



Pacific Cardiovascular Associates Medical Group

Transesophageal Echocardiography Test

WHAT IS A TRANSESOPHAGEAL ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY TEST?

Transesophageal echocardiography, or TEE, is a test that uses sound waves to create high-quality moving pictures of the heart and its blood vessels. TEE is a type of echocardiography (echo). Echo shows the size and shape of the heart and how well the heart chambers and valves are working. Echo can pinpoint areas of heart muscle that aren't contracting well because of poor blood flow or injury from a previous heart attack.

PRE-TEST GUIDELINES

Patients receiving transesophageal echocardiography should not eat after midnight the night before the test, but should take any medications as usual except diuretics ("water pills") unless otherwise directed.

RISK FACTORS

Transesophageal echocardiography has a small risk of minor throat damage.

WHAT TO EXPECT

For transesophageal echocardiography, a sedative will be administered. For a transesophageal echocardiogram, the patient swallows a long, slender, flexible tube that has an ultrasound-imaging device near its tip. The tube is directed from the mouth, through the esophagus, and into the stomach.

POST-TEST GUIDELINES

For transesophageal echocardiography, patients should observe the following restrictions:

- Avoid driving for 24 hours if a sedative was administered; and
- Avoid eating and drinking, especially hot foods and liquids, for at least 2 hours after the test.