

Cardioversion

In consultation with you, your cardiologist has decided to treat you with cardioversion. This is because you have an abnormal heart rhythm. With cardioversion, we try to restore this abnormal rhythm to a normal one by means of an electric shock. Your cardiologist has already spoken to you about the treatment. In this leaflet you can read the information again at your leisure. Please be aware that your personal situation may differ from the one described here. If so, a member of staff will inform you.

Voorbereidingen

Sober

On the day of the treatment, you should remain sober from 0.00 (midnight). You should not eat, drink or smoke anything from this time. You should still take your blood thinner with a little water in the morning.

Blood thinners

If you are being treated with anticoagulants (blood thinners), you should have taken them as prescribed at least three weeks before the treatment, without forgetting any intake. If you forget to take one in the three weeks before cardioversion, contact your cardiologist.

Pacemaker

If you have a pacemaker, would you please bring the card with details about it (make and type)?

Jewellery and valuables

Leave jewellery and other valuables at home. Make sure your nails are free of e.g. nail polish or artificial nails.

Transport home

You should bear in mind that after the treatment you are not allowed to drive home yourself or travel alone by public transport. This means that you must arrange for escort and transport. This is for your own safety and that of others.

Day of treatment

You will report to the cardiology secretariat at the indicated time, where another EKG will first be taken. After this, you will go to the day hospital where you will be prepared for treatment.

Treatment

Cardioversion takes a few minutes, after the anaesthetist puts you to sleep, the electric shock is given. You will not wake up from this. The monitor immediately shows whether the treatment was successful and whether the heart rhythm has returned to normal. If not, you will be given another electric shock. You can receive up to 3 electric shocks.

After the cardioversion, you will wake up fairly quickly.

After the treatment

Your skin may turn red at the place where the electric shock was given, despite the skin protective plaster. This is a reaction of the skin. This may feel a little burning but will go away by itself. At home, you can apply a moisturising cream or after-sun to your skin.

How long you stay on the ward varies from patient to patient. Before you are allowed to go home, an EKG will be taken as a check-up..

Back home

You are not allowed to drive or make important decisions because of the after-effects of the sleeping medication. It is important that you arrange in advance for a companion to take you home after the examination.

Take it easy at home for the first 24 hours after treatment. You do not have to sit still, but do not exercise or exercise in any other way. After the first 24 hours you can do everything as you are used to.

Questions?

If, after reading this leaflet, you still have questions about the treatment, please contact your cardiologist by phone.

Contact information

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