



Pacific Cardiovascular Associates Medical Group

Device (Pacemaker/ICD/Loop Recorder)

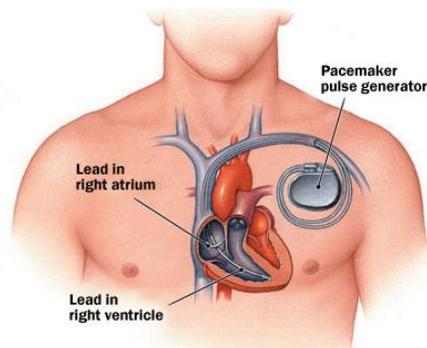
Pacemaker

A pacemaker is a small device, about the size of a half dollar piece, that's placed under the skin near your heart to help control your heartbeat. A pacemaker is implanted to correct slow heart rates.

People may need a pacemaker for a variety of reasons — mostly due to one of a group of conditions called arrhythmias, in which the heart's rhythm is abnormal.

How Does a Pacemaker Work?

Pacemakers monitor your heartbeat and, if it's too slow, the pacemaker will speed up your heart rate by sending electrical signals to your heart. In addition, most pacemakers have sensors that detect body motion or breathing rate, which signals the pacemaker to increase your heart rate during exercise to meet your body's increased need for blood and oxygen.



Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD)

An implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) is a pager-sized device that's implanted into your chest. You may need an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator if you have a dangerously fast heartbeat (ventricular tachycardia) or a chaotic heartbeat that makes it so your heart can't supply enough blood to the rest of your body (ventricular fibrillation).

Implantable cardioverter-defibrillators work by detecting and stopping abnormal heartbeats (arrhythmias). An implantable cardioverter-defibrillator continuously monitors your heartbeat and delivers extra beats or electrical shocks, when necessary, to restore a normal heart rhythm.

Who needs an ICD?

You're a prime candidate for an ICD if you've had sustained ventricular tachycardia, survived a cardiac arrest, or fainted from a ventricular arrhythmia.

ICD is also used as an effective preventative measure for patients with congestive heart failure who are at high risk for ventricular arrhythmias or patients with a history of sudden cardiac arrest.

Loop Recorder

The implantable Loop Recorder (ILR) is a monitoring device implanted just underneath the skin near your heart. This device can serve as a literal continuous ECG-recording machine, recording your heart rhythm for up to 3 years.

This device is used for patients who have symptoms that are not that frequent—that is, patients who may present with syncope once every several months or even yearly. These small devices are contained in a metal alloy casing with an internal battery and microchips for recording and storage of the tracings of your heart rhythm.

Loop Recorder is used for:

1. Recurrent unexplained episodes of palpitations or syncope
2. Long-term monitoring in patients at risk for or with documented atrial fibrillation

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I expect?

The procedure to implant a Pacemaker, ICD or Loop Recorder will be performed in the hospital setting. You are awake for the procedure but given a sedative to relax, and the area where your device will be inserted will be numbed.

- Pacemaker: The procedure typically takes one to two hours. A new pacemaker implantation will require an overnight stay in the hospital and it will be evaluated before you are discharged. A generator change will generally not require an overnight stay.
- ICD: The procedure typically takes one to three hours. This will require an overnight hospital stay and the ICD will be evaluated before you are discharged.
- Loop Recorder: 20-30 minutes

What to expect after the procedure?

After surgery you may have some pain in the incision area, which can remain swollen and tender for a few days or weeks. These pains can be relieved with over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen (Tylenol, others) or ibuprofen (Motrin IB, Advil, others), but talk to your doctor before taking any pain relievers.