

Can I use a microwave?

This is the most commonly asked question about pacemakers. Since the mid 1980's there has been no problem with pacemakers and microwave ovens. The manufactures of both devices have changed their construction to prevent problems.

Can I use a cell phone?

Cell phones do have the ability to interfere with pacemakers but only if the phone is placed directly over the pacemaker. If the phone is used on the opposite side from the pacemaker, then there should be no problem.

Will airport (department store) security effect my pacemaker?

Walking through the metal detector will not effect your pacer. However, the hand held wand could effect your pacer if it were held over your pacer for several seconds. Just sweeping it over the pacer will not be a problem. Have your pacemaker identification card handy to prove you have a pacer.

How soon can I drive after my pacemaker?

If you have power steering and an automatic transmission, then you can drive 3 days after your surgery. Driving any vehicle requiring more strength and agility will have to be cleared by your physician.

When can I take a bath?

Bathing is permitted 3 days after surgery unless otherwise specified.

How long do I wear the sling?

If you had a new pacing lead implanted, then the upper arm should be restrained for 2 weeks.

How active can I be after surgery?

Walk as much as you want the day after surgery. Do not raise your hand (on the side of surgery) above your shoulder for 2 weeks. No heavy exertion on the involved side for 1 month after surgery.

When does the dressing come off?

Three days after surgery.

When can I take the Stiri-Strips off?

Two weeks after surgery.

When can I have my surgical staples removed?

Two weeks after surgery.

How often do I have my pacemaker checked?

Usually at 3 months after implant, then every 6 to 12 months thereafter.