



Implantable Defibrillator (ICD)

What is an implantable defibrillator (ICD)?

An ICD is a small battery-powered device implanted in the chest that detects and treats fast, abnormal rhythms in the ventricle. In a life threatening situation, the ICD will send small electrical impulses or even an electrical shock to your heart to restore normal heart rhythm. Modern ICDs can also provide pacing for slow heart rhythms. The ICD system is composed of a generator (battery) and one or more electrodes (wires). The type of ICD will be based on your heart's pumping abilities, type of fast abnormal ventricular rhythm(s) and the presence of any structural defects.

Procedure

Preventative antibiotic is usually given, intravenously, before ICD insertion to avoid infection from occurring. Local anaesthetic is used to infiltrate the area just below the collarbone usually on the left side just under the skin. A 1 inch incision is made to create a pocket under the skin. The ICD is inserted under the skin and the leads are inserted by accessing the vein that runs under the collarbone and an xray will be done to check lead positioning. Once the leads are positioned in the heart, the leads and ICD are tested to make sure they are working properly before skin closure using absorbable sutures.

Procedure Risks

There are potential risks with this procedure. They include but are not limited to the following:

- Bruising and bleeding in the pacemaker pocket
- Pocket infection.
- Pacemaker lead migration requiring lead repositioning.
- Unexpected pacemaker or lead failure requiring replacement.
- Punctured lung or pneumothorax.
- Blood clot in the vein or deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

- Blood clot in the lung or pulmonary embolism (PE).
- Heart attack.
- Stroke.
- Death from any complications.

Follow-Up Care

• First 2 Weeks

It is not advisable to drive for two weeks after ICD insertion and limit arm movement on the side of your defibrillator to allow the ICD wires to settle.

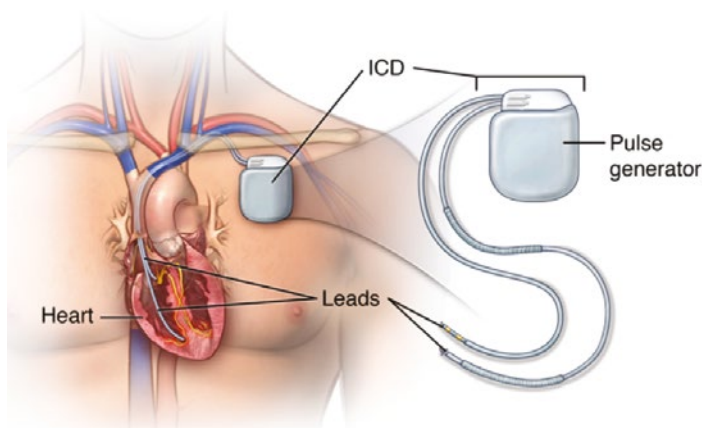
• 2 week Post-Op Check

When you visit the clinic approx. 2 weeks after the procedure, a pacing technician will check your defibrillator and your Cardiologist will remove your waterproof dressing.

• After 2 weeks

Your ICD will be checked periodically at follow-up appointments performed at the clinic or through the Remote Home Monitoring Service. The purpose of these appointments are to check the operation of your cardiac device (including the battery) and review any abnormal rhythms (arrhythmias) information stored on the device. The ICD battery (usually lasts 8-10 years) cannot be recharged and will need to be replaced when the battery is near depletion.

Implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD)



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