



Permanent pacemaker implantation

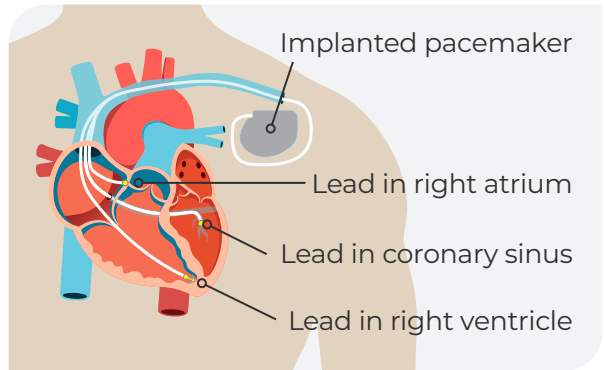
Patient information



What is it?

A pacemaker is an electronic device that prevents your heart from beating too slowly.

It consists of two parts: a generator (battery) and one or more electrodes (wires). The electrodes carry electrical impulses from the generator to your heart to ensure your heart beats consistently.



What should I expect?

A nurse will clean an area of your chest where the pacemaker will be implanted, to help prevent infection. An ECG and blood pressure monitor will track your heart rate and blood pressure while you lie on the table in the cardiac catheterisation laboratory.

Implant procedures are typically performed using general anesthesia or sedation with local anaesthetic to numb the area. Placement of the pacemaker will usually occur below the collar bone at the top of the chest.

The cardiologist will make an incision and create a small pocket under the skin to hold the pacemaker.

- The wires connecting the pacemaker to the heart are also inserted into a vein through the same incision
- The cardiologist will then close the incision with sutures and apply a dressing directly over the area.

After the pacemaker implantation, we will take you to a hospital ward for rest and observation. **You will usually be discharged from hospital on the same or next day**, after your cardiologist reviews your health, and your pacemaker technician checks your pacemaker.

Preparation

Do not eat or drink anything for six hours before your procedure. If you have diabetes, talk to your cardiologist about your food and insulin intake, as these can affect your blood sugar levels.

Make sure you **read the consent form** and understand the risks involved with this procedure. Please clarify any concerns or queries with your cardiologist before signing the form.

- Also, ask your cardiologist whether to withhold any medications (especially blood thinning medications) before your procedure
- Finally, bring a list of your medications to the procedure



What happens after the procedure?

Your dressing will usually come off seven to 10 days after the procedure. The dressing is usually waterproof.

Call Advara HeartCare or your treating cardiologist promptly if you have:

- redness, swelling, or pain around the incision site
- fever
- ooze or bleeding from the incision site

Activities:

It takes a few weeks for the pacemaker wires to permanently attach inside the heart. Therefore, you need to limit arm movement on the side of your pacemaker. Your cardiologist will explain this in more detail.

Home appliances:

You may use most home appliances, including electric blankets and microwave ovens. These appliances will not harm your pacemaker.

Identification and travel:

You will receive a pacemaker ID card before leaving the hospital. Carry this with you always. There are no travel restrictions, although your pacemaker may set off security devices in airports and these devices may interfere with your pacemaker. Always show your pacemaker card to airport personnel at security.

Disclaimer: This brochure has been prepared by Advara HeartCare for informational purposes only and is not medical advice. All care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of information, however, this information may be changed, improved, or updated without notice.