

Transesophageal Echocardiogram

A minimally invasive echocardiogram that offers very clear images of the heart's structures and valves, without the interference of the chest wall and lungs. This procedure requires that a probe be passed down the esophagus (much like a gastroscope), except it uses ultrasound instead of a light source and camera. Total time for the test is about 1 hour. A patient needs to fast after midnight. The time that the probe is in the body is typically about 10 to 15 minutes. An IV is started to administer sedation to make the patient comfortable during the procedure. If the test is performed as an outpatient procedure, the patient needs to arrange for transportation home.

