

Atrial tachycardia

Information for patients



Following our discussion in clinic you have been put on to the waiting list for an electrical study of your heart. If possible, we will perform ablation to treat your heart rhythm disturbance (atrial tachycardia). We discussed the pros and cons of your treatment options in clinic. Hopefully this leaflet will help you remember some of the things that were covered.

- An electrical study and ablation for an SVT involves placing catheters in to the heart via veins at the top of the legs.
- Local anaesthetic is used to numb the skin before placing small tubes in to the veins.
- If we can trigger your palpitations the chances of successfully treating this by heating the tissue is approximately 80% (80 out of every 100 procedures performed).
- If we successfully treat with ablation most patients can stop medication used for palpitations.

There is a small risk associated with this procedure. The chance of complication with this procedure is approximately 2%. This means that one person would experience a complication for every 100 procedures performed. Life threatening complications are extremely rare.

Possible complications are summarised below:

- There is a very small possibility of stroke. Roughly one stroke occurs in every 500 procedures.

- Bleeding around the heart that needs to be drained with a needle and tube sometimes happens. This would happen approximately 1 time for every 150 procedures done.
- Bleeding due to placement of tubes at the top of legs can happen in one out of every 200 procedures.
- Damage to the electrical system that would need another procedure to place a pacemaker happens, roughly, once for every 200 procedures performed.
- Blood clots in the legs that travel to the lungs happen approximately once for every 1000 procedures performed.

Other options for the management of your palpitations were also discussed with you in clinic.

When thinking about the options you should think about:

- The chance of having palpitations with or without tablet treatment.
- The chance of palpitations limiting your activity or the need for hospital admission for treatment.
- Some patients have side-effects with medication such as feeling tired or having a slow heart rate.

Further information can be found on the internet at www.heartrhythmalliance.org.

If you have any questions you would like to ask before coming to hospital for your procedure please contact us via the arrhythmia nursing team on **07584 184 507** or **0113 392 5884**.

Alternatively email arrhythmia.nurses@nhs.net



What did you think of your care?

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© The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust • 1st edition Ver 1
Developed by: Ben Mercer, Cardiologist
Produced by: Medical Illustration Services • MID code: 20230927_015/JG

LN005718
Publication date
12/2023
Review date
12/2026