



Consent Information – Lead Extraction

1. Why is my cardiac device being removed?

- Infection and/or
- Lead failure

The procedure will usually be done under General Anaesthetic in the operating room :

You will have an injection of local anaesthetic just under the collarbone. The skin is cut to remove the device and/or leads. The skin is then sewn back together.

2. What are the risks of this specific procedure?

In recommending this procedure your doctor has balanced the benefits and risks of the procedure against the benefits and risks of not proceeding. Your doctor believes there is a net benefit to you going ahead. This is a very complicated assessment.

There are risks and complications with this procedure. They include but are not limited to the following.

Common risks and complications (more than 5%) include:

- Minor bruising at the device site.
- Leads may not be able to be removed.

Uncommon risks and complications (1- 5%) include:

- Bad bruising at the device site, this will sometimes require drainage
- Abnormal heart rhythm that continues for a long time. This may need an electric shock to correct.
- Blood clot in the subclavian vein (subclavian vein thrombosis). This may require blood thinners (Warfarin) for a few months.
- Tearing of the heart muscle or the great vessels which may require emergency surgery to repair.
- Need for open heart surgery.

Rare risks and complications (less than 1%) include:

- Infection at the site of the device. This will need antibiotics.
- Damage to blood vessels causing bleeding. This may require surgery to repair.
- A punctured lung. This may require a tube to be inserted into the chest to reinflate the lung.
- Damage to the heart valve. This may require surgery to repair.
- Blood clot in the lung.
- Heart attack.
- A stroke. This can cause long term disability.
- Death is possible due to this procedure or other heart problems.

Notes to talk to my doctor about:

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