

Transesophageal Echo CD 2.4-2.5 Summary

- Transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE) is a semi-invasive ultrasonic examination of the heart through the esophagus. Due to the proximity of the esophagus to the heart and great vessels, it allows for additional and more accurate information than transthoracic echocardiography for several specific diagnoses, catheter based cardiac interventions and cardiac surgery.¹
- TEE is utilized not only for diagnostic purposes but also for dynamic decision making with cardioversions, surgical intervention and assessment of surgical repair.²
- TEE has become an essential imaging tool for pediatric and adult cardiologists, cardiac surgeons and anesthesiologists and is used in outpatient and inpatient settings as well as operating rooms.
- The test is performed and interpreted by physicians that have demonstrated both cognitive and technical competence in TEE.^{1,2}
- TEE is readily accessible, has no ionizing radiation exposure and does not require use of IV contrast.
- There are relative and absolute contraindications which are reviewed prior to insertion of the TEE probe which include and are not limited to esophageal pathology, coagulopathy and cervical spine injury.²

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3. Douglas PS, Garcia M, Haines DE, et al. ACCF/AHA/ASA/ASNC/HFSA/HRS/SCAI/SCCM/SCCT/SCMR 2011 Appropriate Use Criteria for Echocardiography. J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2011;24:229-67.
4. Mitchell C, Blauwt LA, Canaday B et al. Guidelines for Performing a Comprehensive Transthoracic Echocardiographic Examination in Adults: Recommendations from the American Society of Echocardiography. J Am Soc Echocardiogr 2019;32:1-64. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.echo.2018.06.004>
5. Quinones MA, Douglas PS, Foster E, et al. ACC/AHA clinical competence statement on echocardiography: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association/American College of Physicians- American Society of Internal Medicine Task Force on Clinical Competence. J Am Coll Cardiol 2003;41:687-708.
6. Cheitlin MD, Alpert JS, Armstrong WF, Aurigemma GP, et al. ACC/AHA Guidelines for the Clinical Application of Echocardiography. Circulation 1997;95:1686-1744. <https://doi.org/10.1161/01.CIR.95.6.1686>