

Guide For Talking to Your Doctor

Don't let your heart disease go unchecked. Getting the care you need and exploring your treatment options are important steps in protecting your health.

Take control of your heart disease by bringing this guide to your next doctor's appointment. It is important to inform your doctor as soon as you experience any of these symptoms or your symptoms worsen.

An Impella supported procedure also known as Protected PCI* with the Impella heart pump may be an option for you.

Part 1: Symptom Checklist

I am experiencing the following symptoms: *(check all that apply)*

Angina

Chest pain or discomfort after or during physical exertion, but may go away with rest.

Fatigue

Exhaustion from doing typical daily activities (i.e. going to mailbox, grocery shopping, etc.)

Shortness of breath

Difficulty breathing when laying down.

Reduced Ejection Fraction

A decrease in the amount of blood your heart pumps with each beat. Normal is 55-70%.

Swelling

Swelling in the legs, ankles, feet, stomach, and veins in the neck.

Cough

A persistent unexplained cough could be a sign that fluid is building up in your lungs as a result of heart failure.

- List out any additional symptoms you may be experiencing.
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Part 2: Important Questions to Ask You Doctor

Below are questions and topics to ask when you visit with your doctor.

- I am experiencing symptoms from my severe Coronary Artery Disease (CAD). What can I do to improve my symptoms?
- Would you recommend the use of Impella for hemodynamic support during an angioplasty/stenting procedure?
 - If not, why?
- Am I considered a high-risk patient for heart surgery?
 - Why am I considered high-risk?
 - If I am considered high-risk, is an Impella supported procedure an appropriate option for me?
- I've been in and out of the hospital for years and I'm not any better. Can I elect to have this procedure?
 - Is there an Interventional Cardiologist you can recommend who offers a Protected PCI with Impella?
- What are the risks of putting off treatment for my condition?
 - Can I wait until after the time of COVID-19 to get treatment for my heart disease?
- What will recovery be like after a Protected PCI procedure?
 - How soon can I go home from the hospital?

Additional Questions and Topics to Discuss With Your Doctor

- What medications are you currently taking and for what reason?
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- What activities do you find increasingly difficult?
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- What daily routine changes have you experienced due to your heart condition?
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All cardiovascular procedures have risk. Potential adverse events associated with the use of Impella include: acute renal dysfunction, aortic valve injury, bleeding, cardiogenic shock, stroke, hemolysis, limb ischemia, myocardial infarction, renal failure, thrombocytopenia, vascular injury and death.

To learn more about the Impella platform of heart pumps, including important risk and safety information associated with the use of the devices, please visit: www.abiomed.com/important-safety-information



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