



DC CARDIOVERSION

The purpose of this document is to provide written information regarding the risks, benefits and alternatives of the procedure named above. This material serves as a supplement to the discussion you have with your physician. It is important that you fully understand this information, so please read this document thoroughly.

The Procedure: This procedure is performed to eliminate an irregular heart rhythm, atrial flutter, and/or atrial fibrillation and restore a normal regular heart rhythm (sinus rhythm). In most cases, adhesive electrodes are placed on the front and rear of the chest. While asleep and under the supervision of the attending physician, one or more electrical shocks are administered in a controlled setting. Since electrical current is used, the procedure is referred to as DC (direct current) cardioversion. DC cardioversion is usually, but not always, successful. It is possible though **highly unlikely** that your atrial flutter or atrial fibrillation may spontaneously resolve without treatment.

Benefits

You might receive the following benefits. The doctors cannot guarantee you will receive any of these benefits. Only you can decide if the benefits are worth the risk.

1. Reduced risk of subsequent complications.
2. Improved ability to perform normal activities.

Risks

Before undergoing this procedure, understanding the associated risks is essential. No procedure is completely risk free. The following risks are well recognized, but there may also be risks not included in this list that are unforeseen by your doctors.

1. There may be reddening or sensitivity of the skin in direct opposition to the pads.
2. There may be aspiration of saliva or stomach contents into the lung causing pneumonia (this is why your stomach must be empty).

3. A clot may be dislodged. As a result, the clot may travel to a distant organ which could impede blood flow to that organ or cause a stroke.
4. You may develop slow heart rate requiring placement of a temporary pacemaker and transfer to an intensive care unit (ICU) for further observation.
5. You may develop unanticipated reactions to the medications used during the procedure.
6. Return of atrial fibrillation/flutter may occur.
7. Pain may be associated with this procedure and the healing process.

Alternatives

The alternatives to DC cardioversion include:

1. Not doing the procedure.
2. Management with medications may or may not control the irregular rhythm.

If you decide not to have this procedure, there are associated risks to this decision. Please discuss it with your doctor.

If you have any questions regarding the procedure, risk, benefits, or alternatives to this procedure, ask your physician prior to signing any consent forms.



Patient Signature

Date