

ELECTRICAL CARADIOVERSION

Electrical cardioversion is a procedure in which an electric current is used to reset the heart's rhythm back to its regular pattern in patients with arrhythmia (irregular heartbeat), such as atrial fibrillation or atrial flutter.

It consists in applying one or more electrical shocks to the skin of the patient's chest, which disrupts the heart-rhythm disorder and allows the heart to beat normally. The intervention is painless since the patient is under short-lasting anesthesia and won't feel the electrical shocks.

Once the patient is asleep, the intervention lasts approximately 2 to 5 minutes.

THE DAY OF THE INTERVENTION

- You must refrain from eating anything after midnight, but you can drink liquids (pulp-free, fat-free, dairy-free) up to an hour before you arrive at the hospital, so take your medication as usual.
- Blood will be drawn and an electrocardiogram (ECG) will be performed.
- A venous line will be installed to administer medication.
- A transesophageal echocardiogram (flexible tube passed through the mouth, pharynx, and esophagus) will be performed to check for clots in the vicinity of the heart.

THE INTERVENTION

The procedure is performed by a cardiologist with the assistance of an anesthetist, respiratory therapist, and nurse.

YOUR HOSPITAL STAY

- The nursing staff will monitor you for 1 to 2 hours.
- You may eat as soon as you are fully awake.
- Inform the nurse if you have any discomfort, pain, or burns on the chest or back.

HOSPITAL DISCHARGE

Depending on your state of health, you will be discharged from the hospital on the same day or in a few days. You'll be able to go home in a car as a passenger.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Medication

Continue to take your anticoagulant as directed by your doctor. Other medications may be prescribed depending on your state of health.

Motor vehicles

If you are discharged from the hospital on the same day as the procedure, you cannot drive your vehicle. Therefore, you must arrange to have someone take you home.

You may resume driving according to the recommendations provided by your doctor when you are discharged from the hospital.

SYMPTOMS TO WATCH FOR

See your doctor if you have the following symptoms:

- Your heart rate is higher than 120 beats per minute after resting.
- Your heart rate is lower than _____ beats per minute.
- You feel dizzy or lose consciousness.
- You have palpitations or difficulty breathing.



Pacemaker Clinic
819-346-1110, extension 15103
Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



If the clinic is closed, call Info-Santé at 8-1-1.



Contact your family doctor or go to the nearest hospital emergency department.

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Revision and Layout

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