Questions you may want to ask your doctor when they recommend a heart device (ICD or CRT-D)

- Why do I need a heart device?
- What are my alternatives to an implant?
- Can’t medications help with my condition?
- How does this heart device work?
- Where will the device be placed?
- How will it be implanted?
  - Under the skin or under the muscle?
- What will the scar look like when it heals?
- Will the device move after implant?
- What restrictions should I follow post implant, and for how long?
- Can I return to exercise after my implant and recovery?
- When can my partner and I return to intimacy?
- Will the implant impact my career/hobbies?
  (Write down job functions or hobbies for your doctor that are of concern. Examples: driving a forklift or truck for work, working with machinery near-by, hobbies/activities like swimming, golfing, tennis, hunting, welding, etc.....)
- Will I feel my device working?
  - Will I feel pacing?
  - Will I feel a shock?
  - What does a shock feel like?
- Develop a shock plan with your physician by asking:
  - What should I do if I am shocked once?
  - Multiple times?
  - Will anyone touching me during a shock feel the shock or get hurt?
Questions you may want to ask your doctor when they recommend a heart device (ICD or CRT-D)

- Do I need to contact my clinic if I fall or painfully bump my device?
- How long will my device battery last and how will I know when to replace it?
- Can I get an MRI scan in the future?
- Can I safely travel through airports and on planes after my surgery?
- What kinds of household items can interfere with my device and what precautions should I take?
- Can I be near common magnets?
  - What happens when I get too close to a magnet and the device emits a tone?
- Can you demonstrate the sounds my device could make?
  - What do the different sounds mean?
  - What should I do when I hear each of the sounds?
- Am I a candidate for remote monitoring?
- How does remote monitoring work?
  - Is there anything specific I need to do, or does it work without my interaction?
- What resources are available to me should I have any further questions?

This list of questions was developed with the help of the “Living with an ICD” patient support group [https://www.facebook.com/groups/icdsupport/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/icdsupport/)

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