

Right Heart Catheterization

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A right heart catheterization lets your doctor:

- see how well your heart pumps blood
- measure the pressure in your heart and lungs.

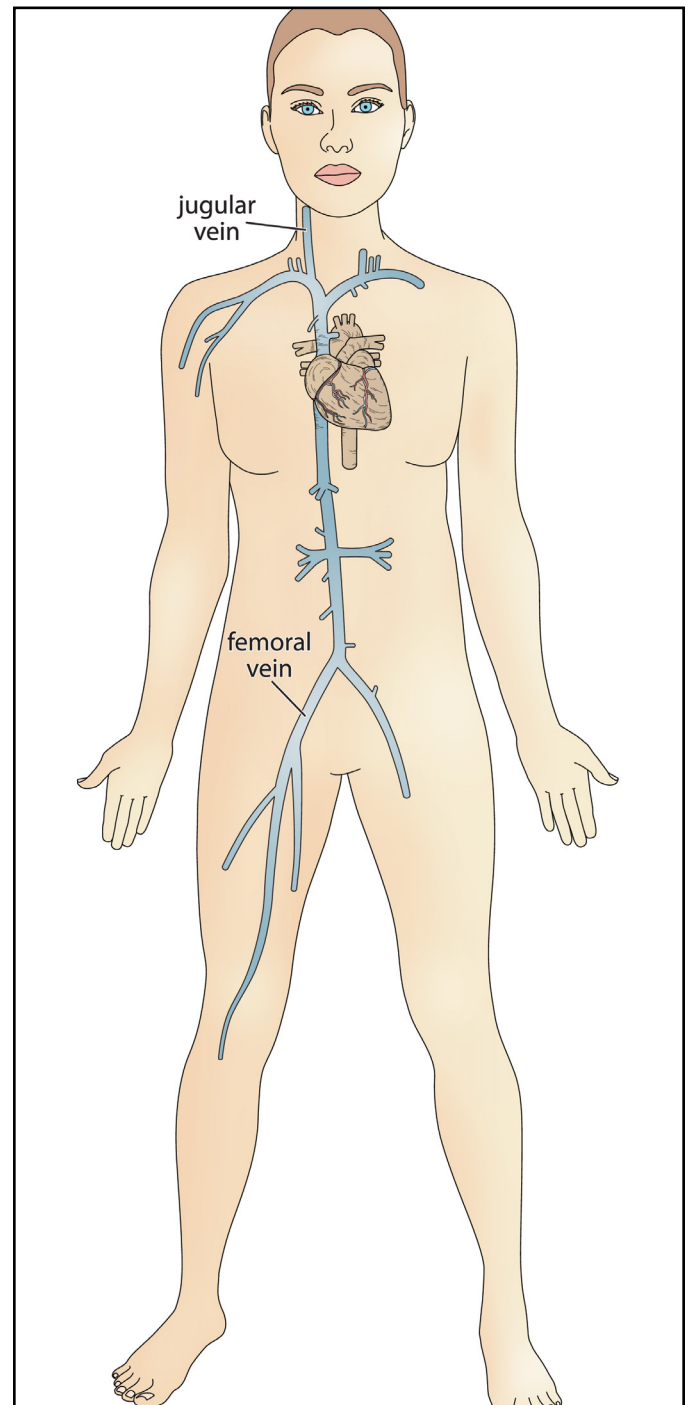
During the procedure, the cardiologist (heart doctor) will insert a small tube (catheter) into a vein in your groin or neck. They will guide the wire to the pulmonary artery on the right side of your heart and lungs. (See the drawings on page 2.)

Your cardiologist will talk with you about the procedure risks.

Purpose of the Procedure

Your cardiologist can do this procedure for many reasons including:

