

Cardiac pacemaker insertion or replacement

A regular heart rhythm is necessary for sufficient circulation. A pacemaker is installed, if the heart's own ability to regulate its rhythm is impaired. The pacemaker helps the heart to function normally by giving impulses that cause the cardiac muscle to contract in a regular and appropriate rhythm.

Pacemakers can be used to treat cardiac arrhythmias caused by an impaired electrical conductivity in the heart. This helps reduce life-restricting symptoms, such as dizziness, fatigue, weakness and breathlessness that are caused by circulation problems.

The pacemaker system consists of two parts: pacing leads (1-3) and a pacemaker (pulse generator). The pacing leads transmit electrical impulses between the heart and the pacemaker. The device constantly monitors the cardiac rhythm. If necessary, it sends electrical impulses to the heart to achieve the correct rhythm.

The pacemaker is implanted under local anaesthesia in a procedure that takes at least an hour. Complications (infection, lung collapse, pericardial effusion) are possible, but rare.

Before the procedure

You must not eat anything for at least **six hours** before coming to the hospital; you are allowed to drink a little water.

Take a shower and wash your hair the day before the procedure.

If you are on **Marevan®** medication, do not take it on the day before the procedure.

If you are using any of the new anticoagulants (Pradaxa®, Xarelto®, Eliquis®, Lixiana®), do not take it on the day of procedure.

Take your other medications as normal.

Bring any medications you use, insulin and a list of any other medications you use with you when you come to the hospital.

If you have diabetes treated with insulin: Inject your long-acting insulin as normal. If you are using mealtime insulin, inject it after the procedure in connection with a meal.

When you come to the hospital, please note that driving is forbidden on the day of the procedure, and generally at least a week afterwards.

During the procedure

The pacing lead is inserted via a blood vessel to the ventricular and/or atrial chamber in your heart under X-ray monitoring. The pacing lead is connected to the pacemaker, which is implanted under the skin below the collarbone. The incision is closed with stitches.

When the pacemaker is replaced, leads are also replaced if necessary.

After the procedure

If necessary, you will spend a few hours on the ward in bed rest. You will normally be discharged on the same day or on the day following the procedure. After the procedure, the pacemaker's functions are adjusted with the aid of a programming device.

Get in touch

- If you get an infection with a fever, if you are unable to attend your appointment for some other reason or if you have any questions about the procedure.
- If you know or suspect you are pregnant.

Cardiac Unit, tel 044 707 6656

Monday through Friday 10 am – 2 pm

Satasairaala Wellbeing services county of Satakunta