



Name: _____

ELECTRICAL CARDIOVERSION

The following information is a brief description about Electrical Cardioversion. If you have any questions after reading this information, please speak with your nurse.

WHAT IS A ELECTRICAL CARDIOVERSION?

- ❖ Cardioversion involves applying an electrical impulse to the chest wall.

WHY IS IT DONE?

- ❖ Electrical Cardioversion is used to treat irregular heartbeats (cardiac arrhythmias) that may not have responded to medications. It helps to restore the heart to a regular rhythm.
- ❖ This treatment does not have the side effects that certain medications have.

WHERE IS THE PROCEDURE DONE?

- ❖ Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, 5th floor, Tisch Hospital

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

- ❖ The procedure takes about 30 minutes but this does not include transportation time.



WHAT PREPARATION IS NEEDED?

- ❖ Do not have anything to eat or drink before the cardioversion.
- ❖ Your nurse will give you prescribed medications which you can take with a sip of water.
- ❖ When you are called to the Catheterization Laboratory, urinate to empty your bladder and change into a hospital gown.
- ❖ You can wear your dentures.
- ❖ Escort Service personnel will bring you by stretcher to the Cardiac Catheterization Lab.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE PROCEDURE?

- ❖ You will lie on a stretcher. A nurse will take your blood pressure and heart rate.
- ❖ You will be connected to a cardiac monitor and an intravenous will be started.
- ❖ You will receive intravenous sedation (usually Valium) during the procedure. This will make you drowsy.
- ❖ You will have a "patch" applied to your left back and a "patch" to your front chest area.
- ❖ The doctor will discharge the machine at the appropriate time. This will produce an electrical impulse.
- ❖ You may be aware of a slight twitch of your body, or feel like you were hit in the chest. This does no damage to the heart muscle. It may cause a "sunburn" under the "patch" that will go away soon after the procedure.
- ❖ If needed, you may receive additional shocks, to restore your normal rhythm.



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WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PROCEDURE?

- ❖ After the electrical cardioversion, you will be returned to your room where you will be closely observed for a few hours.
- ❖ During this period, your blood pressure, pulse and temperature will be taken frequently.
- ❖ Your heart rate and rhythm will be monitored. You may be placed on telemetry (a type of cardiac monitor).
- ❖ You must stay in bed until the sedation wears off. Usually after about 2 hours you will be able to get up. You will be assisted by a nurse the first time you get up.
- ❖ You will be able to resume your meals once you are awake from the sedation.
- ❖ **Tell the nurse immediately if you have palpitations, chest pain or any other unusual sensations.**

DISCHARGE INFORMATION:

- ❖ Usually, you can resume your normal activities the following day, or as directed by your physician.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR QUESTIONS:

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