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Patient Information Sheet for Pacemaker or Defibrillator Implant

As your cardiologist will have explained, your pacemaker implant requires a small incision under the left collar bone and the placement of pacemaker leads through the vein to your heart for connection to the pacemaker or defibrillator device. The procedure typically takes under one hour but some more complex pacemakers (cardiac resynchronisation therapy devices) can take longer.

Anaesthesia for your Pacemaker Implantation

You will be given either sedation and local anaesthetic or a general anaesthetic for the procedure. The choice of either sedation or general anaesthesia is up to you in collaboration with your cardiologist and myself as your anaesthetist. Both techniques are safe and we utilise both approaches routinely for these operations.

Whichever approach we use you will have an intravenous cannula placed into your left arm prior to commencing the procedure to enable the anaesthetic or sedation drugs to be administered and sometimes some intravenous contrast agent to assist the cardiologist in locating the veins into which the pacemaker leads will be placed. You will also routinely be given antibiotics to reduce the chance of wound infection.

Following these procedures the local anaesthetic will typically provide good pain relief for up to 12 hours and then subsequent to that paracetamol is typically all that is needed to reduce the discomfort over the next several days.

Further Information

If you would like to learn more about pacemaker implants a useful 3 ½ minute video is located [here](#).