

TRANSESOPHAGEAL ECHOCARDIOGRAM INSTRUCTIONS

You have been scheduled to have a transesophageal echocardiogram. The purpose of this procedure is to evaluate your heart function by taking ultrasound pictures of your heart from a probe placed into your esophagus (swallowing tube).

If you have trouble swallowing, have disease of the esophagus (“swallowing tube”), or have had throat surgery, let your physician know.

- ♥ We will discuss with you the medications you can or cannot take on the day of the test. Bring all of your current medications to your appointment.
- ♥ Do not eat or drink anything for 8 hours before the procedure.
- ♥ Wear comfortable clothing with a separate top and bottom.
- ♥ An intravenous line will be started through which you will receive a sedative during the procedure.
- ♥ You will be sleepy after the procedure and will not be able to drive home. Have a friend or family member bring you to the hospital and be sure that your friend or family member can drive you home.
- ♥ Do not drive or make any major decisions until the day following the procedure.
- ♥ You may eat after the procedure as soon as your throat is no longer numb. Start with cool liquids. Add to your diet as you feel comfortable.
- ♥ Your throat may be a little sore - use throat lozenges, if needed.

We are pleased to answer your questions or discuss your condition with other health care professionals.