

## Patient information and declaration of consent for electrotherapy for abnormal heart rhythms (electroconversion)

Dear Patient,

On the basis of your symptoms and previous investigation findings, electroconversion of your abnormal heart rhythm is indicated. This therapy should resolve the abnormal heart rhythm that has been detected.

### Treatment procedure

Please attend for treatment having fasted (i.e. without having eaten or drunk anything for 6 hours). If you are on blood thinning treatment, we would also ask you to bring the relevant medication card with you, showing the INR/Quick values measured by your doctor. Potassium levels and blood coagulation will be checked before the procedure (blood sample: the sample must have been taken within the last 7 days, the Quick/INR values must be those on the day of electroconversion). Dental implants must be removed before the procedure. Two electrodes that cover a wide area will be placed on your chest - one on your front and one on your back. A short current pulse will be triggered via these electrodes to eliminate your abnormal heart rhythm and restore a normal (regular) heartbeat. A short-acting anaesthetic (lasting a few minutes) will be administered so that you cannot feel the electroshock therapy.

### Possible complications

Although the treatment is normally complication-free, we cannot of course guarantee that it is risk-free. Apart from temporary skin irritation on the chest due to the placement/adhesion of electrodes for the shock therapy, no adverse consequences from the actual treatment are anticipated. Hypersensitivity reactions to the anaesthetic, anaesthetic failures, the appearance of different rhythm disorders or the discharge of blood clots from the heart (embolism) are very rare complications. Your blood will have been previously diluted with a medicinal product (e.g. Marcoumar, Xarelto) that prevents the formation and discharge of blood clots. Before electroconversion an ultrasound scan of the heart may need to be performed via the oesophagus (transoesophageal echocardiography). However this will be discussed with you separately. Overall, the benefit of this procedure far outweighs the risks.

### After treatment/electroconversion

After treatment you must remain in bed for a few hours as instructed by your doctor. Allow the anaesthetic to wear off fully before you eat, drink or get up. Speak to your doctor about discharge after the investigation, which is usually carried out on an outpatient basis (as a day case). Under no circumstances is driving a car or other vehicle allowed on the day of treatment (after the anaesthetic).

**Please tell us** if there is anything you have not understood, or if it appears there is something important that has not been mentioned in this letter or in the private discussion with your doctor.

### Declaration of consent

Dr . . . . . conducted a final declaration of consent discussion with me today, based on the patient information and the results of previous investigations. I understood the explanation and was able to ask all the questions I wanted to. After receiving a full response to my questions, I declare that I am willing to have the proposed treatment performed. I consent to any immediately necessary follow-up procedures.

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Place/date                      Signature of patient    Signature of doctor