



What is a Transoesophageal Echocardiogram?

A transoesophageal echocardiogram (T.O.E), is similar to an echocardiogram, but is performed via an ultrasound transducer or probe, sitting in the oesophagus or food pipe. This test takes approximately 40 minutes.

When is a Transoesophageal Echocardiogram used?

A 'trans-thoracic' or traditional echocardiogram is performed by placing a probe on the chest wall. The ultrasound waves need to pass through skin, fat and muscle while avoiding the ribs and lungs. As you can imagine these factors play a significant role in the quality of results obtained. In certain instances this test does not allow clear vision of specific areas of the heart. The T.O.E. probe will lie much closer to the heart than a traditional probe, providing a clearer and more detailed view of your heart's structures.

How do I prepare for Transoesophageal Echocardiogram?

As this procedure is undertaken in hospital you will need to complete your admission paperwork, which the Nepean Cardiology staff will provide to you, and return to the admitting hospital at least three days prior to your admission date. This paperwork can be submitted online for Peninsula Private Hospital if you'd prefer.

You will need to fast for six hours prior to the admission time however any medication you need to continue to take can be taken with a sip of water. Please continue to take all medications as normal unless specifically directed by your Cardiologist to cease them. Please bring a list of current medications or the medication bottles with you to the hospital.

You will need to have someone drive you to and from the hospital, and stay with you at home the night of the procedure. You will not be able to drive yourself or take a taxi alone after the procedure. Please advise the Nepean Cardiology staff if you do not have someone to stay with you after the procedure as they will arrange for an overnight hospital admission.