

Closure of a Patent Foramen Ovale (PFO) or Atrial Septal Defect (ASD)

What is a PFO or ASD closure?

During this procedure, the cardiologist will insert a small device through a vein in the patient's groin and bring it up to the heart to close a hole in the heart.

Before the Procedure

- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before the procedure.
- Take your medicine with small sips of water.
- Tell your doctor if you have an allergy to contrast dye, iodine, or shellfish.
- Please arrange to have someone drive you home after your procedure.

During the Procedure

- You will be awake during the procedure, but will receive a medicine to help you relax
- You may receive medicine (anesthesia) to numb the incision sites.
- The cardiologist makes a small incision in your groin or neck.
- The doctor inserts a catheter through the catheter into a vein. The catheter is threaded through the vein up into the left atrium.
- In order to tell the size of the implant needed to close the hole, the cardiologist may:
 - Inject a contrast dye. The dye will show the hole well on x-ray. You may feel a warm flush as the dye enters your body.
 - Use a special ultrasound called a transesophageal echogram (TEE). For this the cardiologist will put a transducer (wand) down your esophagus (between your mouth and stomach). The doctor can put the wand close to your heart and take pictures using sound waves.
- The cardiologist puts the right size implant into a special catheter (the implant is collapsed so it will fit).
- The catheter is threaded to the site of the hole.
- The implant is expanded so it sits on each side of the hole.
- The implant is released from the catheter and the catheter is removed from your body.

After the Procedure

- You may have some tenderness at the incision sites (You will not feel the implant).
- If you had a transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE) you may have a sore throat.
- You will be on bedrest for a while.
- You may receive some activity and lifting restrictions by your nurse or doctor.
 - You may take a shower after 24 hours. Wash with soap and water. Pat dry gently with a towel
 - Avoid taking a bath, sitting in a hot tub, or going swimming for 2-3 days
- Please follow all instructions given to you by your nurse or doctor.
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When to Call Your Doctor

Call your doctor if you have any of the following signs or symptoms:

- Fever of more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit
- Swelling, redness or bleeding at the incision sites
- Numbness, tingling or weakness
- Change in your speech or vision

Other

- The implant will not set off metal detectors and it is safe to use in an MRI (magnetic resonance imaging).
- Tell all health care providers about the implant when you have any medical or dental care.

General Information

Your doctor has found a small hole in your heart. This hole is called a patent foramen ovale (called a PFO) or an atrial septal defect (called and ASD). This hole is between the right and left atria (upper chambers) of your heart.

Your doctor wants to close the small hole using an implant. The implant looks like two small fabric umbrellas, one on each side. Over time, the tissue around the hole grows into the fabric and the implant becomes a permanent part of your heart.

A cardiologist uses a catheter (small, narrow tube) to place the implant in the hole. The procedure is called a transcatheter hole closure. Your doctor will talk with you about the risks and benefits of the procedure. The procedure is done in the Cardiac Catheterization Lab.