

Cardioversion

– restoration of normal heart rhythm by electrical shock

When the abnormal rhythm of the heart (arrhythmia) is due to atrial fibrillation or flutter, atrial function can be returned to normal with cardioversion. If the duration of the arrhythmia is not known or is longer than 48 hours, anticoagulant medication must be used for at least three weeks before the procedure to prevent cerebrovascular disorders.

If you are on Marevan®, you must undergo INR testing every week until your cardioversion. We always make sure that INR has been in the therapeutic range (= 2.0 higher) immediately prior to the cardioversion.

If you are on any of the new anticoagulants (Eliquis®, Lixiana®, Pradaxa®, Xarelto®), take your medication regularly every day until your cardioversion. The medication must be used without interruption for at least three weeks before the procedure and for a month following it.

Cardioversion is performed in hospital under general anaesthesia. The procedure, including preparation and aftercare, takes 2–3 hours.

Before the procedure

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

Do not take Digoxin on the day before or on the day of the procedure.

Take your other medications as normal with a small amount of water.

A venous cannula will be inserted into your vein by a nurse for medication administration.

Bring your medications (e.g. dosette box) and a list of all medications you use as well as your insulin and asthma medications with you when you come to the hospital.

During the procedure

You will be hooked up to a monitor and the anaesthesiologist will give you a general anaesthetic. Your heart rhythm is restored by an electrical shock while you are asleep.

After the procedure

After the procedure, you will remain in hospital for a few hours for observation. In most cases, patients are discharged the same day; however, you may have to remain in hospital overnight for observation.

When you come to the hospital, please note that driving is not allowed on the day of the procedure.

Also bear in mind that because of the general anaesthetic used, you must not be alone until the following morning.

Get in touch if

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

Contact information

Cardiac Unit

Appointments nurse, tel. 044 707 9381

Monday to Friday, 9 am - 12 noon

Satasairaala Wellbeing services county of Satakunta