



## **Trans-esophageal echocardiogram (TEE ) Pre - procedure and instructions after the procedure.**

A trans-esophageal echocardiogram allows for a more detailed look at the heart. This is because a standard echo has to see past skin, muscles, fat, ribs, and lungs; whereas the esophagus sits right behind the heart. This is a test that is used to remove or to ensure that there is no clot in the atrium (upper chamber ). This can be done before a procedure of catheter ablation or before cardioversion . A TEE can also be ordered by the doctor if he needs a more clear picture of your heart and its structures . These pictures help the doctor determine your heart function, to consider how the valves are healthy and look for any blood clot in the atrium.

### **Before the Test :**

Please inform Dr. Florin if you have trouble swallowing or have a history of problems with your esophagus. It is very important to know if you had some procedures in your esophagus (dilatation) before scheduling the test.

- You will be asked to have nothing to eat or drink (including water ) for 6 hours before the procedure . You need to let the doctors know if you have dentures or loose teeth .
- The monitoring equipment will be attached so that nurses can monitor your heart rate and blood pressure. • An intravenous (IV) catheter will be placed in your hand or arm. This will be used to give sedative medications to put you into a light sleep.

### **During the Test:**

You will be given a sedative. A small, flexible tube (endoscope ) is passed down the back of your throat into the esophagus (food pipe) . This tube has the ability to use sound waves (ultrasound) to take pictures of your heart.

### **After the Test :**

If you are to have another procedure after the TEE, it will take place if no blood clots are seen in your heart. Your throat may feel a sense a bit sore or irritated. This is normal and will improve in a day or two.

If you are to go home, you will be allowed to fully recover from anesthesia prior to leaving . Someone will need to drive you home , since you will not be allowed to drive after receiving anesthesia .