

Defibrillator Threshold Testing (DFT Testing) Patient information Leaflet

What is Defibrillator Threshold Testing?

DFT Testing allows your Cardiologist to check that your Implantable Cardioverting Defibrillator (ICD) is set up correctly and in the event of a fast heart rate would deliver an appropriate shock.

The test is carried out under a light general anaesthetic. Once you are asleep your heart rate will be sped up artificially, and your ICD will then deliver its appropriate shock therapy. You will be unaware of the shock.

Once you have been successfully cardioverted, you will be taken into the recovery area, where after a short period of time you will come around, once fully awake food and drink will be offered.

You will be seen by the Consultant Cardiologist before being discharged home, mid to late afternoon.

Instructions for day of procedure

It is done under a light general anaesthetic, therefore it is **important that you have someone to bring you in and take you home** (collection between approximately 5-6 pm) **You will need a responsible adult with you overnight.**

Take your usual medication before 7.30am.

You must not eat after 7.30am (including sweets lozenges and chewing gum), but you can **drink clear fluids** (water, black tea or black coffee) **until 11.30am.** Please drink at least one glass of water before you become 'nil by mouth'.

DO NOT STOP TAKING WARFARIN.

If on Warfarin you need have weekly INR checks at your GP surgery, starting at least three weeks before you are due to come in, and your INR needs to be greater than 2. We will also check it on the day.

If you take diabetic medication we may advise you to omit or change dose. If you take insulin we will seek advice regarding reducing the dose from the Diabetes department.

Please report to North Reception at 11am for a blood test, once you have had your blood test then come up to the Cardiology Department and report to main reception for an ECG, after your ECG please wait in the waiting area and we will call you through for your procedure when we are ready.

Any queries please contact Cardiac Cath Lab **01823 342067** (Mon to Fri)