

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can I have an MRI?

Yes! However, it must be done at Kingston Health Sciences Centre unless you move to a different clinic.

Are appliances safe?

Yes! Standard household appliances are safe. The general rule is 1ft to an arms length away for an induction oven. It is recommended you do not purchase a new induction oven.

Are power tools safe?

Electric powered tools in good working order are safe. Gas chainsaws and ARC welding are not recommended.

Is it safe to use my cell phone or tablet?

Yes! However, do not keep it in a pocket close to the device & try to use the opposite ear when talking on a cell phone.

How long does the battery last?

Average battery life of Pacemakers is anywhere from 8-15 years.

Average battery life for a LoopRecorder is ~2 years.

Driving

- No driving for one week after receiving a new pacemaker and leads. There are no driving restrictions for only a pacemaker replacement. However, you should not drive for 24 hours after a procedure.

Symptom Activator

Loop Recorder Only

- Use your symptom activator only when you experience the symptom which the device was implanted for.

Device I.D. Card

- After implant you'll get a temporary I.D. card with your device information.
- The company that made your device will mail you an official card in a few months.
- Keep the card in your wallet/purse or with your health card.

Contact Us

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76 Stuart Street, Kingston ON

Cardiac Rhythm Device Clinic
Fraser Armstrong Floor 3
Toll Free: 1-800-567-5722
Local: 613-549-6666 Extension: 4547

KingstonHSC.ca

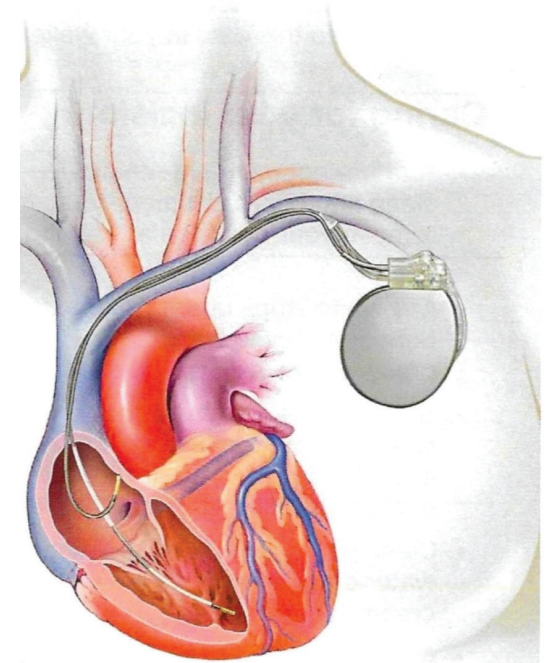
Kingston Health
Sciences Centre

Centre des sciences de
la santé de Kingston

Aussi disponible en français

Cardiac Rhythm Device Home Care Guide

Pacemaker Implantable Loop Recorder



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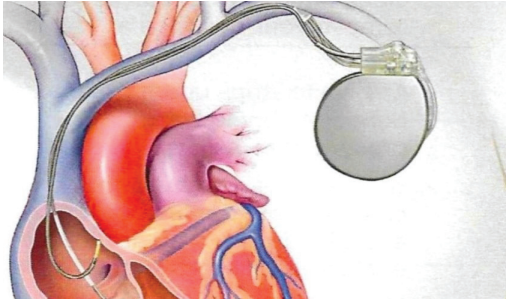
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Hôpital
Hotel Dieu
Hospital

KGH

Hôpital Général de
Kingston General
Hospital



Activity guidelines

Left arm only Right arm only

- No lifting, pushing, or pulling anything >10lbs for six weeks after your surgery, unless instructed otherwise. This is to ensure the leads heal properly.
- No lifting of your arm above your head for six weeks.
- After the six weeks, you can resume regular activity.

Coming to your follow-up appointment

- Your initial check will be 8-12 weeks after implant. Typical device follow-up is every ~6-12 months in clinic.
- Bring a list of your current medications.
- You will see a Nurse for your device check. They will do routine testing and review data.
- A physician will only be consulted if there are concerns.
- We will send a copy of our findings to your family doctor, Nurse Practitioner, and/or your Cardiologist if you wish.

Caring for your incision

The white dressing will stay on for three days (72 hours) after your surgery.

Remove: _____
Do not shower or wet the dressing until it is removed.

If 'steri-strips' or tape under the white dressing will stay on for one week (7 days) after your surgery.

Remove: _____

If skin glue was used on your incision, do not touch the glue, it will rub off in time.

All sutures are dissolvable.

Avoid touching your incision: do not apply cream or ointment.

Bruising is normal.

Cleanse with gentle soap; pat dry.

The area will be sore for up to a week after surgery; regular Tylenol (or what you take for pain management) is best.

If you notice any twitching, or jumping in your abdomen, it is not an emergency, but please call the clinic.

The incision should not open, ooze, or bleed. Call the clinic immediately if this happens.

FAQs

What happens when the battery gets low?

The device function does not change as the battery depletes. With <1 year battery remaining the clinic will advise you on more frequent follow up. You will then be worked up for a replacement.

What if I move to another country or province?

Let the clinic know. It is your responsibility to locate another pacemaker clinic that is accepting patients. We will then send your device information to the new clinic.

Can the device malfunction?

Device malfunction is very rare. Even when the battery begins to deplete, the device will maintain normal function.

Will a magnet turn off the device?

A magnet, when applied close to the device will change the mode or disable certain therapy, which may not be appropriate for you. As soon as the magnet is removed, the device will return to its regular settings.

Can I travel?

Yes! Ensure you carry your device I.D. card with you. At airport security, show your device I.D. card.