

Pacemakers & Defibrillators



Other names:

- Implantable cardioverter-defibrillator
- Automated external defibrillator
- Cardiac Pacemaker

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The purpose of this guide is to help patients and families find quality information about pacemakers and defibrillators. This list is not meant to be comprehensive, but rather to provide starting points for information seeking. The resources may be obtained at the Wellness Resource Center, room 2101 in the Cardiovascular Center.

Brochures, Fact sheets

- American Heart Association
 - *Living with Your Pacemaker*
 - Heart Rhythm Society.
 - *Pacemaker*
 - *Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators (ICD's)*
- Same content available online at: <http://www.hrspatients.org/>

Book Chapter

- Kastor, John A. Devices Used to Treat Arrhythmias in: *You and Your Arrhythmia: A Guide to Heart Rhythm Problems for Patients & Their Families*. Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett, 2006.

Audiovisual Resources

- **An interactive tutorial on MedlinePlus.gov - Pacemaker**

- Access at: <http://www.medlineplus.gov/>
- On the right-hand side, Click on "Videos & Tutorials"
- Click on "Interactive Tutorials"
- Under the heading "Surgery and Treatment Procedures," select "Pacemakers"

A slide show with voice over and graphics explains how pacemakers work, the implanting procedure, managing the pacemaker and living with a pacemaker.

Web Resources

- **Heart Rhythm Society**

- Access at: <http://www.hrspatients.org/>

- The section on Treatments has information and illustrations about electronic devices.

- **HeartHub.org – section on Arrhythmia**

- Access at: <http://www.hearthub.org/>

- Under the “Health Centers” menu select: “Arrhythmia”

- This section provides easy-to-read explanations and illustrations about living with a pacemaker.

- **The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) – Sections on Pacemaker and Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator**

- Access at: <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/>

- Click on “Search the Diseases and Conditions Index”

- Under “Heart and Blood Vessel Diseases,” scroll down to the section on “Tests and Procedures”

- Select “Pacemakers” or “Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator”

- These sections provide an easy-to-read overview of pacemakers or defibrillators including who needs them, how they work and lifestyle.

- **UpToDate.**

- *Patient information: Pacemakers*

- *Patient information: Implantable cardioverter-defibrillators*

- Access at: <http://www.patients.uptodate.com/>

- Point your cursor over “View Patient-Level Health Topics by Category”

- Click on “Heart Disease”

- Select your topic from the list under “Defibrillators” or “Pacemakers”

- These detailed, comprehensive overviews are based on professional literature reviews written for physicians. The overviews include some medical terminology and are suitable for readers seeking to gain in-depth understanding of coronary heart disease.

University of Michigan Resources

- **The Preventive Cardiology program** at Domino's Farms offers a number of relevant program and services Including:
 - Cardiac Rehabilitation Program
 - Exercise Consultations
 - Nutrition Services
 - Stress Management ServicesFor more information access
<http://www.med.umich.edu/cvc/adult/serpre.htm>
or call: 734-998-7400
- **Tobacco Consultation Service**
Group and individual quit-smoking programs. For more information access:
<http://www.mhealthy.umich.edu/tobacco> or call 734-936-5988.

Websites of Heart Device Companies

- **Boston Scientific : LifeBeat**
 - Access at: <http://www.lifebeatonline.com/>
Information and an online newsletter for people with a heart device
- **Medtronic**
 - Access at: <http://www.medtronic.com/>
 - Under "Our Therapies," scroll down and select "Pacemakers"
- **St. Jude Medical**
 - Access at: <http://health.sjm.com/>
 - Click on "Arrhythmia Answers"
- **Biotronik**
 - Access at: <http://www.biotronik.de/en/de/3151>
 - On the left sidebar select either Pacemakers or Defibrillators
 - Access printable brochures at: <http://www.biotronik.de/en/de/6469>

Patient Support Organizations

- **Heart Rhythm Society**
Web site: <http://www.hrspatients.org/>
Tel.: (202) 464-3400

This document is not intended to take the place of the care and attention of your personal physician or other professional medical services. Our aim is to promote active participation in your care and treatment by providing information and education. Questions about individual health concerns or specific treatment options should be discussed with your physician.

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