

## Answers to frequently asked questions following the closure of a patent foramen ovale (PFO) and atrial septal defect (ASD) or atrial appendage closure.

Dear Patient,

- A shower can be taken immediately after the procedure, a bath usually after 3 days
- If there are no complications, you can resume your usual activities incl. walking, hobbies, sports, driving, any sexual activity and travel immediately after being discharged from the hospital.
- We recommend to avoid too much physical exertion such as lifting of heavy objects, prolonged cycling, or sauna for about 2 days.
- It is important that you take your prescribed medication **regularly** according to the instructions of your physician. Get new medicines in good time from the pharmacy store (prescription can be obtained from the ward physician).
- Two platelet inhibiting drugs (aspirin, Plavix) usually must be taken for **6 or 3 months** because they help avoid the formation of a blood clot in the area of the screen until a new endothelium (cuticle) has formed over the screen.
- Puncture sites: As long as they show up soft and painless, there should be no problem. Bruising can spread out further in the tissue. The regression takes about 2-3 weeks.

**Rare complications:** In the case that there is severe pain at the puncture site or it significantly swells or blood trickles out of it, please contact your family doctor or the cardiologist on duty at Basel University Hospital, Tel. 061 265 25 25.

- The first follow-up test is carried out in form of an ultrasound of the heart **after 6 months** either at Basel University Hospital or by the referring heart specialists.
- **After** the intervention, certain medicines (antibiotics) must be taken in accordance with the orange card of the Swiss Heart Foundation if any dental procedures, cystoscopies or colonoscopies are carried out. More information will be provided to you by the physicians treating you if you mention that you have had a valve intervention in the past.

For further questions, please contact your attending physicians