

Patient information leaflet on
Implantable Loop Recorder (ILR)

What is a Loop recorder

An implantable loop recorder is a small device that monitors the heart. It is implanted under the skin of the chest, to record the heart's electrical activity for an extended period of time. It is a diagnostic tool which records your cardiac rhythms to aid diagnosis.

Preparation for the Procedure

On the day of your procedure, you will be admitted to the Coronary Angiography Suite in Cardiac Investigations Department on the 1st floor in the Peterborough City Hospital. You can eat and drink as normal. Please note that friends and relatives will not be able to stay with you in the department on the day of your procedure. There are various waiting areas (restaurant, coffee shop etc) within the hospital where they can wait if they wish.

The Procedure

The Loop recorder is inserted in our catheterisation lab and usually takes approximately 30 minutes. You will be given local anaesthetic under the skin in your upper chest. The loop recorder is placed under the skin and secured using dissolvable sutures/ Glue and a waterproof dressing.

On Return to the Ward

After the procedure, you are monitored by the nursing team offered tea/ coffee and something to eat. The cardiac physiologists will check the Loop recorder and give you instructions on how to use it. You will be given a discharge letter as well as post Loop recorder discharge advice sheet.

What are the Risks?

On rare occasions there can be complications such as, bleeding and bruising especially around the area where the loop recorder was inserted. This may be made worse if you take anti-coagulants. Also risk of infection or erosion.

For some patients the risks may be higher. Please speak to the consultant before the procedure if you have any concerns.

If you have any queries regarding this procedure please contact the Angiography Unit 01733 673793 where you had the procedure done between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday.