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Facts about Transesophageal Echocardiography

What is a transesophageal echocardiography?

A **transesophageal echocardiography** (T.E.E.) is a test that will allow us to look at your heart from the esophagus by using ultrasound. A transducer will be inserted into the esophagus to obtain different views of the heart. T.E.E. is superior in imaging quality to regular echo because it allows imaging of the heart and surrounding structures without the ribs or lung in the way. A T.E.E. is indicated whenever transthoracic echocardiography does not provide the detail needed for diagnosis.

What is the procedure?

The T.E.E. is an outpatient procedure that will be done in a special room in the hospital where your heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen level, and heart rhythm will be monitored by trained nurses. You should plan to be at the hospital for 4-6 hours. Before the procedure is done you will be seen in the office for a pre-op visit. During this visit, the doctor will discuss the benefits, risks, and contraindications of the procedure. On the day of your procedure you are to be fasting. This means nothing to eat, no coffee, juice or water, 6 hours prior to testing. If you are scheduled to take medications, please be sure to discuss this with Dr. Tsoi.

Once you are at the hospital an I.V. will be started. Once you are in the procedure room you will receive intravenous sedation and you will be given a local anesthetic to numb up your mouth and throat. The transducer will then be inserted and views taken of the heart from the esophagus and from the stomach. Imaging will take approximately 25 minutes. The probe will then be removed

and you will be observed for 2 hours. During this time the anesthetic will wear off and your ability to swallow will be tested.

What happens after the procedure?

Because of the use of sedation you will need someone to drive you home and you will be asked not to drive that day. You should avoid hot liquids and hard foods i.e., nuts, chicken, or fish with bones, etc.. If you experience any vomiting, bleeding, chest pain, or pain with swallowing be sure to contact Dr. Tsoi immediately at (510)792-3595.

What happens at the follow up?

Once the procedure is done, you should have a follow-up visit. At this time Dr. Tsoi will go over the results of your test. If you were referred by another physician, a full report will be sent out to the referring physician.

Do you have any questions?

If you have any questions regarding the test or your test results please contact the office at (510)792-3595.