



Leadless Pacemaker Therapy (PPM)

Reviewed: May 2024
Next review: May 2025
Version 2

➤ Important contact numbers

Arrhythmia Nurse: 07970187324
Coronary Care Unit: 0141 951 5202
Ward 2 East: 0141 951 5250

➤ Follow-up Centre

Sticker

➤ About this leaflet

The purpose of this leaflet is to provide information about Leadless Pacemaker Therapy and what you should expect throughout the course of your treatment.

➤ Why is a pacemaker implanted?

A Pacemaker is implanted to treat slow heart rhythms (Bradycardia) which can cause symptoms such as light-headedness, dizziness and fainting.

The Pacemaker's design is to help heart rhythm problems, reducing the risks and symptoms associated with them.

A Leadless Pacemaker is intended for patients with specific pacing needs and is implanted instead of a traditional pacemaker system with a pacemaker lead.

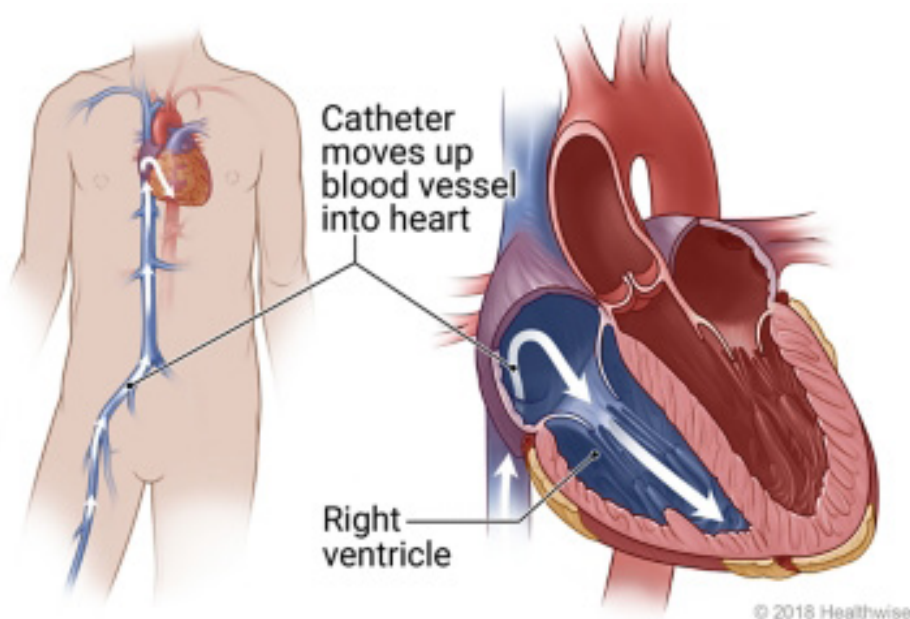
➤ How a Leadless Pacemaker works

The Leadless Pacemaker is passed through a catheter, which is placed in a vein in your groin, and implanted in the Right Ventricle of the heart. The catheter system is then removed.

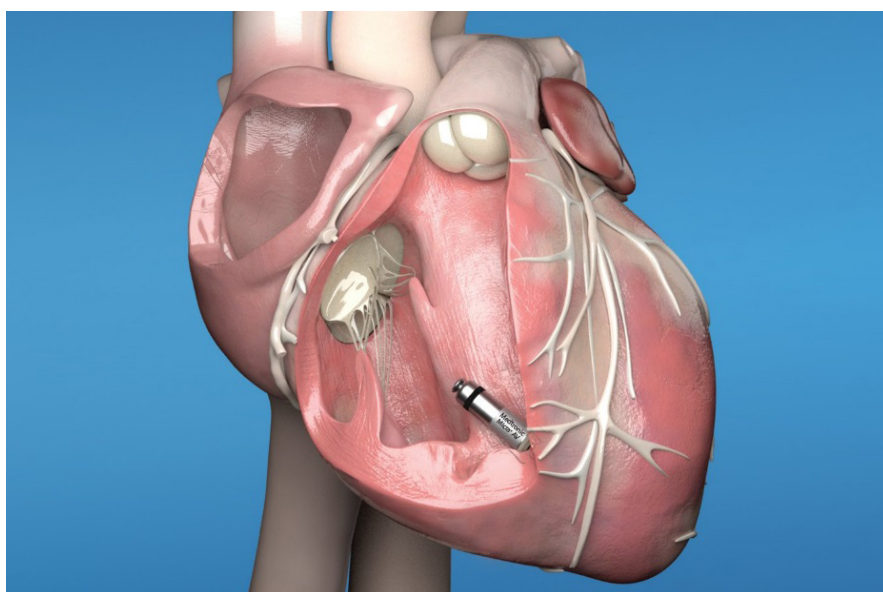
There are 2 types of Leadless Pacemaker, both types work by continuously monitoring your heart rate and sending out pacing signals if your heart rate is too slow.

