Impella®

A Guide For Talking to Your Doctor



Having a conversation with your doctor is an important next step. But we know it can be intimidating if you don't know complex medical terms, what questions to ask, or what health details to share. We've created this guide to help you have a useful conversation with your physician so you can get on the path to possible treatment.

What is Protected Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI)?

A Protected PCI procedure is a minimally invasive procedure used to help improve heart function and reduce symptoms related to coronary artery disease (CAD). It is typically performed on patients who are considered too high risk for open heart surgery[1]. During the procedure, a heart pump temporarily takes over the pumping function of the heart to ensure blood reaches major organs[2]. It's called a "protected" procedure because of this pumping support.

About Impella® CP with SmartAssist® and why you should ask your doctor about it

Impella CP® heart pumps aren't just for treating active heart attacks. They may be an option for Protected PCI procedures. These procedures can be life-changing for patients with coronary artery disease (CAD), low ejection fraction, or other heart failure conditions, who are too weak for open heart surgery or PCI procedures[1]. The Impella CP heart pump used in a Protected PCI procedure is temporary, not a long-term implant, and is removed before you go home[2].

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The Differences Between Heart Doctors

There are several types of cardiologists who may be involved in your heart health journey.

General Cardiologist

Diagnoses, treats, and manages the treatment plans for various heart conditions and cardiovascular disease in patients of all ages.[3]

Heart Failure Cardiologist

Specializes in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of patients with heart failure, focusing on the cause of heart failure to optimize care and improve outcomes for individuals with this condition.[3]

Interventional Cardiologist

Performs minimally invasive stenting procedures, such as an Impella CP supported PCI to help reduce CAD-related symptoms and improve patients' quality of life.[3,1]

What to discuss with your doctor

Use this worksheet to help you prepare for your appointment.

Symptoms Checklist

Are you suffering from any of these symptoms?

- ☐ **Angina** Chest pain or discomfort during or after physical exertion but may go away with rest.[4]
- ☐ **Fatigue** Exhaustion from doing typical daily activities, such as going to the mailbox, grocery shopping, etc.[4]
- ☐ **Shortness of Breath** Difficulty breathing when laying down.[4]
- ☐ **Swelling** Swelling in the legs, ankles, feet, stomach, and veins in the neck.[5]
- ☐ **Cough** A persistent, unexplained cough.[6]

Are you experiencing any other symptoms?
List them here.

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Your Heart History

Have you ever experienced any of the following?

- ☐ Prior stenting procedure
- ☐ Coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG)
- ☐ Told you're too high-risk for open heart surgery
- ☐ Coronary artery disease (CAD) diagnosis
- ☐ Reduced ejection fraction (EF) below 49%[7]
- ☐ Prior heart attack

Quality of Life: Questions to Consider

How is your heart health affecting your life?

1. What symptoms are preventing you from living your life?

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2. Do you struggle with daily activities, such as walking up the stairs? Y / N

3. What other activities do you find difficult?

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4. What concerns would you like to discuss at your appointment?

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Questions to Ask Your Physician

1. Living with heart failure – what can I expect over the years?

2. What are the latest advances in heart failure treatments?

3. Could I be a candidate for Protected PCI?

4. What are the side effects of increasing medications?

What medications, prescribed and over the counter, are you currently taking?

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As with any medical treatment, individual results may vary. Only a physician can determine whether Impella is an option for High-Risk PCI and would be an appropriate course of treatment. There are potential risks including acute renal dysfunction, aortic valve injury, bleeding, cardiogenic shock, cerebral vascular accident/stroke, death, hemolysis, limb ischemia, myocardial infarction, renal failure, thrombocytopenia and cardiac or vascular injury (including ventricular perforation). These risks need to be discussed with your doctor and recovery takes time. The success of this procedure depends on many factors, including your physical condition and your body's ability to tolerate the procedure. Use care in the selection of your doctors and hospital, based on their skill and experience.

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1. Wollmuth, et al. JSCAI, 2022 1(5), 100350–100350. **2.** Glazier, J. J., & Kaki, A. (2019). The Impella device: Historical background, clinical applications and future directions. International Journal of Angiology, 28(2), 118–123. **3.** Fuster, V., Hirshfeld, J. W., Brown, A. S., Brundage, B. H., Fye, W. B., Lewis, R. P., Nash, I. S., Sketch, M. H., & Vetrovec, G. W. (2004). Working group 8: Defining the different types of cardiovascular specialists and developing a new model for training general clinical cardiologists. Journal of the American College of Cardiology, 44(2), 267–271. **4.** Mayo Clinic. (n.d.). Coronary artery disease symptoms and causes. Mayo Clinic. **5.** University of Michigan Health. (n.d.). Coronary artery disease (CAD). University of Michigan. **6.** Cleveland Clinic. (n.d.). Persistent cough: It may be a sign of heart failure. Cleveland Clinic. **7.** Ejection fraction heart failure measurement. (2024, June 6). www.heart.org.

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