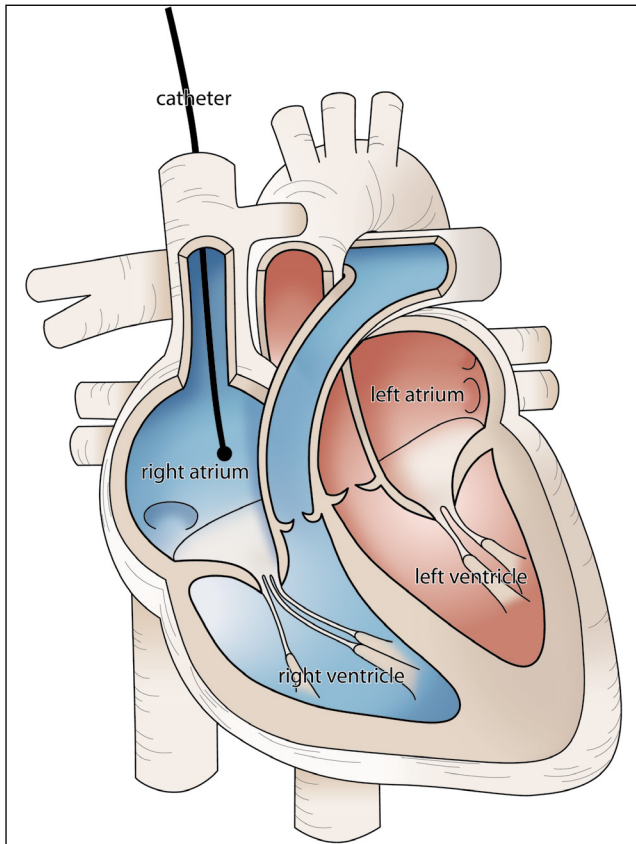
- to get a baseline (first reading) on the filling pressures of your heart
- see if you are a candidate for a heart transplant or for a transplant follow-up
- to help your cardiologist tell if you have:
 - pulmonary hypertension (high blood pressure in the arteries going to your lungs)
 - cardiogenic shock (your heart suddenly cannot pump enough blood)
 - heart failure (your heart isn't pumping blood as well as it should)
 - valve disorder (one or more of your heart valves do not open or close properly)
 - congenital heart disease (a condition you have had since birth)
 - cardiomyopathy (enlarged heart).



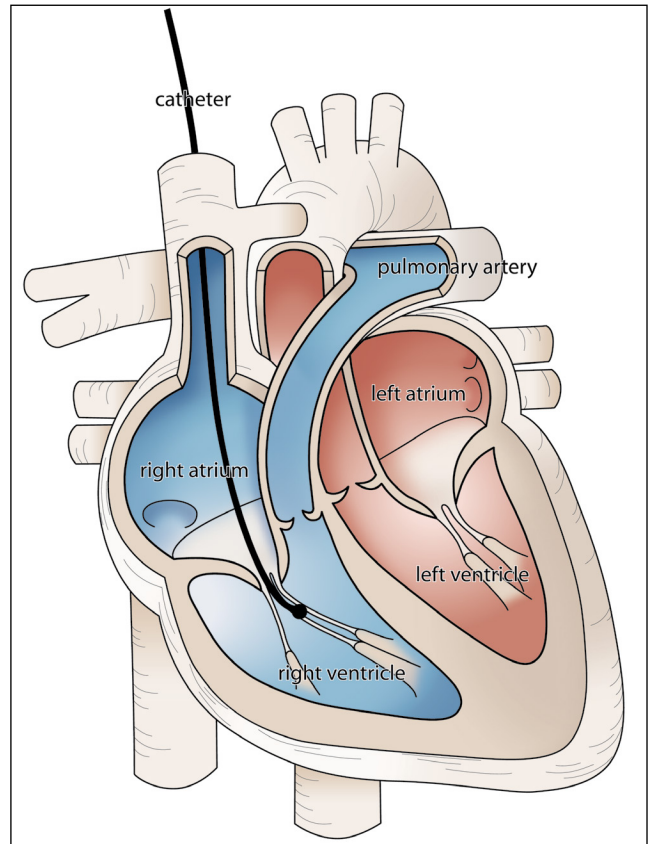
The catheter will be inserted through either through your neck or groin. Your doctor will decide which one to use.

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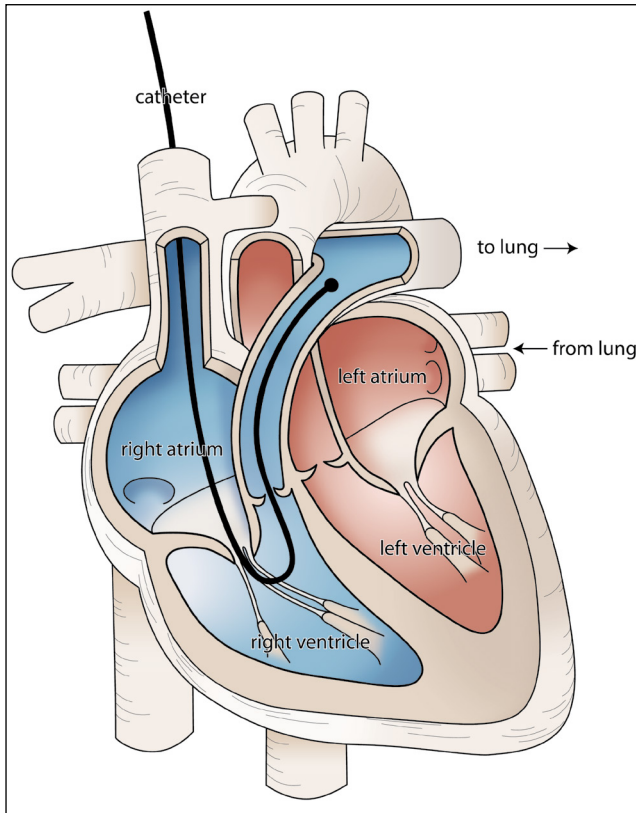
Right heart catheterization



