

Source: National Heart Lung and Blood Institute (NIH)

Contact us:

Monday –Friday
8AM – 4PM

Heart Rhythm Office
613-549-6666 extension 3377

Cardiac Coordinator
613-548-1399 extension 3

**Kingston Health
Sciences Centre**

Centre des sciences de
la santé de Kingston



Hôpital
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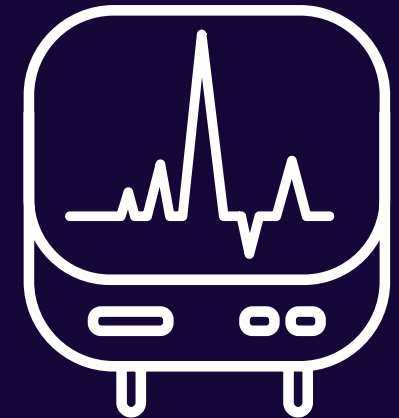


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Cardioversion

What to expect before
and after your procedure



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What happens before the cardioversion?

Your health care provider will review the need for a cardioversion depending on your situation and talk about the risks and benefits of the procedure.

We'll review medications and ask about prescription medications, vitamins or herbs that you take.

We'll ask you to take anticoagulation or blood thinners for a period of time before your cardioversion. This is to lower the risk of stroke. You should keep track of taking your blood thinner every day. If you miss a dose of the blood thinner, your cardioversion may be cancelled.

A coordinator will call you to give you instructions about where and when to go for your procedure. They'll remind you that you should not eat or drink 8 hours before the procedure.

Bring your CPAP machine if you have sleep apnea.

Arrange for someone to drive you home after the procedure.

What happens during the cardioversion?

You will check in at the registration department.

You will have an ECG (Electrocardiogram) and blood work done.

Staff will bring you to the room where the procedure will be done. You'll have an intravenous (IV) line placed in your arm. We'll give you medication in this line to put you to sleep for the procedure.

You'll have small pads put on your chest to monitor your heart beat. Then two larger pads will be added. They are used for the cardioversion.

You'll talk with an anesthesiologist. They will give oxygen in your nose and mouth through a face mask.

Once you are asleep the controlled electric shock is given. We will watch your heart beat to see that it has gone back into its normal rhythm. You may need more than one shock.

Remember you will be asleep so you will not remember the shock.

What happens after the cardioversion?

We will monitor you until you are awake. We may ask you to wear your CPAP. Once you are awake you can have fluids and may have a bite to eat.

We will remind you about what medications to take after your procedure. The most important thing to remember is that you must continue to take the blood thinner after your cardioversion until you're seen in follow up

In most cases you'll go home a few hours after the sedation wears off

Your chest may be sore after your cardioversion. Your skin may feel irritated. Over the counter medications such as Tylenol or Advil may help with your discomfort.

The nurse or physician will speak to you about follow up after the procedure.

Don't drive or operate heavy machinery for 24 hours after the procedure.

Get medical advice from your family doctor or go to the emergency if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fast or slow heart beat that makes you feel weak, dizzy or like you may faint
- Chest pain or chest tightness that doesn't settle with medications