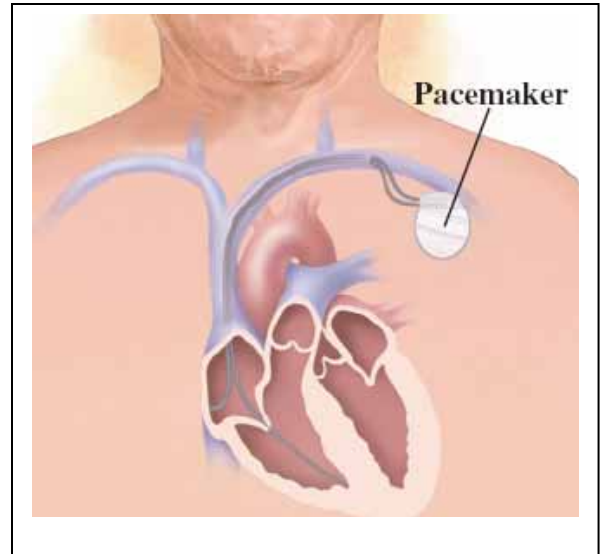


Pacemakers

A pacemaker is a small electronic device that helps your heart's electrical system beat 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 **inserted** 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.



After the Procedure

- You will stay in the hospital a day or two.
- Your pacemaker settings will be rechecked.
- Don't raise your arm on the incision side above your shoulder. 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.

Call Your Doctor If:

- 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 around your pacemaker.
- You have a fever over 38°C , or other signs of infection (redness, swelling or warmth at the incision site).