



Consent Information – Right Heart Catheter

1. What is a right heart catheter

This involves placing a fine tube (catheter), which will monitor pressure, into the chambers of your heart and the blood vessels of your lungs. The doctors will learn more about the pressure in your heart and lungs and the pumping function of your heart.

You will have the following procedure:

You will be given an injection of local anaesthetic. A fine tube (catheter) is put into the vein in your neck or groin. You may feel pressure on your area while the tube is placed in the vein. It is passed through the blood vessels until it reaches the heart and then goes up into the blood vessels of the lungs. This is usually painless. The doctor uses x-ray imaging to see the catheter.

Pressures in the lungs and the heart are recorded. A sample of blood may be taken to look at the oxygen level and other levels.

At the end of the procedure, the catheter is removed and firm pressure is placed over the vein for few minutes to stop any bleeding.

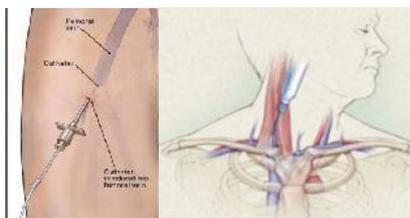
2. What are the risks of this specific procedure?

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 bleeding and bruising at the puncture site.



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

- Abnormal heart rhythm that continues for a long time. This may need an electric shock to correct
- The carotid artery (in the neck) or femoral artery (in the groin) is accidentally punctured. This may require surgery to repair.

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

- Infection. This will need antibiotics.
- Blood clot in the neck vein. This may need medication to treat.
- Blood clot in the leg (DVT) causing pain and swelling. In rare cases part of the clot may break off and go to the lungs.
- Embolism. A blood clot may form and break off from the catheter. This is treated with blood thinning medication.
- Air in the lung cavity. A chest tube may need to be put in to the chest to drain the air.
- Air embolism. Oxygen may be given.
- A hole is accidentally made in the heart or the heart valve. This may need surgery to repair.
- Unable to position the balloon catheter into the lung vessels or around the heart. The procedure would be cancelled if this occurred. This is more common if there are congenital malformations of the heart.
- Damage to the lung blood vessel causing bleeding. This may need surgery to repair.
- A stroke. This may cause long term disability.
- Death as a result of this procedure is extremely rare