



ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY STUDY (EP STUDY)

In order for the heart to pump, it needs a system to start the heart beat and maintain the beat in a regular, orderly sequence. The conduction system or electrical system of the heart does this job. There are some conditions that alter this system causing the heart to beat irregularly. They are called arrhythmias. Some arrhythmias cause the heart to beat too slow (Bradycardias) while others cause the heart to beat too fast (Tachycardias). Your doctor and nurses will let you know what type of arrhythmia you have.

An EP Study will look at the electrical system of the heart from inside the chambers of the heart. By doing this, your doctor will be able to treat your arrhythmia with the medication or procedure that will work best.

Things you need to know:

Your doctor may order you to have lab work and a chest x-ray done before the day of your procedure.

Your doctor will give you instructions about taking your medications before your procedure. Generally, you will be asked to take all of your medications, except for antiarrhythmics (medicines that are used to suppress abnormal rhythms of the heart) , the night before and morning of your procedure. Your doctor may have special instructions about your diabetes medications or about any medications that affect blood clotting. Please ask your doctor if you have any questions about which medications to take.

Please bring all of the medications you are currently taking with you the day of your procedure.

You are not to eat or drink anything except for sips of water with your



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medication after 12:00 midnight the night before your procedure unless your doctor has instructed you otherwise.

You will come to the hospital the morning of your procedure. A staff member from the Invasive Heart Lab will call you the night before your procedure to tell you what time to report.

On day of your procedure you will report to the Cardiac Same Day Unit which is located on the Lobby level of the Bedford Entrance of Aultman Hospital.

An EP study usually takes about 2-4 hours from the time the patient leaves the room until they returns. However, the procedure may take longer. After the procedure, you will need to stay in bed for about 3-6 hours. Patients need to plan to be at the hospital the entire day.

Patients are advised to have a support person to stay with the patient for the night once they are discharged to home.