



Transoesophageal Echocardiography

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

Transoesophageal echocardiogram (TOE) is an ultrasound examination of your heart. An endoscope type of instrument (a long, thin, flexible instrument) is placed in your food pipe/oesophagus.

This technique is useful for close assessment of the heart valves prior to surgery and in certain conditions such as atrial fibrillation, to exclude clot within one of the chambers of the heart.

Transeoesophageal echocardiography is also used during cardiac surgery to monitor cardiac function.

During cardiac catheterisation, TOE is useful to guide device placement such as 'Mitra Clip' or 'Watchman device' /left atrial appendage occlusion device.

High frequency sound waves are used to create moving images of your heart.

We use the latest technology to ensure optimal images for diagnosis and surgical planning.

Preparation

You must not eat or drink 6 hours prior to the procedure.

In most cases you can take your medication with a small sip of water, check with your Cardiologist if you need to withhold certain medication until after the procedure.

Procedure

A Cardiologist will be performing the procedure with an anaesthetist and nursing staff.

A cannula (small tube) will be placed in your arm and medications will be given to lightly sedate you. A mouth guard will be placed in your mouth to protect your teeth.

The probe will then be guided into your mouth and into the oesophagus.

The procedure takes between 10-20mins

You will need to have a family member/friend available to collect you after the procedure as you are not permitted to drive for 24 hours after the procedure. The medication given to you has a sedative effect and may cause you to feel drowsy or sleepy several hours after the test and you might not be able to remember much of the test.

Results

A report will be sent to your referring doctor, usually within 24 hours. You can arrange a follow up appointment with your Cardiologist to discuss the results and recommend an appropriate treatment plan.

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