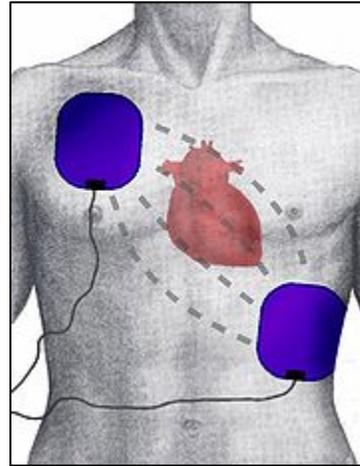


What is a Cardioversion?

What is a Cardioversion and why is this procedure being ordered?

The normal beating heart pattern of the heart is controlled by an electrical system. A smooth, constant flow of electricity spreads from the top of the heart to the bottom to make your heart contract and pump blood. Any problem or disruption with this electrical system can cause an irregular heartbeat, or arrhythmia. Your physician has ordered a Cardioversion to correct the arrhythmia caused by the electrical system in your heart.



How long will this test take?

The Cardioversion procedure usually takes about 10 minutes **but** additional time is needed for the pre-procedure set up and recovery. Plan on being at the hospital for three to four hours. Your doctor will discuss the details of your care with you before your Cardioversion.

Prior to the test- What do I need to do?

You must arrange to have someone 18 years or older other than yourself drive you home. You may not use a car service, taxi or other form of public transportation.

Your cardiologist will order an electrocardiogram (ECG), a test to show the pattern of electrical activity through the heart. Your cardiologist will order lab-work prior to the procedure.

If you have diabetes or you are taking the drug Coumadin, you may need to adjust your medication dosage before the study. Contact your cardiologist for directions.

Do not eat or drink six hours before the procedure. Take all of your regular medications before your procedure unless directed otherwise by your doctor.

Bring a current list of your medications with you. Wear comfortable clothing that is easy to change in and out of. Leave valuables at home such as jewelry, money, checkbook, and credit cards.

What can I expect on the day of the procedure?

- Once you have arrived at the Patient Care Area, a nurse will greet you and bring you to the procedure room. You may be asked to change into a hospital gown.
- The nurse will conduct a brief medical history, including medications you are currently taking. The cardiologist will discuss the informed consent. An anesthesiologist will also discuss the informed consent in order to safely administer medication for the procedure.

- You will be connected to a heart monitor, a blood pressure cuff and an oxygen sensor to monitor your blood oxygen level. Oxygen will be given through your nose.
- The nurse will apply two pads to you, one on your chest and one on your back. In some cases the nurse may have to shave the area where the pads will be placed. The cable from the pads will then be connected to a defibrillator (the device that will deliver the energy). An intravenous line (IV) will be started in your arm so that you may receive the medication necessary to sedate you for the Cardioversion.
- You will be positioned on your back on a stretcher with one to two pillows under your head.
- Anesthesia will be started to give you medication to sedate you.
- Once you are adequately sedated, the Cardiologist will administer the necessary energy through the pads in order to change the rhythm of your heart back to a regular rhythm.
- An ECG will be obtained immediately after the Cardioversion.
- You will be transported to a recovery area, your family member can be with you at that time.
- Your heart rhythm will be monitored for a minimum of two hours before you may leave.

What do I expect after my procedure?

At the end of the procedure, the doctor will go over the results with you and your family member.

You will spend approximately two hours after the procedure in recovery, monitoring your heart rhythm.

The nurses in the Patient Care Area will review post procedure instructions with you and a copy will be provided to you upon discharge.

After the procedure, follow up with the cardiologist as discussed.

Directions to your appointment

****This test is performed only at Danbury Hospital Main Campus.***

Danbury Hospital- Located at 24 Hospital Ave., Danbury, CT. Follow directions to the BLUE parking lot and park in the Purple section. Enter the main lobby on the fifth floor; at the information desk ask for directions to Cardiology Stress Testing / Echo Lab.

If you have further questions please call **(203) 739-4999**.

Additional information can also be found at www.danburyhospital.org

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