

PFO and ASD Closure in the Cath Lab

Why might I need a PFO or ASD closure procedure?

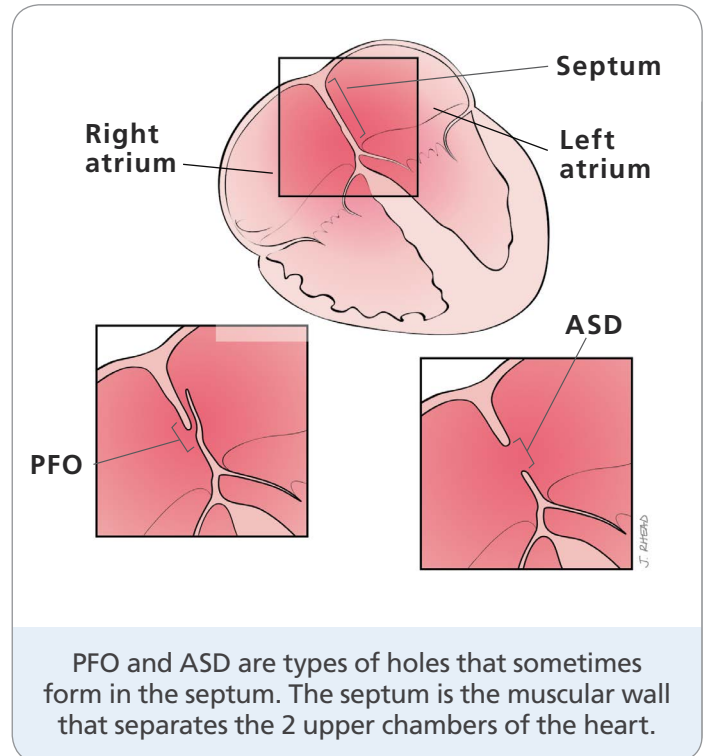
Imaging studies have found an opening in your heart called a **patent foramen ovale (PFO)** or an **atrial septal defect (ASD)**. This procedure is a way to close the opening in your heart without having open-heart surgery.

An ASD closure may help relieve heart rhythm problems or symptoms of congestive heart failure, such as fatigue and shortness of breath, or to reduce your risk of stroke.

You might need a PFO closure if you've had a stroke that is related to the PFO.

What are the possible benefits, risks, and complications of the procedure?

The table below lists the most common possible benefits, risks, and complications for this procedure. Other benefits and risks may apply in your unique medical situation. Talk with your doctor about these risks and benefits. Be sure to ask any questions you might have.



Possible benefits	Risks and possible complications	Alternatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your heart may work better Increased blood oxygen levels Improved energy Lower risk of stroke 	<p>Major complications are uncommon. Some risks and potential complications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary leg numbness or weakness in the first few hours afterward (rare) Bruising, bleeding, infection, or blood vessel damage where catheter(s) were inserted Damage to the heart muscle that may require open-heart surgery Abnormal heart rhythm Blood clots Heart attack or stroke Negative reaction to anesthetic or dye Unforeseen complications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open heart surgery Medications

What happens during a PFO or ASD closure procedure?

Before your procedure

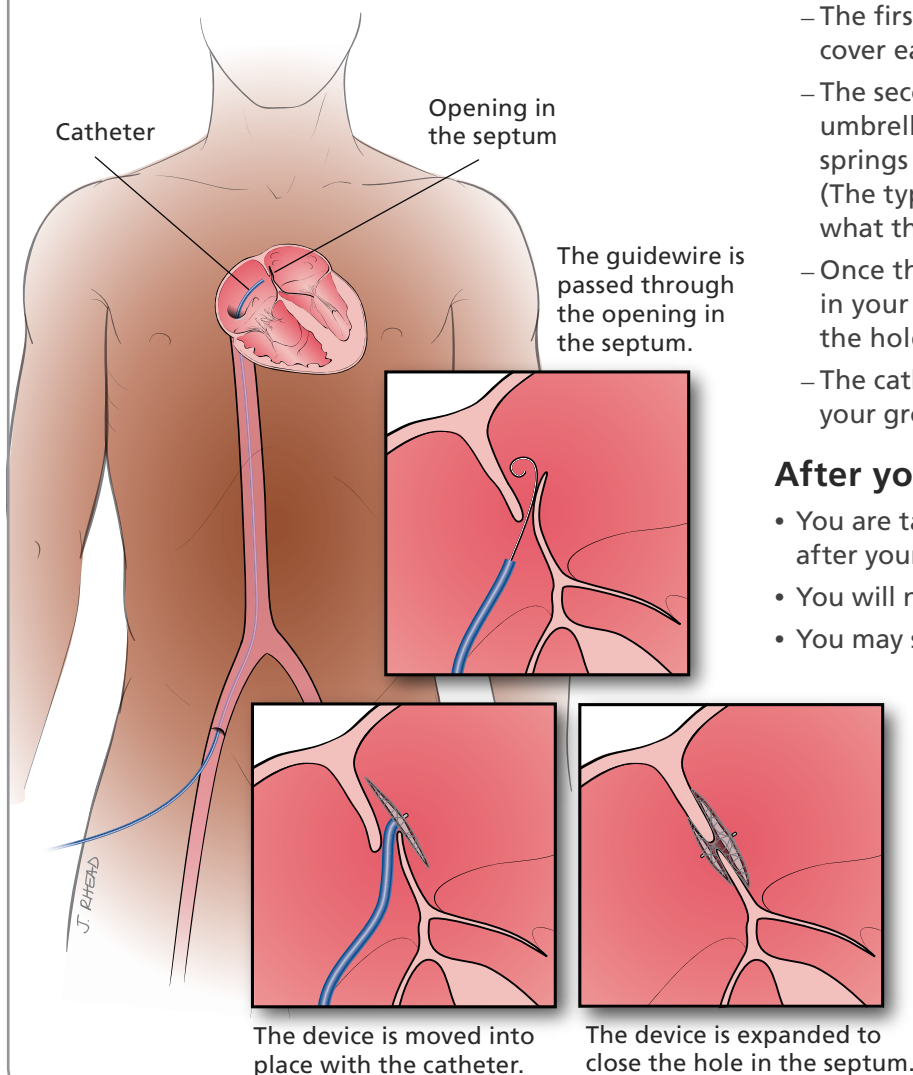
- You will need someone to take you to the hospital on the day of your procedure and to bring you home the next day.
- Follow all instructions on when to stop eating and drinking before the procedure.
- Follow your doctor's directions about medicines. You may be asked to stop taking certain medications before the procedure.
- Patients with diabetes are treated at the hospital with an insulin sliding scale.

During your procedure

- The procedure takes 1 to 2 hours.
- You are given medicine to make you sleep.
- The doctor makes a small cut (incision) in your groin.
- A thin, flexible tube, called a **catheter**, is moved through the incision and up to the opening in your heart.
- A special closure device is attached to the catheter. Two general types of closure devices can be used:
 - The first device is like 2 wire mesh discs that cover each side of the hole like a sandwich.
 - The second device works like a tiny double umbrella. When it's in place, the umbrella springs open and covers each side of the hole. (The type of device to be used will depend on what the doctor sees during the procedure.)
- Once the catheter is in the correct position in your heart, the device is expanded to close the hole.
- The catheter is taken out, and the incision in your groin is closed.

After your procedure

- You are taken to a recovery area immediately after your procedure.
- You will need to lay flat for at least 6 hours.
- You may stay overnight in the hospital.



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