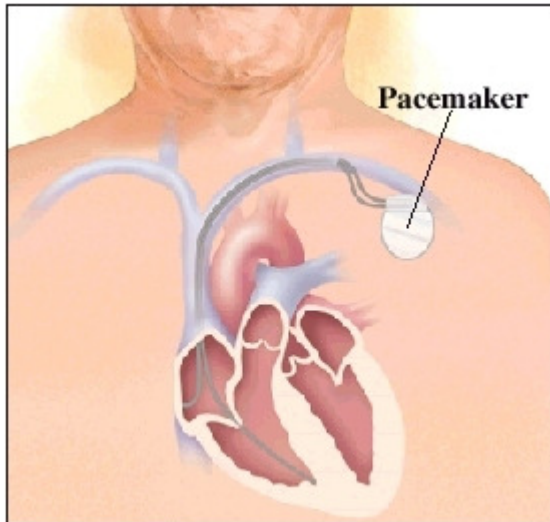


Pacemakers

A pacemaker is a small electronic device that helps your heart's electrical system. It keeps your heart beating at the right pace. Inserting the pacemaker into your body is called **implantation**. You stay awake during the procedure. You may be asked some questions or be asked to take some deep breaths.



During the Procedure

- **A local anesthetic is given** by injection to numb the area where the pacemaker will be inserted. This keeps you from feeling pain during the procedure.
- **An incision is made** where the generator is placed.
- **The lead** (transmits to and from your heart) **is guided** through a vein into your heart's chambers using x-ray monitors.
- **The pacemaker generator is attached** to the lead or leads.
- **The pacemaker's settings are programmed** to help your heart beat at a rate that's right for you.

When to Call Your Doctor

Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following:

- You feel any of the symptoms you had before the pacemaker was implanted (dizziness, lightheadedness, lack of energy or fainting spells).
- Your chest muscles twitch.

- You have a rapid or pounding heartbeat or shortness of breath.
- You feel pain in the area around your pacemaker.
- You have a fever over 101.0°F, or other signs of infection (redness, swelling or warmth at the incision site).

After the Procedure

- You will stay in the hospital a day or two.
- Your pacemaker settings will be rechecked.
- On the incision side, don't raise your arm above your shoulder for at least a week. This gives the lead a chance to secure inside the vein in your heart.
- Take your temperature and check your incision for signs of infection every day for a week.
- Return for a follow-up visit as directed by our staff.