

Pacemaker implantation

Introduction

You will be visiting the Surgical and medical ward first floor for a pacemaker implantation shortly. This leaflet contains information about this surgery.

Pacemaker

Your cardiologist has already provided you some information on pacemakers and the reason for implantation. We strongly recommend that you thoroughly read the leaflet 'Pacemaker' by the Dutch Heart Association. You will receive this from the assistant. If you did not receive this leaflet, you can download it from the website of the heart association:

<http://webshop.hartstichting.nl/Producten/download.aspx?pID=2541>

Admission time

On the day/working day before admission, you can call the at telephone number 020 – 755 7104 between 14:00–15:00. You will be informed when and where you must report on the day of the surgery. The first patient to have surgery in the morning must, for organisational reasons, be admitted to the hospital the evening before.

Empty stomach

Your stomach must be empty at least four hours before the surgery. That means: no drinking or eating, with the exception of a sip of water for a dry mouth or for medication.

Medications

Your cardiologist will go over medications with you and he or she will instruct you if certain medicines have to be stopped.

Restarting the medication will be done in consultation with the operating cardiologist or the physician assistant.

Day of admission

You come to the Downstairs Clinic at the scheduled time. The nurse and the resident will ask you some questions and provide you with information about care after the treatment. You will receive an IV drip. Via this IV drip, you will be administered antibiotics once. An ECG (film of the heart) will be made.

The surgery

You will go to the surgery room for the surgery. The surgery takes place under local anaesthesia and lasts approximately an hour and a half. General anaesthesia is not required for this surgery. If you would still prefer this, discuss it with your cardiologist in advance.

After the surgery

After the surgery, you must lie flat for 2-4 hours. You will stay in the ward for one night. You can go home the following day, if the physician approves of the check-up X-ray of the lungs. We advise you to arrange for someone to pick you up from the hospital.

You will receive an appointment for a check-up at the outpatient clinic. During this appointment, your wound and pacemaker will be checked by the pacemaker technician.