

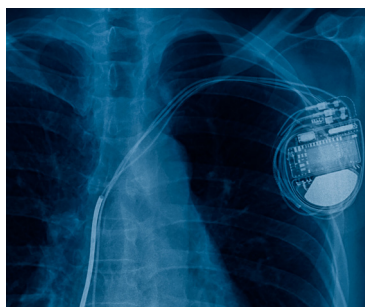
McLAREN FLINT

POST PACEMAKER OR ICD IMPLANT



A pacemaker is a device that is placed in your body to support the electrical conduction of your heart. The generator, or battery, is placed just under the skin within the muscle of the chest wall, and attaches to wires that are connected to heart tissue. The purpose of a pacemaker is to take over providing the electrical stimulus to the heart that makes it beat if your heart rate drops too low or is out of sync.

There are also leadless pacemakers available. The MICRA is the proprietary name of Medtronic's single-lead pacemaker that is implanted directly into the heart. This kind of pacemaker is implanted by your doctor through a catheter in the leg and guided up to your heart using an X-ray. The leadless pacemaker is roughly the size of a large vitamin tablet.



A pacemaker delivers electrical impulses to control the rhythm of your heart, but it can't deliver a shock to correct certain arrhythmias.

For that you will need an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD). An ICD looks and behaves a lot like a pacemaker, jumping in to assist with the electrical conduction of the heart when needed, but an ICD is also able to deliver a lifesaving shock to restore your heart to a normal rhythm if you should go into a "lethal rhythm."

HOW LONG WILL A PACEMAKER OR ICD LAST?

While it depends on the specific model of pacemaker or ICD and how often it has to assist your heart, pacemakers are now available that can last as long as 10 or 15 years, and ICDs last around seven to 10 years depending on use.

AFTER THE PROCEDURE

Take it easy. You just had surgery, so you will be sore for a few days. Also, your leads will need time to heal and secure themselves into the heart wall. Avoid using the arm of your affected side. Some people have had great luck using a sling on the affected side to remind them not to use that arm.

Keep an eye on your access site and seek medical attention if you notice any bleeding from where your doctor placed your pacemaker. Some swelling and discomfort will remain for the first several days after the procedure, but seek medical attention if you notice increased swelling, develop a fever, or become lightheaded.

After your surgical site heals, it won't be very noticeable. You will have a small scar on your upper chest wall. You will be able to return to your normal activities with the comfort of knowing that if your heart doesn't beat as it should, you have a medical device that will protect you.