A Leader in World-Class Cardiovascular Care.

St. Peter’s Health Care Services, a comprehensive, integrated system of care, is the Capital Region’s largest provider of health care services.

St. Peter’s Hospital is proud to be designated a national Magnet™ Hospital for consistent excellence in nursing services. St. Peter’s has also been ranked among an elite group of hospitals nationwide as a Distinguished Hospital for Patient Safety™, Top 100 Cardiovascular Hospital, Top 100 Stroke Hospital and Top 100 Hospital for overall clinical services.

St. Peter’s continues to set the pace for health care innovations. We are 5,000 professionals who know that technology is critical to treatment, but compassion is the key to healing.
Usually, patients will spend several days in the hospital after the surgery. Most patients can expect to resume normal activities soon after the surgery. The risk and success of lead extraction surgery depends on having the best tools, taking appropriate precautions, and working with an experienced physician and health care team.

For More Information

For more information or to find a medical professional who specializes in lead extraction, call St. Peter’s Cardiac & Vascular Center’s Physician Referral & Information Line at 1-800-HEART-76.

How is it done?

Lead extraction is performed under general anesthesia, and patients often spend several days in the hospital.

To perform lead extraction, the surgeon inserts a special wire to the inside of the lead to stabilize it, then a plastic sheath with a laser is placed over the lead. When a point is reached where the lead is adherent, the laser is fired to break these adhesions “freeing” the lead. Once all adhesions are broken, the lead is easily removed.

New leads and a pacemaker (or ICD) are implanted during the same surgery.

What are the results?

More than 90 percent of all leads are completely removed with current techniques. While a small segment may sometimes be left behind, this is rarely a problem and the patient is able to continue living with no further interference from the partially removed lead.