

Fact #1

Pacemakers can be sensitive and disrupted. According to [Johns Hopkins](#), high-voltage and strong magnetic devices disrupt pacemaker devices. These machines should be avoided when possible, and personnel using them should be informed of the pacemaker.

Fact #2

Pacemaker replacement time can vary. [Boston Children's Hospital](#) informs us that pacemaker batteries last 5-8 years. Actual time depends on how the pacemaker is programmed and used; battery life could be longer or shorter.

Fact #3

A pacemaker functions to keep the heart in rhythm. [Cincinnati Children's Hospital](#) states a pulse generator is placed within the body, while leads with electrodes are threaded through veins into the heart to detect the heart's rhythm. They sense the heartbeat, signaling to the pacemaker, when and how to pace the heart according to pre-insertion programmed ranges. These all work together to assist with pacing the heart's rhythm.

Fact #4

Pacemaker surgery in infants, toddlers and younger children is a major surgery that should be discussed with your child's cardiologist. [The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute shares some of the facts about pacemaker surgery](#): The child will undergo anesthesia while a cardiac surgeon implants a pacemaker. First, leads or wires with electrodes are threaded through veins into the heart. The electrodes are put in the heart muscle. Then the surgeon creates a space between muscle and tissue, a "pocket", within the abdomen or chest area, depending on the age and size of the child, in which to place the pulse generator. Surgery may take a few hours.

Fact #5

Children with pacemakers can expect to live long and full lives. [Boston Children's Hospital](#) states that you can live a long, healthy and happy life with a pacemaker. Individuals may expect to have up to 7-8 pacemakers in their life, depending upon individual health and lifestyle. However, with pacemaker batteries continuing to last longer and pacemaker technology continuing to advance, patients may require fewer in their lifetime.