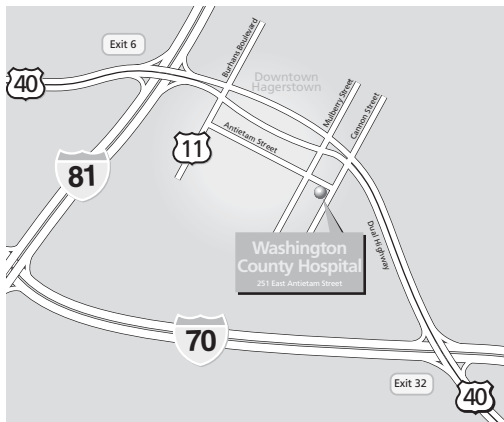


Washington County Hospital

Washington County Hospital is a 271 bed, acute care facility and regional medical center. Over the past five years the hospital has been nationally recognized, repeatedly, as a 100 Top Hospital. The hospital offers comprehensive rehab care, radiologic services, a Level III Trauma Center, an intensive care unit, birthing center, and an extended care facility, as well as other services.

The hospital is accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, serving Washington and Frederick Counties. Information can be obtained by contacting patient information at 301-790-8160 or the hospital switchboard at 301-790-8000.



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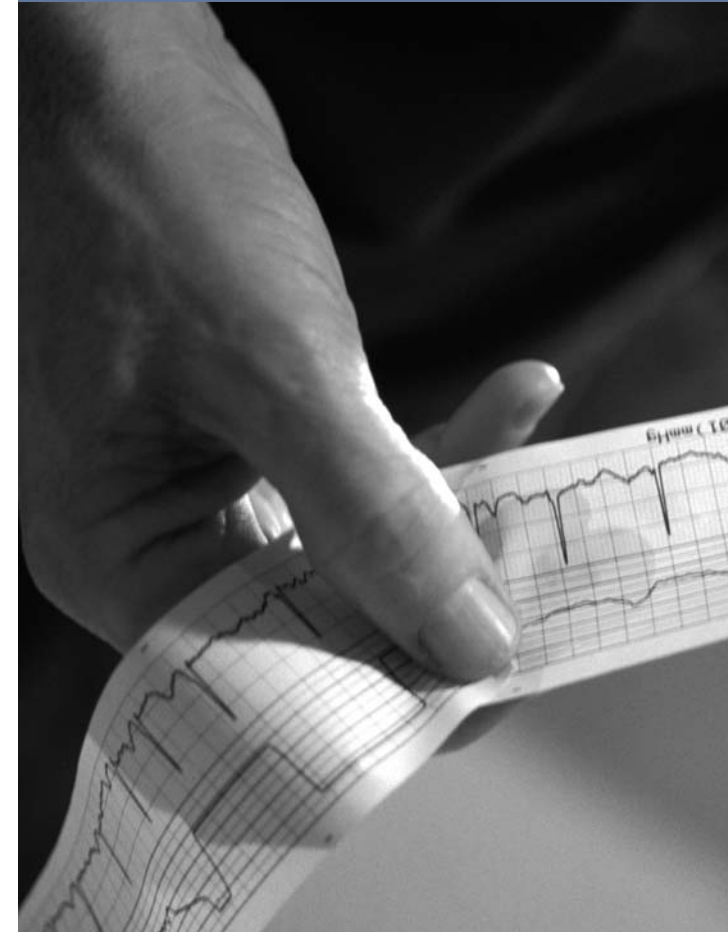


WASHINGTON COUNTY
HOSPITAL

251 East Antietam Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Visit our web site at:
www.washingtoncountyhospital.com

Electrophysiology Laboratory



WASHINGTON COUNTY
HOSPITAL

The Cardiac Electrophysiology Laboratory

Electrophysiology is a cardiac specialty for treating disorders in the heart's electrical function. The electrophysiology laboratory at Washington County Hospital is an operating room where diagnosing arrhythmias can be performed by a board certified cardiologist with specialty in electrophysiology.

Arrhythmia

An arrhythmia is an electrical disturbance that causes your heart to beat irregularly, interfering with the heart's ability to pump blood. The heart either beats too rapidly, too slowly, or does not maintain a steady rhythm. About 4% of the U.S. population has arrhythmias. An arrhythmia is diagnosed by electrocardiogram (EKG). The EKG records the relative timing of atrial and ventricular electrical events.

There are primarily three types of arrhythmia treatments performed: implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICD), catheter ablations, and dual chamber pacemaker implantations. Each procedure is performed to treat a specific irregularity.

Rapid Heartbeat

An implantable cardioverter defibrillator is a device designed for electrical stimulation of the heart. It is used to treat patients at risk of abnormally fast heartbeat. Because a rapid contraction of the heart can cause a heart attack, the ICD detects any abnormalities in the heart rhythm and stimulates the heart to return to its normal rhythm.

Irregular Heartbeat

Catheter ablation is a non-surgical procedure that corrects the conduction pathway in the heart that causes arrhythmia. Once a disturbance is detected, radio frequency energy is used to break the connection that the disturbance flows through, eliminating the disturbance and allowing the heart to maintain its normal rhythm.

Slow Heartbeat

Dual chamber pacemakers are inserted to treat patients with abnormally slow heartbeats. If a patient's heart is beating too slowly, the pacemaker sends signals to the heart, causing it to beat faster. Wires are threaded and attached to the heart surface through the patient's veins. This is a non-surgical procedure, and patients usually will be discharged the same day as surgery.

Joseph Reilly, M.D.

Electrophysiology services at Washington County Hospital are performed by Joseph Reilly, M.D., of Hagerstown Heart.

Dr. Reilly is board certified in cardiac electrophysiology and has over 15 years of experience in cardiology. Dr. Reilly practiced for fourteen years at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore before establishing his practice with Hagerstown Heart. Dr. Reilly is a member of the medical staff at Washington County Hospital and has performed over 3,000 electrophysiology procedures during the course of his career.

Scheduling an Appointment

Electrophysiology services are available by physician referral only. Talk to your physician about how the electrophysiology lab can help your heart condition. If your doctor determines that a referral is appropriate, please call Hagerstown Heart at 301-797-2525 (option 2) to schedule a consultation.

