

WHAT IS AN IMPLANTABLE LOOP RECORDER (ILR)?

The Implantable Loop Recorder is a small device for monitoring and recording the electrical heart rhythm. The device has no wires attached and is placed under the skin in the left chest wall. The device is used to study the heart rhythm of children who have unexplained blackouts, dizziness, falls and palpitations of unknown cause particularly when an abnormal heart rhythm is suspected. It automatically detects and records abnormal heart rhythms for up to 3 years.

HOW IS THE IMPLANTABLE LOOP RECORDER INSERTED?

The procedure is carried out in the Cardiac Catheterisation Lab under general or local anaesthesia depending on your child's age and preference.

BEFORE THE PROCEDURE

- You will be advised about the fasting times of your child.
- Your child will be admitted to the Day Unit.
- Ensure that your child has a bath or shower prior to the procedure.

- Consent for the procedure will be taken by your doctor.
- Antibiotics will be given if required

AFTER THE PROCEDURE

- Your child will return to the Day Unit
- Your child may be attached to a cardiac monitor.
- Your child will be observed for 2-3 hours until fully recovered from the procedure and/or general anaesthesia.

ADVICE ON DISCHARGE

- Before discharge the cardiac physiologist will explain how your device works and will give you verbal and written information. A small hand-held device called a **"Reveal Patient Activator"**, a **"My Carelink Home Monitor"** and a **"LINQ Identity Card"** will be provided. The physiologist will explain when and how to use this equipment. This will enable you and your child to record your child's heart activity during any symptoms.

ADVICE ON DISCHARGE

Wound care:

- The wound will have been closed with absorbable sutures, medical glue, or paper stitches called steristrips. A small dressing will be applied over the wound.
- The wound should be kept covered, clean and dry for 7 – 10 days until it is fully healed.
- You will be given a supply of dressings for use at home.
- Your child may have mild swelling or bruising around the implantable site but this should return to normal within 2 weeks.
- If your child has a temperature, the wound becomes red, swollen or starts to ooze, please inform the hospital immediately.
- While the site is healing, your child should avoid wearing tight clothing that could rub and cause discomfort over the site of the device.

Pain Relief

Mild discomfort is normal after the procedure. You will be given a pain relief leaflet informing you of the times to give your child pain medication at home.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Always carry your Implantable Loop Recorder device details and **Patient Activator** with you in case of any symptoms occurring. Always inform your Doctor, Dentist and Security staff at airports about your device.

Do not use the **Patient Activator** while bathing.

Do not place the device near or drop into water or other liquids.

If your device becomes damaged, lost or if you have any queries please contact the ECG Department Monday to Friday on 01-428 2811

REMOVING THE IMPLANTABLE LOOP RECORDER

Once your child hearts activity has been recorded during his/her symptoms and the doctor is satisfied that any heart rhythm related causes are identified or ruled out, the device can then be removed. The procedure to remove the Implantable Loop Recorder, is similar to when it was implanted and will be performed as a Day Case procedure. A routine follow-up appointment for your child will be given.

Remember: Ask your doctor / nurse if you are unsure anything about your child's care.

Additional instructions

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PARENTS INFORMATION ON IMPLANTABLE LOOP RECORDER

