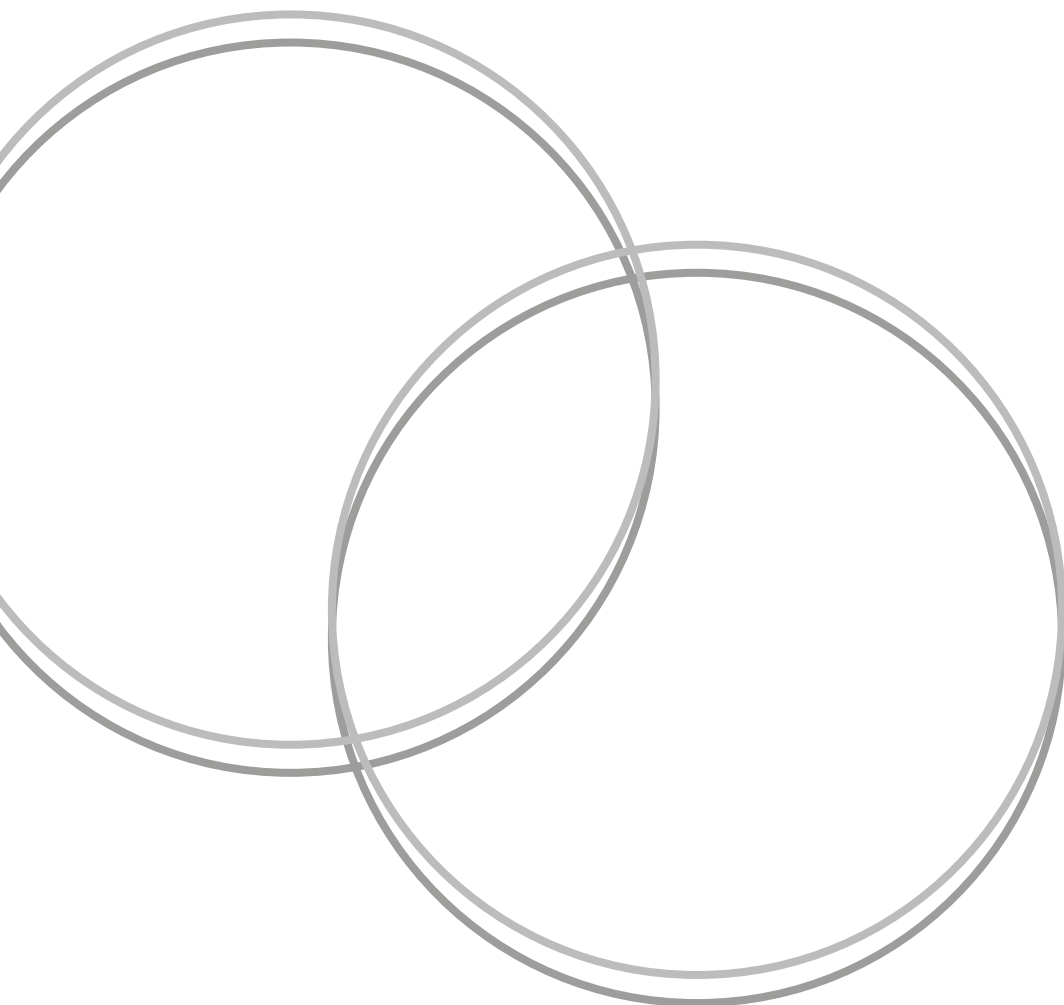




Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Right heart catheterisation

Information for patients



Right heart catheterisation

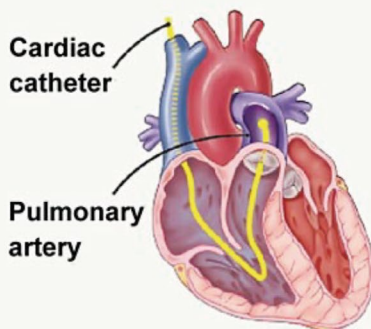
This leaflet has been developed to provide information on right heart catheterisation. Your doctor will provide you with more detailed information and be best placed to answer any additional questions you may have.

Why is a right heart catheterisation being performed?

It can give accurate information on the blood pressure in your heart and the arteries of your lungs (called pulmonary arteries). It can provide measurements on how much oxygen is in your blood and the amount of blood your heart is able to pump each minute. The results of the procedure can help your doctor decide on the best treatment for you.

How is a right heart catheterisation performed?

The procedure is performed by a cardiologist within the angiography suite at the Oxford Heart Centre as a day procedure. It is performed under local anaesthetic. During the procedure, a thin, flexible catheter is inserted into your arm, neck or groin. The catheter is then guided towards your heart under x-ray guidance. The catheter will allow the operator to take measurements inside your heart and in the large arteries of your lungs.



What other information is obtained during the procedure?

A vasodilator test may also be performed during right heart catheterisation to see if the blood pressure in your pulmonary arteries falls when a fast-acting blood pressure-reducing medication is given. The results of this test can help your doctor decide on the type of therapy to provide you.

Preparing for your admission

You will be sent an appointment letter detailing the date and time of your admission. This will include special instructions on being nil by mouth and information and directions for the cardiac day ward. You are advised not to drive on the day of your procedure. Please contact the specialist nurse if you require additional information.

On the day of the procedure

The cardiac day ward nursing team will review your information with you and perform pre-procedural checks. Most people undergo right heart catheterisation without difficulty; however, there are risks associated with any medical procedure. Your cardiologist will discuss your procedure and the consent process with you.

You will be asked to wear a hospital gown for the procedure. The procedure can take up to one hour.

After the procedure

The cardiac day ward nurses will perform post-procedural checks and advise you on when you can eat, drink, and move. The cardiologist may also discuss the results of your procedure with you.

The cardiac day ward nurses will provide you with additional post-procedure information and advice. Please ask your doctor to advise you on when you can return to driving, work and normal activities

We hope this information is useful to you. Please contact your doctor or the specialist nurse if you require additional information or support, Alternatively you can contact cardiology pre-admissions team on Cardiology.Preadmission@ouh.nhs.uk or Patient Access Officer on 01865 572 810.

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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January 2025

Review: January 2028

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

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