

What is a Melody Valve?

A Melody valve is a cow's valve sewn to a wire frame (known as a stent). It is used to replace the pulmonary valve conduits (the tube connecting the right pumping chamber to the lungs) if it becomes narrowed or leaky.

How is the Melody Valve inserted?

The procedure is done via Heart Catheterization. Under anaesthesia (sleepy medicine) a thin flexible tube (catheter) is guided through a large blood vessel in the leg up towards the heart. See the Heart Catheterization handout.

After the procedure your child will return to the anaesthetic care unit before being admitted to the ward for an overnight stay. The puncture site will be monitored for the first 3-4 hours during which time your child will have to lay flat.

Will my child need special medication?

Yes. After having a Melody valve inserted, we recommend **anti-coagulant therapy** (usually Aspirin) as long as the Melody valve is in place. This will be started 2 days prior to the procedure. A nurse will contact you to provide dosing information.

Your child will also need **prophylactic antibiotics** for infective endocarditis with all dental appointments. Your dentist can prescribe this.

If your child is on other medications they MAY need to stop taking them before the procedure. Please make sure to inform your cardiologist of all medications your child is currently taking, including non-prescription ones.

Are there any activity restrictions?

After the procedure your child will need about 48 hours rest for their leg access site to heal before returning to normal activities.

Any sport/ activity limitations can be discussed in more detail with your cardiologist.

What is the follow-up post Melody Valve?

We will see your child at 4 weeks, 3 months, 6 months and then usually once a year.

When should I call the doctor?

Contact the Cardiology Nurse Clinicians at 604-875-2345 ext. 7877 if:

- Your child is showing increasing tiredness (without a clear reason)
- BEFORE having an MRI

Resource: www.medtronic.com/Melody/patient/home.