

Pacemaker Education

Pacemaker

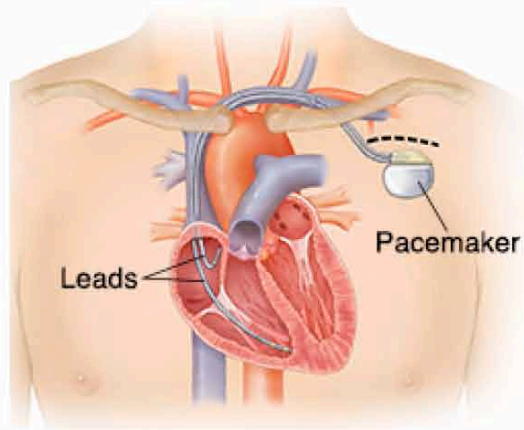
Your doctor has advised you that you need a Pacemaker. This guide will help communicate what will happen before, during and after your procedure. It was written to inform you about your procedure and answer the most frequently asked questions.

What is a Pacemaker?

A pacemaker is usually used when an electrical problem in your heart results in a slow heartbeat or long pauses in your heartbeat. A pacemaker monitors your heart rate and rhythm. If it slows down or pauses too long between beats, the pacemaker delivers an electrical impulse to keep your heart beating at the correct rate.

Your physician will discuss with you what type of pacemaker is most appropriate for your condition.

A small incision is made at the implantation site. This is usually just under the collarbone. A lead or leads are placed through this incision and connected to your heart.



Preparation

You will receive a phone call reminding you of your procedure. Please feel free to ask our staff any questions you may have.

What do I do before my procedure?

- You will need to fast (no food or drink) for this procedure, follow the pre-procedure instruction sheet.
- Arrange for a responsible adult to drive you home after the procedure and stay with you for the next 24 hours.
- Refer to the pre-procedure instruction sheet for arrival time and procedure time.
- Shower, the night before and the morning of your procedure, with an antibacterial soap or special soap. Follow the instructions provided to you.

Medications

- It is very important to follow the pre-procedure medication instructions provided by your physician. We will remind you of these during a pre-procedure phone call.
- Please prepare a current list of your medications to bring with you on the day of your procedure.

Day of Procedure

What do I do the day of my procedure?

- Do not apply makeup, lotions, deodorant or hair products on this day.
- Leave valuables and jewelry at home.
- When you arrive, simply check in at our first floor front desk.

Anesthesia

Will I have anesthesia? Yes

During the procedure you will be given medications in your IV that will make you sleepy, or you will receive general anesthesia, medicine that allows you to sleep during surgery. Depending on which type of sedation you receive, either a physician or a registered nurse will monitor you closely.

What are the side effects of anesthesia?

- Poor balance
- Headache
- Sleepiness
- Impaired judgement for up to 24 hours
- Memory fog during or immediately after receiving sedation
- Have a friend or family member help you for 24 hours

After the Procedure

What should I expect after my procedure?

- Once the procedure is complete you will return to a room for recovery. A nurse will oversee your recovery.
- Prepare to stay overnight in the hospital, but there is a possibility that you could go home 4-6 hours after the procedure.
- You will go home with a dressing over your incision. Before you are discharged, we will provide you written instructions, and inform you when to remove the dressing and how to care for the incision.
- Your nurse will provide you with written discharge instructions and answer all your questions before sending you home.

If you experience:

- **Pain** - At home you may experience mild discomfort and/or bruising at the incision site. This is usually managed with over the counter pain relievers and/or ice packs.
- **Unexpected Bleeding** - Excessive bleeding or fluid that soaks through the dressing is not normal. Contact your physician's office.
- **Nausea & Vomiting** - Begin with sips of clear liquids in small amounts. Once you tolerate clear liquids, you should slowly add in other bland, low fat food choices, gradually increasing to your normal diet.
- **Signs of Infection** - Call your physician if you have a fever over 101 degrees, increased redness, swelling, or heat at the incision site.

Date & Version #	Form Changes
OHHP-F626 (Rev. 1/20)	Type Changes
OHHP-F626 (Rev. 7/24)	Change Photo