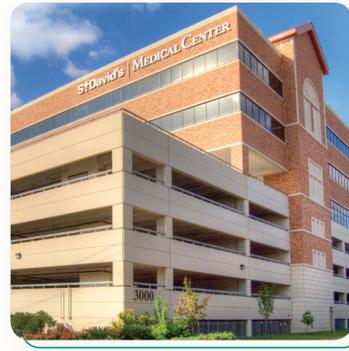


Cardioversion



Cardioversion-

Typically for elective treatment of atrial fibrillation, atrial flutter, or for emergency treatment of atrial tachycardia or ventricular tachycardia.

What is cardioversion?

Cardioversion is a procedure in which an electrical current is given to the heart to restore normal sinus rhythm.

What does it treat?

- Cardioversion can be an elective or an emergency procedure.
- Elective cardioversion typically treats atrial fibrillation or atrial flutter.
- Emergency cardioversion typically treats atrial tachycardia or ventricular tachycardia.

Facts about cardioversion

- Prior to your cardioversion procedure, you might have to undergo a full medical history review and complete physical examination, an electrocardiogram [ECG], or other tests.
- Some patients require another procedure called a transesophageal echocardiogram [TEE] prior to cardioversion in order to determine whether blood clots are present in the heart.
- Cardioversion is a non-invasive procedure, but is still performed in a hospital with the patient sedated.
- The cardioversion procedure typically takes only about a half-hour, but you should plan to stay at the hospital between four and six hours total.
- As with any procedure, there are risks. Of course, every precaution is taken to reduce risks. Your doctor will talk with you about the potential risks of the procedure.
- Your doctor or Nurse Navigator/educator will provide you with detailed directions about how to prepare for your cardioversion in terms of your medications, diet, etc.

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What happens during the procedure?

- You will be lying down, and a nurse will hook you up to an IV, which will deliver fluids and a sedative.
- Two types of sticky patches will be put on your chest, and maybe onto your back.
- During the procedure, you will be monitored on a cardioverter for heart rate information, an electrocardiogram for electrical impulse information, a blood pressure monitor (attached to your arm as a cuff) and a blood oxygen monitor (attached to your fingertip with a clip).
- The doctor uses the cardioverter to deliver energy via an electrical shock to your heart through the patches. It's extremely quick, and might have to be repeated to restore your regular heart rhythm.

What will you feel?

- You might experience tenderness on your chest for a few days following the procedure. Hydrocortisone cream can help relieve skin discomfort where the cardioversion patches were placed.
- You might feel fatigue or chest discomfort following the procedure. If discomfort persists or becomes severe, call your doctor.

What happens afterward?

- Immediately following your cardioversion, you will remain in recovery for about an hour to ensure no complications develop.
 - Once you're fully awake, your doctor will talk with you and your loved ones about the procedure and its results.
 - Many elective cardioversion patients go home the same day as the procedure.
 - Arrange for a ride to and from the hospital, and for help at home following the procedure.
 - Cardioversion is successful in over 90 percent of elective cases. About half of these experience recurring arrhythmia within a year and need a repeat procedure.
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