

## PREPARING FOR A DEVICE

### Important Information to Discuss with Your Doctor

#### **Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy Devices**

Cardiac resynchronization therapy pacemakers (CRT-P) and defibrillators (CRT-D) are used to treat heart failure patients who have symptoms despite the best available drug therapy. These patients also have an electrical condition in which the lower chambers of the heart contract in an uncoordinated way and a mechanical condition in which the heart pumps less blood than normal. CRT-Ps and CRT-Ds are not for everyone including people with separate implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (CRT-P only) or certain steroid allergies. Procedure risks include infection, tissue damage, and kidney failure. In some cases, the device may be unable to respond to your heart rhythm (CRT-P only) or may be unable to respond to irregular heartbeats or may deliver inappropriate shocks (CRT-D only).

#### **Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators**

An implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) can protect you from the effects of sudden cardiac arrest by reviving your heart rhythm. An ICD is not for everyone, including people with certain steroid allergies. Procedure risks include infection and tissue damage. In some cases, the device may not respond to irregular heartbeats or may deliver inappropriate shocks.

#### **Pacemakers**

A pacemaker system can monitor and treat your heart rhythm by delivering electrical energy to pace your heart when it senses a slow rhythm. A pacemaker is not for everyone, including patients with certain steroid allergies. Patients who have additional medical conditions that may not allow the pacemaker to function appropriately should not receive a device. Procedure risks are usually minimal.

*The Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association's mission is to prevent loss of life from sudden cardiac arrest. We seek to increase awareness, encourage training for immediate bystander action, increase public access to defibrillation and promote the use of available medical devices and therapies, principally, implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICD). SCAA members are the beneficiaries of improved science and medical technology, coupled with the wisdom and caring of thousands of physicians. For more information, please visit us at [www.suddencardiacarrest.org](http://www.suddencardiacarrest.org)*