



## ATRIAL OVERDRIVE PACING

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:** Atrial flutter occurs when the top chambers of the heart (the atria) are beating faster than the lower chambers (the ventricles). To correct this condition, a temporary pacemaker is inserted through a puncture in the skin OR your internal pacemaker can be used to stimulate the atria to beat faster than their present rate. The pacemaker is then abruptly turned off or slowed. This action may result in the normal beating of the atria in synchrony with the ventricles. This is known as **normal sinus rhythm**. Your internal pacemaker is controlled by a device called a programmer. This is a relatively safe procedure but complications are possible.

### 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. Improved ability to perform normal activities
2. Improved cardiac output which may improve your sense of well-being

### Risks

Before undergoing this procedure, understanding the associated risks are 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.

Risks if using your own pacemaker:

1. Failure to correct atrial flutter
2. Atrial fibrillation

Risks if using a temporary pacemaker via placement of a catheter through a vein into the right ventricle:

1. You may become ill from an infection after the procedure.
2. Bleeding may occur during or after the operation. Bleeding can be life-threatening. If the bleeding occurs after the procedure, you may need a second operation to stop the bleeding or to remove blood clots.
3. You may also need blood transfusions. Separate information about blood transfusion, products and alternatives is available.
4. There may be damage to a blood vessel requiring surgical repair.
5. There may be inability to locate the vein at the selected site and another site may be required.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. There may be inability to properly position the catheter from the selected site.</li> <li>7. 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.</li> <li>8. The right atria or ventricle may be perforated, requiring removal of blood that may accumulate in the sac around the heart (this is called pericardiocentesis).</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. The procedure may fail to correct atrial flutter.</li> <li>10. There may be initiation of a dangerous cardiac rhythm during placement of the catheter. This could require that your heart be shocked using an external defibrillator.</li> <li>11. You may die during the operation.</li> <li>12. Pain may be associated with this procedure and the healing process.</li> </ol> |
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## Alternatives

The alternatives to atrial overdrive pacing include:

1. Medication regimen which may or may not be successful
2. Electrical cardioversion
3. Not doing the procedure. In this case, atrial flutter will probably continue or even develop into atrial fibrillation.

4. It is possible, **although highly improbable**, that your atrial flutter may terminate on its own.

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

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



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Patient Signature

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Date