

## Article

### LESSONS FROM GRAND ROUND

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A person who is older than 50 years is more likely to have a progressive decline in a function of conduction system. This is caused by a process of fibrosis in terms of which the normal heart tissue is replaced by scar tissue. This process gets accelerated from 60 years of age and above. Heart rate is normal when it is between 60 - 100 beats per minute, low heart rate (bradycardia) when it is below 60 and high heart rate (Tachycardia) when it is over 100 beats per minute.

Symptoms of high-risk of irregular heartbeats (arrhythmia) causing sudden cardiac death, include dizziness, loss of consciousness (syncope), survived sudden cardiac arrest or cardiac death.

Pacemaker is often implanted to correct irregular heart beats. Haematoma (bleeding) during and after pacemaker implant is more common in the presence of full dose anticoagulants. It is advisable to stop anticoagulants before pacemaker implant procedure, if possible.

Monitoring for bleeding post pacemaker implant,

The following are the signs to monitor bleeding post pacemaker implantation: ecchymosis, which is an appearance of a bruise on the skin; swelling on the pocket site; and frank active bleeding.

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