

TEE ESSENTIALS

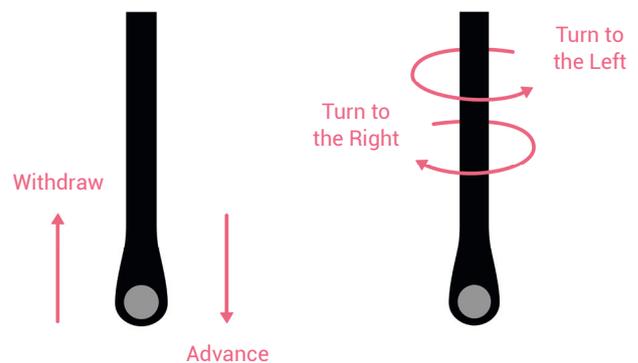
How to get the views: How to use the TEE probe

The variety of ways in which a TEE probe can be manipulated makes this a versatile technique for obtaining a wide range of views of the heart. However, it can also make learning TEE challenging, as it's easy to become disoriented. Spending time in mastering the manipulation of a TEE probe is a good investment.

TEE probes can be manipulated in five different ways:

Advance/withdraw

The TEE probe can be advanced down the esophagus, or withdrawn back up it. There are distance markers at regular intervals along the length of the probe, which allows the operator to note the distance from the patient's incisor teeth to the tip of the probe.

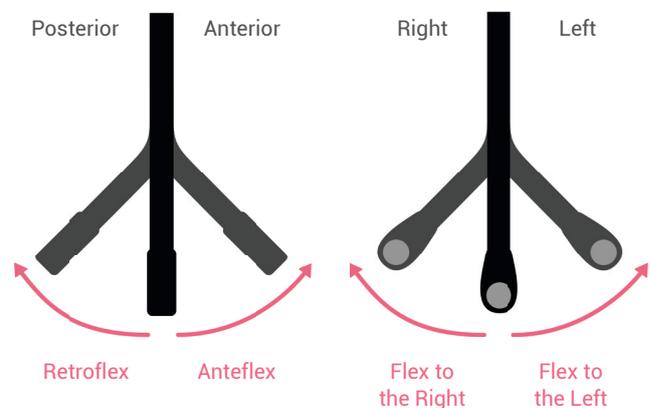


Turn right/left

The TEE probe can be turned so that the tip of the probe points towards the patient's right or towards their left. This allows the operator to 'sweep' across the heart and ensure that each structure has been imaged fully.

Anteflex/retroflex

The tip of the TEE probe can be anteflexed or retroflexed. This movement is performed by turning the large control wheel on the handle of the probe.

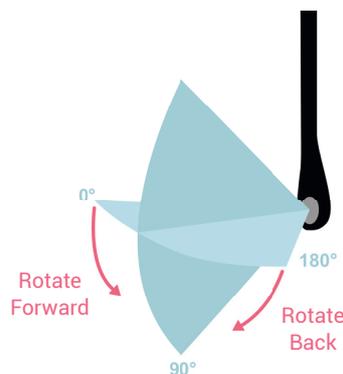


Flex right/left

The tip of the TEE probe can be flexed to the patient's right or to their left. This movement is performed by turning the small control wheel on the handle of the probe.

Imaging plane: rotate forward/backward

The tip of the TEE probe contains the imaging transducer, which can be rotated through 180° by pressing the control buttons on the handle of the probe.



Further reading

Hahn RT, Abraham T, Adams MS, et al. 2013. Guidelines for performing a comprehensive transesophageal echocardiographic examination: Recommendations from the American Society of Echocardiography and the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr.* 26: 921–964.