

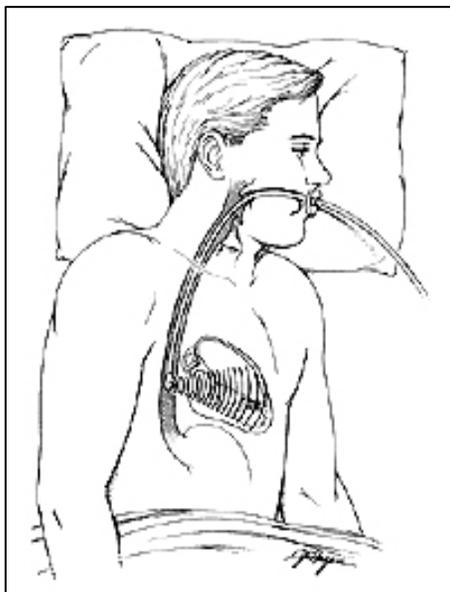
What is a Transesophageal Echocardiogram, or TEE?

Why is a Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE) ordered?

A Transesophageal Echocardiogram, also called TEE, is a test that shows images of your heart using ultrasound waves. A TEE is used to look for any abnormalities in the physical structure of the heart including the chambers, valves, and associated blood vessels.

TEE's help to evaluate:

- A heart difficult to examine using a regular Echocardiogram
- Patients with congenital heart disease
- Patients with prosthetic heart valves
- Patients suspected of having a stroke



At Danbury Hospital, only experienced Cardiologists perform the Transesophageal Echocardiograms.

How long will this test take?

You should plan to be in the echocardiography lab for about two hours. The actual procedure usually lasts 10 to 20 minutes. The remainder of the time is spent in preparation and observation.

Prior to the test- What do I need to do?

- Do not eat or drink anything for at least 6 hours prior to the exam.
- Medications may be taken with a small sip of water at the normal scheduled time.
- Since intravenous sedation is used, you must have a person drive you home after the test.
- Tell the doctor if you have a problem swallowing or if you have any conditions involving your esophagus or stomach.
- If you wear dentures or oral prostheses, you will need to remove them prior to the test starting.

Day of the test- What can I expect?

- You will be taken to the procedure room, and asked to change into a hospital gown. The registered nurse will take all of your vital signs, start an IV (Intravenous line), and you will be asked to lie on your left side.
- Your throat is sprayed with an anesthetic to numb it; this helps to reduce your gag reflex. You may be given a low dose of a sedative through the IV line in your arm to help you relax.

- The doctor gently inserts the probe into your mouth. As you swallow, the tube is slowly directed into the esophagus, it goes down the esophagus the same way as swallowed food. When the tube first enters your esophagus it may be a little uncomfortable, with the use of the sedative it minimizes the discomfort and there is usually no pain.
- The transducer is positioned in the esophagus, directly behind the heart where high quality images are recorded. By rotating and moving the tip of the transducer, the cardiologist can examine the heart from several different angles. Your heart rate, blood pressure and breathing are constantly monitored during the procedure. Oxygen is given as a preventive measure and suction is used, as needed to clear secretions from your mouth.

After you TEE- Is there any special care?

- Arrange for someone to drive your home. You will not be able to drive for 8 hours after the exam.
- Do not drink for 2 hours or as instructed after the exam.
- If your throat is slightly sore after the test, take cold drinks and lozenges to soothe it.

*Be sure to report unusual symptoms such as difficulty in swallowing, shortness of breath, chest pain, bleeding or fever.

Directions to your appointment

****This test is performed only at Danbury Hospital Main Campus.***

Danbury Hospital- Located at 24 Hospital Ave., Danbury, CT. Follow directions to the BLUE parking lot and park in the Purple section. Enter the main lobby on the fifth floor; at the information desk ask for directions to Cardiology Stress Testing / Echo Lab.

If you have further questions please call **(203) 739-4999**.

Additional information can also be found at our website; www.danburyhospital.org.

Sources:

Danbury Hospital @ www.danburyhospital.org

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute @ <http://nhlbi.nih.gov>

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