

**BIRDHURST MEDICAL PRACTICE  
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
28th MAY 2012**

In attendance: Dr Gillgrass, Dr Shetty, Sarah,  
Mr Barnum, Peter Froude, Philip Gower, Trevor Olliver,  
Gillian Turner

Absence: All other members. No apologies received

SPEAKER: Amanda Rose, Senior Cardiac Physiologist, Croydon University  
Hospital

Amanda gave an excellent, interesting and informative talk on "Pacemakers." She explained why patients have Pacemakers implanted.

Procedure and Function of a Pacemaker.

She said a pacemaker has a pulse generator - the Pacemaker box. It has either one (single chamber pacemaker, two (dual chamber pacemaker) normally for patients with heart block, depending on how well the heart's natural pacemaker functions, or three chamber pacemaker for more acute problems.

The pacemaker box is made up of the power supply (battery) and the electronic circuit and special software that monitors heart rate activity. It has a special circuit that enables it to be checked, adjusted and programmed by a computer at a hospital.

Amanda passed round diagrams, electronic leads, circuitry and two batteries (most pacemakers' batteries last between six and ten years).

She said Pacemakers are programmed to send electrical impulses to the heart at a rate that suits the recipient's needs. They are set to work "on demand", that is, if a heart misses a beat or beats too slowly, the Pacemaker sends out electrical impulses to adjust and steady the beat.

Modern Pacemakers are very comfortable and reliable and as a rule patients can be confident that with regular follow-up very little can go wrong.

People who have a Pacemaker can use household or electrical equipment and electric tools as long they are not faulty. Mobile and cordless phones may be used but they should be more than six inches away from the Pacemaker, and preferably on the opposite side to the Pacemaker.

One should always carry the "Pacemaker ID Card in the event of emergencies. When flying, security staff at the airport should be informed so that you do not walk through the "Electronic Detector Arch."

She stressed, that people who have a Pacemaker must attend follow-up appointments to ensure that any faults or problems are detected and corrected.