

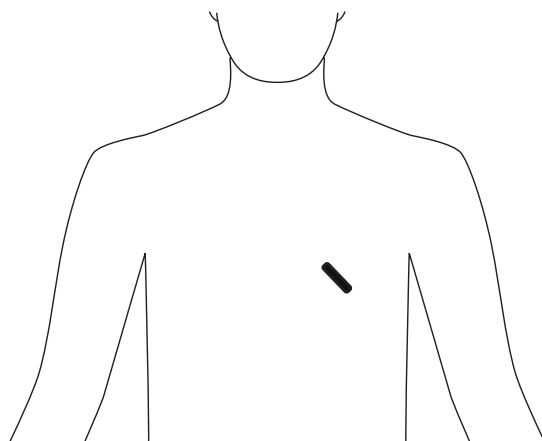


Reveal LINQ™ recording devices

This information sheet from Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) explains about your Reveal LINQ™ recording device and what to expect when you come to GOSH to have one fitted.

What is a Reveal LINQ™ device?

Reveal LINQ™ devices are heart monitors about the size of a memory stick that continually record your heart's activity over long periods of time. The monitor is very small and easy to insert, so once it's in place you can get back to your normal day-to-day activities.



Why am I having this procedure?

You may be having symptoms, such as palpitations, dizziness, or fainting and the doctors are unsure exactly why. Therefore, they have suggested that you have this procedure to insert the recording device to find out if these symptoms are related to your heart or not. The Reveal LINQ™ will record what is happening when you have these symptoms.

Who is involved?

There will be a doctor (who does the actual procedure), an anaesthetist (the doctor who gives you an anaesthetic and pain relief), nurses (who help with getting you ready for the procedure and help you afterwards) and electrophysiologists (who are trained to work the Reveal® devices and will be the ones helping with and receiving your downloads). They are all specialised and trained in this type of procedure.

Where is this procedure done?

Reveal LINQ™ insertions and removals take place in the Cardiac Catheterisation laboratory on Level 1 of the Morgan Stanley Clinical Building (MSCB) at GOSH.

How long is the procedure?

The procedure itself takes 5 to 10 minutes but you will be in the Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory for up to an hour.

What to expect before procedure

A nurse specialist will call you at home a week before the procedure to discuss the procedure in more detail. They will go over any other things you will need to do before the procedure, such as showering and when to stop eating.

Visit to Walrus Daycare Unit

If you would like to visit Walrus Day Care, where you will be going before and after the procedure, please let us know. We are happy to show you around.

What to expect day of procedure

You will go to Walrus ward a few hours before the procedure. An anaesthetist will come to talk to you about how they will give you the anaesthetic. You will have a cannula (thin plastic tube) put in your hand. This is where the anaesthetist will give you the anaesthetic medicine. If you are worried about this, please let your nurse and anaesthetist know and they will talk to you about other ways of having an anaesthetic. We want to make this whole process as easy for you as possible. You will then be taken to the catheter lab with your parent(s).

Having an anaesthetic

If you are unsure or feel worried about having an anaesthetic for the procedure, this is perfectly normal. We can discuss this before the procedure and what will work best for you. There is an option for some young adults to have a 'local'. This means that you will stay awake and the doctor will numb the area they are going to insert the Reveal LINQ™ device. Having local anaesthetic also allows you to recover from the procedure more quickly. Your cardiac doctor will discuss if this is a possible option for you.

What to expect during the procedure

Once ready for the procedure, the doctor will make a small incision in the left side of your chest or axilla (armpit) and insert the small reveal device just below the skin.

What to expect after procedure

If you had an anaesthetic, you will start to wake up shortly after the procedure is done. You may feel a little dizzy or tired. It may feel like you have had a 'late night'. Your parent(s) can come to see you at this point and you will be taken back to Walrus Ward. You will stay there for four to six hours after your procedure, depending on how you are feeling. If it is late in the day, you may stay overnight on Bear Ward upstairs and go home the following day.

One to two days after procedure

You may feel a little sore in your chest area. This is normal and should go away after a few days to one week. Sometimes your left arm can feel sore too. You can take paracetamol for the pain. Please do not take ibuprofen or aspirin unless advised otherwise. There may be a little swelling, bruising or bleeding at the incision site. This is normal. However, if the area gets quite swollen, continues to bleed, is really sore, feels hot or there is yellow or green fluid coming from the site, please go to see your family doctor (GP). You can also call the nurse specialist anytime for any questions or concerns (see numbers below).





Taking care of your wound Things to avoid

You need to be responsible for looking at your chest area daily to make sure it is healing properly. The wound usually heals very quickly and the stitches the doctor puts in are usually dissolvable so they do not need to be taken out.

However, as mentioned above, if the area gets quite swollen, continues to bleed, is really sore, feels hot or you notice any fluid that is green or yellow, please go to see your GP or call the nurse specialist on the numbers below.

You can take off the plaster two to three days after the procedure. You can take shallow baths but do not shower until the plaster is removed.

After the first week, the incision can get wet by washing it gently with water and patting it dry. Please avoid clothes that will rub the area.

Activity

You need to relax and not do any physical activity for the first week or two. Try to do activities such as reading books, watching television or playing board games – things that you can do sitting quietly – during this first week.

You can start to do some physical activity after the first week but try not to do too much. If you are involved in sports or activities that may cause you to be banged in the chest – such as wrestling or football - you may need to avoid those activities. Please discuss specific sports and activities with your doctor so we can let you know if it's safe or not to continue. They shouldn't damage the Reveal LINQ™ device - it just might make the incision area sore.

Once you are feeling like yourself again, you can get back to your normal day-to-day activities. You can go back to school the Monday after your procedure if you are feeling up to it but you need to avoid getting involved in any sport/ PE for those first two weeks after the procedure.

It is important that you reduce your intake of alcohol, cigarettes, legal highs and other illicit substances for the first few weeks after your procedure. These can slow your healing process. Try to use this time to catch up on your sleep.

Avoid having your mobile phone near your Reveal LINQ™ device (such as in the pocket of your shirt or in your hand bag on your left side).

Follow-up

A nurse specialist will try to contact you a week after the procedure. We will also ask you to come in for a check-up with one of the electrophysiologists and doctors four to six weeks after your procedure. They will want to download all the information from your Reveal LINQ™ device.

Support

We understand that this whole process can be overwhelming and may be difficult to understand. We also understand that it may be difficult to talk to your parents about it. We are here to help and have a team who are trained to help with your concerns and worries.

Contacts

Please call or email the electrophysiologists for any concerns about downloading your Reveal LINQ™ device or the nurse specialists for any other concerns or questions. We are always happy to help.

Electrophysiologist:
gosh.pacing@gosh.nhs.uk
or 020 7405 9200 ext. 5241

Nurse Specialist:
020 7405 9200 ext. 5124 or 5139

Evenings and weekends:
020 7829 8829

Compiled by the Inherited Cardiovascular Disease team
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