



What is a TEE Test?

This is a test used to see the inside of your heart and blood vessels. A doctor does the test by putting a small flexible tube through your mouth and down the throat and esophagus (this is located just behind your heart). This tube has a special tip (called a transducer) that picks up sound waves to computerize the images of the heart.

Why does my doctor want me to have this test?

Your doctor may order this to see if you have:

1. a problem in your heart
2. a problem with your heart valves
3. a problem with the blood flow in your heart

How do I prepare for the test?

Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your test. Check with your doctor to see if you should take your medication before the test.

**You will need someone to drive you home from the test.
You will not be allowed to drive a car all day**

What happens during the stress exam?

First, when you come to the Cardiology Department for your test we will ask you questions about your health history. After we explain the test to you, we will ask you to sign consent before the test is started.

An IV will be started in your arm. You will have an oxygen tube put under your nose. Next we will place an oxygen monitor on your finger, to check your oxygen level. To check your heart and rhythm, we will place a monitor on your chest.

The doctor will give you a medicine to make you feel groggy. The medicine will also make you forgetful. The doctor will put a safe guard in your mouth to bite on. This will protect your teeth and the tube.

Next, the doctor will put the TEE probe through the safe guard, down your mouth into your esophagus. This is to see pictures of your heart.

How long does the test take?

The test usually takes about 20 minutes.

What happens after the test?

We will continue to check your blood pressure, your heart rate and your breathing for about 30 minutes after the test. When you are ready, your IV will be taken out. You will be groggy from the medicine so try to rest for about 2 hours after or until the medicine wears off.

Your throat may be a little numb, don't eat for about 1 hour after the test. Your doctor will follow-up with you about the test.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Cardiology Department at 756-3560.