



PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

TRANSOESOPHAGEAL ECHOCARDIOGRAM (TOE)

TOE is used to obtain detailed images of the heart with high frequency ultrasound. It is performed under sedation and is generally well tolerated. This procedure requires the insertion of an ultrasound probe into the oesophagus. The procedure usually takes 10 minutes and has few complications, less than 1 in 5000 chance of damage to the oesophagus. Oxygen saturation and blood pressure are carefully monitored until you are fully alert. Swallowing is then supervised before discharge. You are not permitted to drive after having sedation therefore you will need someone responsible to take you home.

ELECTRICAL CARDIOVERSION

This is an established and safe method of restoring normal cardiac rhythm. It is usually performed as a day procedure. Most elective cardioversions are performed to treat atrial fibrillation. After an ECG is performed, a cannula (intravenous line) will be inserted into your hand or arm. The anaesthetist will administer intravenous sedation to you. Once you are unconscious your cardiologist will administer a direct current shock to restore your heart to a regular rhythm. You will not be aware of or feel the shock. Occasionally patients are aware of some minor chest discomfort or skin irritation following the procedure. A moisturising cream such as sorbolene will help relieve this. You are not permitted to drive after having sedation therefore you will need someone responsible to take you home.