

# Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE)



Interior Health  
*Every person matters*

Patient Information

[www.interiorhealth.ca](http://www.interiorhealth.ca)

## What is a TEE?

A transesophageal echocardiogram or TEE is a procedure that uses sound waves to take pictures of your heart. A TEE is done by giving a medicine to help you relax and passing a flexible tube down the esophagus. The esophagus is the tube that carries food from the throat to the stomach.

## Why did my doctor order a TEE?

TEE pictures give detailed images of your heart without interference from the chest wall, ribs or lungs. This can help your doctor determine if there are any problems with your heart.

## How long will the procedure take?

Once the tube is inserted down the esophagus, the procedure will take 20 to 60 minutes. You will be monitored for 1 to 2 hours after the procedure, until you are fully awake and ready to go home.

## Preparation for the procedure

1. **Do not** eat or drink for 8 hours before the procedure.
2. **You must** arrange for a ride home following the procedure.
3. Upon arrival to the hospital, please register for the procedure following the instructions provided at the time your appointment was booked.

## What to expect after the procedure?

1. When you first wake up, your throat may feel sore and numb.
2. **Do not** eat or drink for 2 hours after the procedure.
3. **Do not** drive for 24 hours after the procedure.
4. **Do not** drink alcohol or sign legal documents for 24 hours after the procedure.

Healthlink BC	Nurse	24 hours a day	Daily	<i>Call 8-1-1 to speak with a nurse, ask a dietitian about nutrition, or a pharmacist about your medication.</i>
<b>Call 8-1-1</b>	Dietitian	9 am–5 pm	Mon–Fri	
	Pharmacist	5 pm–9 am	Daily	
	Hearing Impaired	Call 7-1-1		
<a href="http://www.healthlinkbc.ca">www.healthlinkbc.ca</a>				