Your doctor will discuss with you which type of Pacemaker you should have implanted; this will depend on your heart rhythm.

The catheter system moves the Leadless Pacemaker into the right ventricle of the heart.



The Leadless Pacemaker is secured to the heart wall with flexible tines.



> After you have your Pacemaker implanted

Unlike a traditional pacemaker, implantation of a Leadless Pacemaker is minimally invasive and leaves no visible sign of a medical device under the skin. This can mean fewer post-implant activity restrictions and no obstructions to shoulder movement.

Wound Care:



- Leave your wound site covered for first 2 days after your procedure.
- On the third day, remove your dressing and shower or bathe as normal, allowing clean water to run over your wound and pat it dry with a clean towel.
- Do not rub the area with soap, perfumed products, or a towel. If your wound site appears to be healing with no signs of fluid/ discharge then leave it exposed; there is no need for further dressing. Continue this daily until wound is completely healed.
- To prevent infection, make sure you wash daily, using a clean towel at all times and wearing clean clothes.

If you think you have an infection at your wound site, contact your Pacemaker follow-up centre.

Signs of infection include:

- Heat or redness at site.
- Pus/discharge.
- Swelling.
- Smell.
- Increased pain.

You will be advised about your medication prior to being discharged from the ward.

Pacemaker follow up

Your first follow up appointment will take place approximately 6 weeks after your implant and you will have regular follow up appointments at 3 months and annually after that. The Cardiology Department at your follow up hospital will keep you informed of your future appointments.

If you do not receive an appointment letter, it is important to contact Cardiology Department at your follow up hospital.

It is important that you attend your appointments as this will allow the team to check your pacemaker function and its battery.

Pacemaker battery

The battery in your Pacemaker will normally last between 5 and 10 years. As you get nearer to having this replaced, you will need to attend the Cardiology Department at your follow up hospital more frequently.

When a new device is needed, you will require a procedure similar to your initial implant.

The existing Leadless Pacemaker may be either simply turned off or removed from the body before a new pacemaker system is implanted.

Driving

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) state that you cannot drive for 1 week following your implant.



Safety information

Most household appliances are safe to use with your pacemaker. Mobile phones should not be stored close to your implanted device. All power tools should also be kept at arms' length.

You cannot undergo a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scan unless you have been fitted with an MRI compatible device. If you are referred for an MRI scan, the doctor performing the scan (the radiologist) will need to check with your cardiologist / cardiac physiologist whether your device is 'MRI safe' or not. Even if the device is MRI safe, there are still precautions which may need to be taken.

Pacemakers can be sensitive to strong electromagnetic interference (EMI). If your employment requires you to be close to large industrial generators or other sources of EMI, you may need to take extra precautions. You should discuss any issues or concerns with your employer before you return to work.

As a rule if you begin to feel unwell using any equipment, stop and remove yourself from the area.

If you have any questions or concerns about safety of equipment, please contact the Cardiology Department at your follow up hospital for advice.

Pacemaker ID card

You will be provided with a Pacemaker identification card which includes your personal information, along with details of the pacemaker, the implanting physician and your hospital.

You must keep your ID card with you at all times as you may be required to provide it at any doctor/ dentist/hospital appointments.

The ID card is issued by Eucomed Medical Technology. It is folded to credit card size so that you can keep it in your wallet or purse.

Travelling

When travelling ensure you:

- take your ID card with you;
- Inform your travel insurance provider that you have a pacemaker; and
- obtain information on the nearest hospital to your destination.

Airport Security

You may need to show your ID card when going through airport security so that staff know you have a pacemaker and can make a decision on whether to search you by hand rather than using the security gate/metal detectors.

If you are asked to walk through metal detectors it is safe to do so but you will set off the alarms.



