

SPECIAL ARTICLE

**Consensus on Perioperative Transesophageal Echocardiography of the Brazilian Society of Anesthesiology and the Department of Cardiovascular Image of the Brazilian Society of Cardiology**

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## KEYWORDS

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**Abstract** Through the Life Cycle of Intraoperative Transesophageal Echocardiography (ETTI/SBA) the Brazilian Society of Anesthesiology, together with the Department of Cardiovascular Image of the Brazilian Society of Cardiology (DIC/SBC), created a task force to standardize the use of intraoperative transesophageal echocardiography by Brazilian anesthesiologists and echocardiographers based on scientific evidence from the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists/American Society of Echocardiography (SCA/ASE) and the Brazilian Society of Cardiology. © 2017 Sociedade Brasileira de Anestesiologia. Published by Elsevier Editora Ltda. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

## PALAVRAS-CHAVE

Ecocardiografia;  
Transesofágico;  
Perioperatório

## Consenso sobre Ecocardiografia Transesofágica Perioperatória da Sociedade Brasileira de Anestesiologia e do Departamento de Imagem Cardiovascular da Sociedade Brasileira de Cardiologia

**Resumo** A Sociedade Brasileira de Anestesiologia, pelo Núcleo Vida de Ecocardiografia Transesofágica Intraoperatória (ETTI/SBA) juntamente com o Departamento de Imagem Cardiovascular da Sociedade Brasileira de Cardiologia (DIC/SBC), fez uma força-tarefa para normatizar a feitura da ecocardiografia transesofágica intraoperatória para os anestesiologistas e ecocardiografistas brasileiros com base nas evidências científicas da Sociedade dos Anestesiologistas Cardiovasculares/Sociedade Americana de Ecocardiografia (SCA/ASE) e da Sociedade Brasileira de Cardiologia.

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## Introduction

Since its introduction in clinical practice in the late 1980s, transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE) has become one of the main diagnostic modalities in cardiology, as it guides anesthetic/surgical procedures and reduces morbidity and mortality in cardiac surgeries.<sup>1</sup> Due to the great proximity of the esophagus to the heart, to the absence of bones or lung tissue, and the use of high frequency transducers, it is possible to obtain high quality images.<sup>1</sup>

The first guideline on perioperative TEE was published in 1999 by the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists/American Society of Echocardiography (SCA/ASE), which defined the nomenclature and the 20 cross-sections for basic TEE.<sup>2</sup> In Brazil, we have the Brazilian Society of Cardiology (SBC) guidelines on the use of TEE.<sup>3</sup> The levels of evidence and indications for using TEE in cardiac and non-cardiac surgeries are shown in Table 1.

The SCA/ASE and SBC guidelines define professionals qualified to use echocardiography as a diagnostic method or as hemodynamic monitoring according to their basic and advanced knowledge criteria.<sup>1,3</sup> In Brazil, the area of

perioperative echocardiography activity is being defined by the Brazilian Society of Anesthesiology (SBA) and SBC. As a first step in the standardization of this qualification and in order to promote continuing education to its members, in the last five years the SBA has taught the course of intraoperative echocardiography (ETI/SBA), divided into two modules, basic (Module I) and advanced (Module II).<sup>4</sup>

Thus, the SBA and DIC/SBC consensus on intraoperative TEE aims to standardize intraoperative echocardiography for Brazilian anesthesiologists and echocardiographers based on the scientific evidence of ASE/SCA and SBC.

## Equipment

TEE probe was developed to improve images for which the transthoracic technique had limitations, such as for obese and emphysematous patients and those with thoracic anomalies.<sup>1</sup> The TEE ultrasound wave passes only through the esophagus and pericardium to form the heart images. In this way, images with higher resolution and greater number of anatomical sections are obtained (Fig. 1). In addition,

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