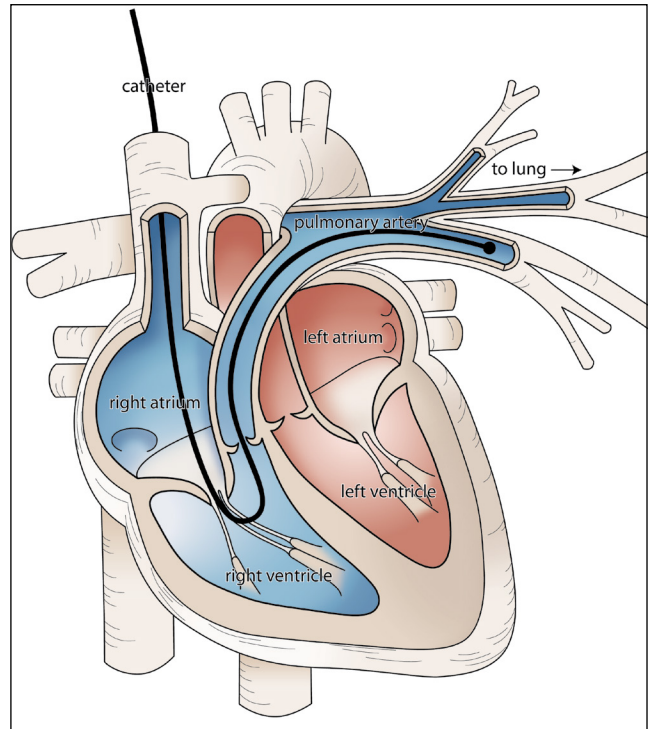
A



B



C



D

All drawings © Allina Health System

The catheter enters your right atrium (A) and is guided to your right ventricle (B). The catheter continues to be guided (C) until it reaches your pulmonary artery (D).

Food and Liquid Directions Before Surgery

These directions are based on your scheduled arrival time. Not following these directions could mean your procedure will be delayed or canceled.

Alcohol and tobacco: 24 hours

- Do not drink any alcohol 24 hours before your scheduled arrival time.
- Do not smoke, vape, use chewing tobacco or use any other tobacco products up to 24 hours before your scheduled arrival time.

Solid foods: 8 hours

- Eat up to 8 hours before your scheduled arrival time.
 - Eat light meals such as oatmeal or toast.
 - Do not eat foods that are heavy or high in fat such as meat or fried foods.

Clear liquids: 2 hours

- Drink only clear liquids up to 2 hours before your scheduled arrival time.
 - Drink water, fruit juice without pulp, black coffee, clear pop or tea.
 - Do not have milk, yogurt, energy drinks or alcohol.

Medicines

- Take your medicines as directed with a small sip of water.
 - Talk with your cardiologist if you have diabetes or if you take warfarin (Jantoven®).
 - Talk with your doctor if you take blood thinners such as rivaroxaban (Xarelto®) or apixaban (Eliquis®).

Before the Procedure

- Follow your cardiologist's directions for taking your regular medicine.
 - If you take blood thinners, ask your doctor if you need to hold them before the procedure.
- If you have diabetes, remind your cardiologist of your diet, medicine or insulin needs.
- At the hospital, you will sign a consent form and wear a hospital gown.
- Your groin or neck will be cleaned and shaved.
- A nurse will start an intravenous (IV) line for medicine during the test.
- You may receive medicine to relax you.

During the Procedure

- Your groin or neck will be cleaned again. Your blood pressure will be taken. You will be hooked up to a heart monitor. This monitor lets the cardiac technician watch your heart rate and blood pressure during the procedure.
- Your cardiologist will inject a local anesthetic (to numb the area) in your groin or neck. This may sting.
- You may feel slight pressure as the catheter goes in.
- Once the catheter is in place, your cardiologist will take pictures of your heart. You may be asked to hold your breath or to cough.
- The cardiologist will take out the catheter and will apply pressure on the site until bleeding stops.

After the Procedure

- Nurses will check your pulse, blood pressure and insertion site.
- If the catheter was inserted through your groin, you will stay flat in bed for as long as ordered by your cardiologist.
- You will be able to eat and drink as soon as you like.

When to Call Your Nurse

Before you leave the hospital, call your nurse if you:

- see bleeding at the catheter insertion site
- feel tingling or notice numbness below the catheter insertion site
- have pain at the catheter insertion site.

Care at Home

Follow your After Visit Summary for your care. Keep all follow-up appointments, even if you are feeling well.

Notes or Questions
