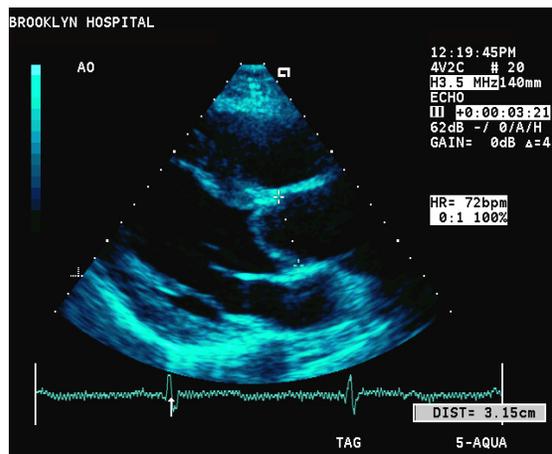


St. Luke's Heart Care Services Patient / Family Information

Trans-Esophageal Echocardiogram (TEE)

What is a Trans-Esophageal Echocardiogram (TEE)?

A TEE is an ultrasound test of your heart. Sound waves are used to make a picture of your heart.



Why is a TEE performed?

A TEE allows the doctor to see different parts of your heart and how well they are working. The doctor looks at the valves of the heart, the size of the heart, and also how your heart moves with each beat.

Where is a TEE performed?

A TEE is normally performed in a hospital. Most of the time you are taken to a special testing room, but sometimes we can do the test in your hospital bed.

What should you wear for the test?

When you arrive to the hospital for the test you will be asked to wear a hospital gown, but you will be allowed to wear shorts or pants.

How long does the test take to complete?

The test will take about 30 to 45 minutes to complete.

Who will be performing the test?

A heart doctor will be performing the test. A nurse and an echo technician will be assisting the heart doctor during the procedure.

What should you expect before the test?

You will be told to not eat or drink anything from 6 to 8 hours before the start of your procedure. You will arrive in a pre-test area 2 hours before your procedure start time where the nurses will get you ready for the procedure. They will have to start an IV on you and possibly take some blood samples.

When you arrive to the testing room you will have to gargle with some fluid that will make your throat numb. We will then remove any loose dentures or partial plates. We will also hook you up to some machines to help monitor your heart rhythm and blood pressure.

What should you expect during the test?

The nurse will give you some medicine to help you relax during the procedure, but you will not be put to sleep. The heart doctor will insert a probe into your mouth and will move it down into your throat and stomach. This part can be uncomfortable. The pictures take about 20 to 25 minutes to take.

Will you have pain or discomfort?

Yes, there will be some discomfort when the scope is moved into your throat, but the nurse and the heart doctor will help you and give you medications.

What should you expect after the procedure?

You may be very sleepy after the test. You will not be allowed to eat or drink anything for 2 hours. You may also have a sore throat for 2 to 3 days after the test. Call your heart doctor or family doctor if the pain is bad.

You will be sent to a recovery room for 1 to 2 hours and then will be allowed to go home as long as it is okay with the heart doctor.

When will you know the results of your test?

The heart doctor will talk to you and your family right after the procedure. You may still be sleepy and you might forget what the heart doctor said. The nurse will help answer questions for you or they can call the heart doctor for you. The results will be sent to the doctor that ordered the test and also to your family doctor.

Outpatient instructions:

The doctor that ordered the test for you will call St. Luke's to schedule the exam and to schedule a heart doctor to perform the exam. You will be pre-registered for the test so you will not have to register at the Outpatient Registration Desk.

Name: _____

Exam Date and Time: _____

Please contact the St. Luke's Hospital Diagnostic Cardiology Department if you have further questions: 319-369-7400