

Patient Information

## Cardiology

# Atrial fibrillation (AF) treatment using Pulse Field Ablation (PFA)

### Atrial fibrillation (AF)

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is a heart rhythm disorder. AF is caused by abnormal electrical circuits in your heart's upper chamber (atria).

This causes your heart to beat irregularly and quickly.

This can cause symptoms such as:

- palpitations
- breathlessness
- dizziness and fatigue
- fainting
- chest pain

### Catheter ablation

Catheter ablation is a procedure for patients who have recurring episodes of AF. Doctors place catheters (small, flexible tubes) into your heart. They do this to find and alter the abnormal electrical circuits that cause AF.

This procedure uses energy to create precise lesions that alter the abnormal circuits. The energy is sent through a catheter. Altering the abnormal circuits aims to stop what triggers your AF and symptoms.

### Pulse Field Ablation

Pulse Field Ablation (PFA) is a new way of delivering energy to your heart using a catheter. PFA uses electrical pulses to create lesions.



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It does not use the extreme hot and cold energy used in other ablation procedures. This means less risk of damaging your surrounding tissues.

### Benefits of using PFA catheters

We use PFA catheters for AF treatment because:

- PFA gives your doctor good control over the energy sent to your heart. This helps your doctor control the size of the lesion used to alter the abnormal circuits. This control reduces the risk of damaging surrounding tissues.
- PFA gives your doctor the ability to deliver safer lesions more quickly. This may reduce the time the procedure takes.

### Risks

AF catheter ablation carries a number of risks. Your doctor will explain the risks to you before you consent to this procedure. Please ask your doctor if you have any questions or concerns.

Studies of PFA catheter ablation found that it offers similar safety when compared to other catheter devices, with no reports of major adverse events.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 02476 964794 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

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#### Document History

Department:	Cardiology
Contact:	24794
Updated:	July 2024
Review:	July 2026
Version:	1
Reference:	HIC/LFT/2907/24