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TRANSESOPHAGEAL ECHOCARDIOGRAM

A transesophageal echocardiogram, called a T.E.E., is an ultrasound procedure that is performed to get high quality images of the heart. T.E.E. is useful in assessment of cardiac abnormalities (valvular diseases, blood clots and wall motion abnormalities) that are not well seen by standard echocardiograms.

This procedure is done on an outpatient basis in the Cardiovascular Lab. An I.V. will be started in your forearm. You will be given a mild sedative through the I.V. to help you relax. Your throat will be sprayed with an anesthetic to numb it. As you swallow, the tube is slowly guided into your esophagus. The tube is lubricated to make it slide easily. You should feel little or no discomfort during the procedure. A nurse monitors your heart rate, blood pressure and breathing during the test which usually takes 20 to 30 minutes.

After the procedure, you will be monitored for approximately one hour or until all effects of the medications have worn off. Throat irritation is not uncommon and may last for a couple of hours after the procedure. Do not eat or drink until your throat is no longer numb. Do not drive for 12 hours. Report unusual symptoms, such as bleeding, internal pain or a stiff neck to your doctor. The length of hospital stay is 1 to 2 hours.

You will need to follow these directions pre-procedure:

1. Nothing to eat or drink 8 hours before the procedure. You may take any prescribed medications with a sip of water only.
2. Arrange to have someone else drive you home.

If you have any questions about this information, call the nurses at the office number above.

Your procedure is scheduled at _____.

Check into the _____ on _____,

at _____.