- The tip of the probe is placed into the back of your mouth and you will be asked to swallow. This helps to pass the probe into your swallowing tube.
- Once the tip of the probe is in the right place, your doctor can take pictures of your heart.
- A TEE is not a painful test. You may feel pressure at the back of your throat.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE TEE TEST IS DONE?

- You will be taken to a recovery room area so the sedation can wear off. You will go home when you are fully awake and able to swallow liquids.
- Your throat may be sore and scratchy after the TEE. This normally goes away in 24 hours.
- You must have someone take you home. Do not drive or operate machinery for the rest of the day.

FINDING OUT THE RESULTS OF YOUR TEST

Make sure you know how to get your test results. If you do not get your results, call your doctor to find out the test results. Do not assume everything is normal if you have not heard from your doctor. It is important for you to find out the results of your test.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF YOU:

- Have chest pain.
- Have a hard time breathing or cannot catch your breath.
- Cough or throw up blood.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your condition.
- Will get help right away if you are not doing well or get worse.

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