

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

New leadless pacemaker improves patient outcomes

- Health board's cardiologists fit Wales' first leadless pacemaker

The 50-minute procedure, performed on a 63-year-old patient under local anaesthetic, involved implanting a small device directly into the heart via a vein. The device boasts a 17+ year battery life, double that of traditional pacemakers, and significantly reduces infection and lead-related complications. Consultant Doctor Fong Leong hailed the procedure as a milestone, emphasising the device's small size, long battery life and lack of visible scarring.

Though the leadless pacemaker costs £5,000 more than conventional pacemakers, the £50,000 funding from the health board's Value in Health Programme is projected to generate over £650,000 in annual savings through reduced hospital stays and complex therapies. The Value in Health team supports projects that improve care and achieve financial savings.