



Minimally Invasive Surgical Procedure for Atrial Fibrillation (Mini-Maze)



heart rhythm services

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is an irregular heart rhythm that interferes with the heart's ability to pump blood.

The Mini-Maze procedure is a relatively new, minimally invasive, surgical technique that creates a “zone of defense” to cure AF. Mini-Maze is replacing open-heart surgery in some cases of AF and is an alternative to catheter ablation of AF.

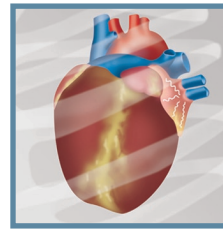
What are the benefits?

The Mini-Maze procedure uses incisions between the ribs (rather than an incision down the center of the chest), is performed on the normally beating heart and hence does not require bypass, and makes only one true incision on the heart. Recovery time is short compared to other heart surgery.

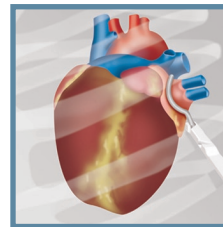
Does it work?

Although still a new procedure, Mini-Maze has been proven safe and effective for most people. There is little risk from the radio waves that are used to destroy tissue. The Mini-Maze surgery carries the same risks as other forms of heart surgery.

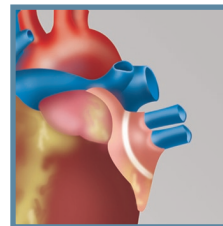
How does it work?



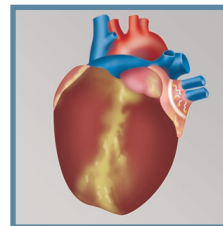
Atrial fibrillation is an irregular heart rhythm caused by abnormal electrical impulses that begin at the top of the heart and travel down the upper chambers, or atria.



In Mini-Maze surgery, doctors use a very precise instrument that fits around the top of the atrium and destroys a small amount of tissue in the area near where the irregular impulses start.



The damaged tissue can no longer conduct electrical signals, thereby interrupting the transmission of the impulses.



With the abnormal signals unable to cross the zone of defense, the atria resume beating normally.

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