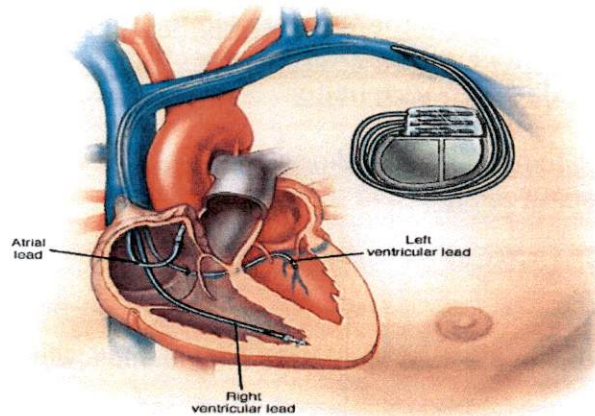




WESTERN  
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# PATIENT INFORMATION FOR CARDIAC DEVICE INSERTION



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## PERMANENT PACEMAKER

A pacemaker is a small device that is placed under the skin in your chest to help control your heartbeat. It helps your heartbeat beat more regularly if you have an irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia), particularly a slow one.

Depending on your condition, you might have one of the following types of pacemakers:

- Single chamber pacemaker – this type usually carries electrical impulses to the right ventricle of your heart.
- Dual chamber pacemaker – this type carries electrical impulses to the right atrium and the right ventricle of your heart to help control the timing of the contractions between the two chambers.
- Biventricular pacemaker – biventricular pacing, also called cardiac resynchronisation therapy, is for people with heart failure with abnormal electrical systems. This type of pacemaker stimulates the lower chambers of the heart (the right and left ventricles) to make the heartbeat more efficiently.

A pacemaker comprises of two parts:

- A pulse generator – This small metal container houses a battery and the electrical circuitry that regulates the rate of electrical pulses sent to your heart.
- Leads – One to three flexible, insulated wires are each placed in a chamber, or chambers, of your heart and deliver the electrical pulses to adjust your heart rate.

The procedure usually takes approximately 45-90 minutes.

You may be given some light sedation via an intravenous line to help you relax and feel comfortable during the procedure. You will be awake but drowsy.

The area just below the collarbone is where the pacemaker will be inserted. You will be given local anaesthetic to numb the pacemaker insertion site. A small cut (4-7 cm long) will be made to insert the pacemaker and usually dissolvable sutures are used to close the wound.