

Hemet Heart Medical Center Patient Education

AICD

What is an Automated Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (AICD)?

- *The AICD is a small device placed in your chest cavity that utilizes electrical pulses to control irregular heartbeats and can prevent Sudden Cardiac Arrest.*

How does the AICD work?

An AICD is used on patients who are at risk for Ventricular Tachycardia or fibrillation.

You may be at high risk if..

- *you had a previous ventricular arrhythmia*
- *you had a heart attack that may have damaged the heart's electrical system*

Who needs an AICD?

An AICD is placed in the chest cavity. Wires running from the AICD have electrodes on the ends that connect to one or more of the heart's chambers.

These wires carry electrical signals from the heart to the AICD where the information is stored. The AICD can thus monitor the heart's rhythm.

If the AICD detects an irregular rhythm it will send a pulse to prompt the heart to beat at a normal rate.

****All information taken from National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute**

For more Information..

visit [Heart Online](#)

the [National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute](#)