

# External cardioversion

Cardioversion is a corrective procedure where an electrical shock is delivered to the heart to convert an irregular heartbeat back to normal sinus rhythm. Most cardioversions are performed to treat atrial fibrillation or atrial flutter which are non-life threatening abnormal heart rhythms.

## Why might I need an electrical cardioversion?



Your sinus node is responsible for sending organised electrical signals through the heart, resulting in a perfectly timed, rhythmic heartbeat. For patients with atrial fibrillation, this electrical signal is chaotic, causing the top chamber of your heart, the atrium, to fibrillate. This usually results in a fast and irregular heartbeat.

Some patients may have no symptoms, whilst others may experience shortness of breath, light-headedness and fatigue. The first step will be to have an initial consultation with a specialist Consultant to go through your medical history and diagnosis.

## Prices & payment

We offer a guide price from:

External Cardioversion  
from £2,052

The above are guide prices only.

Our [terms and conditions can be found here](#).

## Consultants



Dr Evangelos Fountzopoulos

KIMS Hospital+1 location

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Dr Konrad Grosser

KIMS Hospital+1 location

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Dr Idris Harding

Available at  
KIMS Hospital

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Dr Peter Kabunga

KIMS Hospital+1 location

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Dr Winston Martin

KIMS Hospital+2 locations

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Dr Naveen Mudalagiri

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Dr Laurence Nunn

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Dr Edward Petzer

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Dr Rajiv Rampat

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KIMS Hospital

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Dr James Rosengarten

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Dr Scott Takeda

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KIMS Hospital

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Dr Kevin Ward

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## Cardioversion FAQs

### How do I arrange treatment?

During your initial consultation, a specialist Consultant will go through your medical history and symptoms to assist a diagnosis. Dependent on your symptoms, your Consultant may then recommend a cardioversion procedure to return your heart to normal sinus rhythm.

### Where will my cardioversion procedure take place?

Regardless of where you had your initial consultation, cardioversion procedures take place at KIMS Hospital in Maidstone. Most outpatient appointments, including scans and tests, and follow up appointments with your Consultant, can take place at either KIMS Hospital or Sevenoaks Medical Centre.

### What will the treatment involve?

A synchronised electrical shock is delivered through the chest wall to the heart through special electrodes that are applied to the skin of the chest and back. The split-second interruption of the abnormal heart allows the heart's electrical system to regain control and restore a normal rhythm.

Normal sinus rhythm can be restored the majority of the time, however the atrial fibrillation or other abnormal heart rhythms may recur over time.

### How long will I be in hospital?

An electrical cardioversion is a day case procedure performed under general anaesthetic. After your treatment, you will be transferred to the recovery area where you will be cared for by a dedicated nursing team.

You will need to arrange for someone to collect you from the hospital after your treatment.

## Will I be prescribed medication?

For patients with atrial fibrillation, there is an increased risk that blood clots may form as the upper chambers of the heart are fibrillating rather than squeezing. The process of restoring normal rhythm could dislodge a blood clot from the heart, which may result in a stroke.

Prior to the procedure, your Cardiologist will commence medication with anticoagulants to help thin your blood. This helps to prevent blood clots and reduce the risk of stroke. Anticoagulation is usually continued after the cardioversion, under the care of your Cardiologist.

## What happens after my cardioversion procedure?

A member of the nursing team will carry out a follow-up call within a week of your discharge to check your wellbeing and recovery.

## What is the cost of private external cardioversion at KIMS Hospital?

A private external cardioversion at KIMS Hospital starts from £2,052. You can use private medical insurance or pay for yourself. Flexible payment plans are available to spread the cost.