

Questions

to ask your healthcare professional

What is a pacemaker?

Why do I need a pacemaker?

Which pacemaker is most suitable for me?

What is the difference between a traditional pacemaker and a leadless pacemaker?

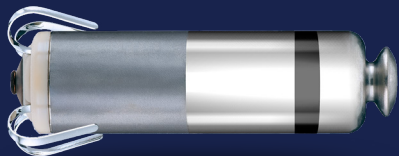
What are the advantages of a leadless pacemaker?

What do I need to know about living with a leadless pacemaker?

Is my leadless pacemaker MRI/CT scan compatible?

Will I be able to go for a routine mammogram?

Is my leadless pacemaker compatible with airport security systems?



Want to Know More?

If you have any questions, would like further advice or information, please contact our Patient Services Team:

Call:

+44 (0)1789 867 501

Email:

info@heartrhythmalliance.org

or visit:

www.heartrhythmalliance.org

To view our patient resources, scan the QR code:



Please visit the Arrhythmia Alliance / AF Association / STARS website for further information.

Register for our online education series:
Living with a Leadless Pacemaker

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Pacemaker Patient Information

Devices for an Arrhythmia

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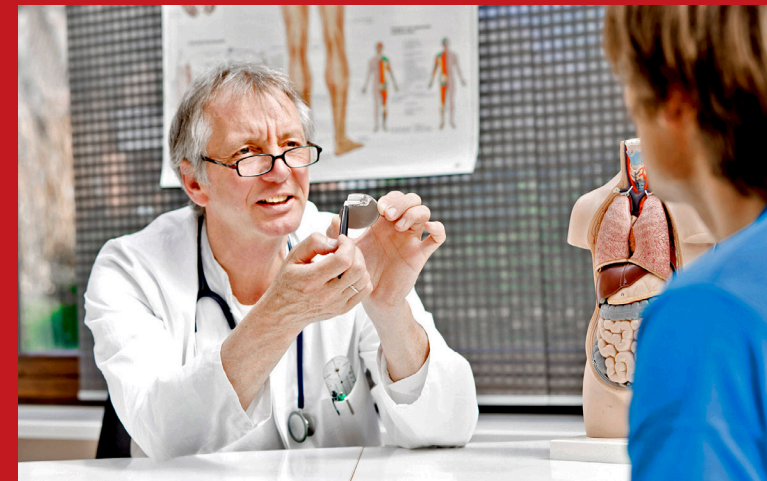
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FOR PATIENTS & CAREGIVERS

Am I Suitable for a Leadless Pacemaker?

This guide is to help offer support and advice to individuals who may be suitable for a leadless pacemaker



Discussion Guide

What is a pacemaker?

A pacemaker uses low-energy electrical pulses, to maintain a normal, healthy rhythm, often acting as a lifesaving treatment for arrhythmias.

Why do I need a pacemaker?

A pacemaker is a small battery powered device, implanted to regulate a slow, fast, or irregular heart rhythm (arrhythmia) which can be caused by a faulty electrical system in the heart. They are also implanted to help with heart block, sick sinus syndrome and heart failure. A pacemaker is also recommended to treat symptoms such as chronic light-headedness and fainting (syncope).

Which pacemaker is most suitable for me?

The most suitable pacemaker for you depends entirely on your specific heart rhythm condition, symptoms, and anatomy. The type of pacemaker most appropriate for you will be discussed and determined by your healthcare professional.

What is the difference between a traditional pacemaker and a leadless pacemaker?

The most significant difference between a traditional pacemaker and a leadless pacemaker is the size of the device. A traditional pacemaker is implanted under the skin normally on the upper left side of the chest; it may have one or more leads which are fed into the heart wall. A leadless pacemaker is a much smaller device, and does not have any leads, therefore it is placed directly within the heart for the treatment of bradyarrhythmias (slow heart rhythms) however, both have the sufficient battery life and capacity to help regulate your heart rhythm for many years.



Size comparison of pacemaker (left), leadless pacemaker (middle), and medication capsule (right).

What are the advantages of a leadless pacemaker?

As the device is much smaller and less invasive than traditional pacemakers, the risk of infection is significantly lower as it is implanted directly into the heart, therefore reducing the risks associated with wound infection and scarring. It also reduces any visual or physical restrictions.

How is a leadless pacemaker implanted?

Unlike traditional pacemakers, the procedure is minimally invasive. The pacemaker can be implanted under sedation or local anaesthetic. A small incision is made to access a vein either in the neck or in the groin. A catheter (thin tube) containing the pacemaker is then gently inserted into the vein which allows the tube containing the leadless pacemaker to be navigated through to a precise location within the heart. The pacemaker is secured in place and the catheter is removed. As the incision to the skin is exceedingly small, the healing process is much quicker. If you have any concerns or questions about the procedure, please contact your healthcare professional.

What do I need to know about living with a leadless pacemaker?

As with all pacemakers it is important to be cautious of specific electronic devices, such as mobile phones and ensure they are kept a minimal distance of 15 cm from the implanted pacemaker. Whilst most household appliances are deemed safe, it is advisable to remain cautious. Be aware of electronic devices, magnetic security shop entrances and airport security that may have an impact on your pacemaker.

Is my leadless pacemaker MRI/CT scan compatible?

Many scanners are now compatible, however, if you have a scan scheduled; please inform the medical staff in advance and on the day to allow them to make any changes required.

Will I be able to go for a routine mammogram?

Yes, you can have a mammogram. Please advise the clinician at the appointment that you have a pacemaker implanted and explain it is leadless.

Is my leadless pacemaker compatible with airport security systems?

Many security scanners are adapting to accommodate implanted devices. Always inform the security staff about your leadless pacemaker and show your ID card as they will allow staff to make any adjustments required.

