



Radiofrequency Ablation

In order for the heart to pump, it needs a system to start the heart beat and maintain it 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 it to beat too fast (Tachycardias). Your doctor and nurses will let you know what type arrhythmia you have. Radiofrequency ablation is a special type of cardiac catheterization which destroys abnormal electrical heart tissue by electrocautery. The abnormal tissue is cauterized by heat and destroyed to prevent the arrhythmia from occurring.

Ablation therapy is used in the treatment of electrical problems with the heart. Some fast, irregular heart rhythms are treatable with ablation therapy. Your doctor and nurse will discuss your heart rhythm with you. You may have an electrophysiological study before the ablation procedure. This procedure will help to diagnose the location of the abnormal heart tissue. Your doctor and nurse will discuss this procedure with you.

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 antiarrhythmics, 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 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 in Aultman Hospital.

An ablation usually takes about 6 hours from the time the patient leaves the room until they return. However, the procedure may take longer. Do not become alarmed if your family member's ablation takes longer than expected.

You will need to be monitored overnight. Patients are generally discharged 24 hours or sooner after radiofrequency ablation.