

Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE)

Patient Information
www.interiorhealth.ca

What is this test and why is it necessary?

A transesophageal echocardiogram or TEE is a special type of heart ultrasound procedure. It is requested by a physician when there are questions about your heart that cannot be answered by a routine heart ultrasound. The physician will give you a mild sedative and then position a flexible tube through your mouth and into your throat to safely examine the heart close-up. This will provide clearer images of the heart structures without interference from the chest wall, ribs or lungs.

How long is the duration of this test?

Once the tube is inserted down your throat, it will take approximately 15–20 minutes to complete the procedure. You will be monitored after the test for 1–2 hours, until you are fully awake and ready for discharge.

Preparation for the test:

1. You are **NOT** to have anything to eat or drink for **6 hours** before the procedure.
2. You **MUST** have someone drive you home after the procedure.
3. Upon your arrival to the hospital, please register for your procedure following the instructions provided at the time your procedure was booked.

After the test:

1. You will **NOT** be able to eat or drink anything for up to 2 hours after the procedure, until you can swallow again.
2. You will **NOT** be able to drive for the remainder of the day.
3. Remember you **MUST** have someone drive you home after the procedure.



Interior Health

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Healthlink BC

Dial 8-1-1

*Talk to a Nurse 24 hours/day, 7 days/week
Pharmacist available between 5 p.m. - 9 a.m. daily
Dietitian between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. - Monday to Friday
www.healthlinkbc.ca*