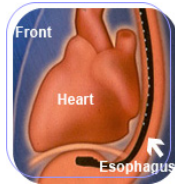


UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER

PATIENT EDUCATION

TRANSESOPHAGEAL ECHOCARDIOGRAM



Your physician has referred you to the Diagnostic Services Department at United Hospital Center for a Transesophageal Echocardiogram. This is a procedure whereby a flexible tube (endoscope) is inserted into the mouth and passed into the esophagus (food tube). The heart is then imaged from within the esophagus with an endoscope-mounted ultrasound transducer. Imaging from within the esophagus allows the echocardiographer to avoid interference from the ribs, lungs, and subcutaneous tissue. The procedure allows imaging of many structures with better resolution than that obtained by routine echocardiography.

You may be given medication to help you relax during the exam. For this reason, out-patients must be accompanied by a responsible adult who will provide transportation home after the exam. **You must not eat or drink anything for 6 hours prior to your exam.** You, or your legal guardian, will be asked to sign a consent form. You should arrive 30 minutes to 1 hour prior to exam time to allow sufficient preparation. A small needle will be inserted into a vein in your arm or hand to allow for the injection of a sedative or fluids, if necessary. If you wear dentures you will be asked to remove them and the back of your throat will be anesthetized with a spray or gel to suppress your gag reflex. A plastic bite guard will be placed in your mouth, through which the endoscope will pass. An automatic blood pressure cuff will be placed around your arm and several patches will be placed on your skin. This will allow our nurse to monitor your blood pressure and heart beat during the exam.

The physician performing your exam will instruct you when to swallow as he inserts the tube. Once it is in place, he will manipulate the tube and its controls to obtain the desired images. This part of the exam usually takes 15-30 minutes. When completed, the tube will be withdrawn. If you are an out-patient, you will be taken to a hospital room for approximately 30-60 minutes following the exam. If you are an in-patient, you will be returned to your room and the nursing staff will be instructed in your care. Since your throat will stay numb for a time after the exam, it is important that you **DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING FOR 2-3 HOURS AFTER THE EXAM.** Additional instructions, if any, will be given to you by the nurse, the sonographer, or the physician.

Any questions regarding the results of this test should be discussed with the physician who referred you for the exam.

LENGTH: Approximately 15-30 minutes for Ultrasound exam
Approximately 30-60 minutes hospital stay for monitoring following exam.

DISCLAIMER: The content contained in this patient education is presented solely with the intent of providing public service information on health and health-related issues. This information is neither intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice. Always consult your physician or other qualified health provider prior to utilizing any of the information presented in this patient education. UHC makes no warranty, representation or guaranty as to the content, accuracy, timeliness or completeness of the information presented in this patient education or that the information may be relied upon for any reason.