

CARDIOVERSION

What is a Cardioversion?

A cardioversion uses a small amount of electricity applied through the chest wall to try to put your heart back into a regular rhythm.

Why do I need to have this procedure done?

- Your doctor has recommended this procedure because you have had an irregular or rapid heart beat. This procedure may help your heart return to a regular rhythm (sinus rhythm) and/or beat more slowly.

How should I prepare for the procedure?

- You will not be allowed to eat or drink anything for 6 hours before the procedure.
- Your doctor will advise you about taking your medications the day of the procedure.
- You will check in at the hospital for the procedure.
- A family member or friend must accompany you to the hospital the day of the procedure but will be asked to wait in the waiting room during the procedure.

What can I expect before and during the procedure?

- At the hospital, you will sign a consent form and an IV will be started in your arm.
- A heart monitor will be applied to your chest and your blood pressure and heart rate will be monitored.
- 2 large patches will be placed on your chest
- You will receive oxygen through a small tube in your nose.
- A small monitor will be attached to your finger to monitor your oxygen level.
- You will be given medication through your IV to help you sleep. You may not remember the actual procedure because of this medication.
- Once you are sleeping, an electrical impulse will be delivered through the 2 large patches on your chest to your heart.
- Nursing and medical staff will remain with you and will be monitoring you closely before, during, and after the procedure.
- A friend or family member must accompany you to the test and be able to drive you home after the test. This is because of the medications that make you very sleepy during the test.

Is there anything specific to do after the test?

- You will begin to wake up slowly after the procedure

- You may eat and drink once more awake
- Your chest may be slightly sore after the procedure from where the electricity was applied. This is go away gradually.
- Your blood pressure, heart rate, and oxygen level will be monitored until you are discharged home.
- It is likely that you will go home after a few hours.
- You should follow up in the doctor's office in 1-2 weeks. Please make sure you have an appointment.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you!