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Electrophysiology Study

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Your doctor has offered you an electrophysiology study to see if your symptoms are caused by your heart's electrical system. There are many factors which cause heart racing and syncope (fainting or blackout periods).

The heart produces electrical signals that spread through the heart muscle, and this is what causes the heart to beat. The sum of these signals can be recorded to form an ECG. To see the electricity at specific locations in the heart, the doctor needs to place wires (catheters) into the heart. This is done through a vein at the top of the right leg and left shoulder. The doctor will first perform tests using these catheters to see if you have an abnormality. Assessing the properties of your conduction system allows the doctor to decide how to treat you.

What are the risks of this procedure?

This is a safe procedure and is done routinely. Complications associated with this procedure are very low.

Commonly experienced symptoms after an electrophysiology study:

- Your leg may be tender for about 4-5 days
- You may develop a small bruise or bleeding at the upper leg site. This usually improves with some direct pressure over the area.
- You may have some chest discomfort for a few days when you breathe deeply or lay down. This is from irritation of the sac which surrounds your heart. It usually improves with "over the counter" pain medication such as acetaminophen (Tylenol™). Contact your doctor if this persists longer than 2 days.

Like any procedure there are a number of uncommon complications that may occur. Your physician will go over these in detail with you and will be able to answer any of your questions or concerns. We make every effort to reduce your risk of these complications and continue to be aware of state of the art improvements to reduce your risk.