

ASD

An ASD is a connection the upper two chambers (atria) of the heart. A transthoracic echocardiogram, a cardiac MRI and transoesophageal echocardiogram are used to confirm the diagnosis and aid in the ongoing management.

Prof Ruparelia may suggest ASD closure if there is evidence of right ventricular volume overload, a hemodynamic shunt or if you have suffered a stroke or other event related to a paradoxical embolus.

How should I prepare?

The procedure is carried out under a general anaesthetic and so please do not eat or drink anything for the 6 hours before your planned procedure time.

Prof Ruparelia shall discuss if any specific medications should be taken prior to your procedure.

What are the risks?

ASD closure is generally very safe with the risk of complication <1%.

Common risks include pain, bleeding bruising of the leg. There is a small chance of developing an abnormal heart rhythm, stroke, failure or cardiac damage requiring surgery. There is a small chance of device embolisation

The Procedure

Prof Ruparelia performs the majority of cases under a general anaesthetic with the aid of X-ray and TOE guidance.

A small tube is positioned in the vein at the top of your leg (femoral vein) and an umbrella shaped device is advanced across the hole to close it following appropriate sizing of the defect

The procedure takes approximately 1 hour and you are usually woken up in the operating room straight after your procedure

Recovery and post-procedural care

Following your procedure, you will be asked to lie flat for a few hours to aid in the recovery of the top of the leg (the site of tube insertion).

You should be able to go home the following morning following a further ECG and echocardiogram in the morning.

After your procedure you will be required to take two blood thinning medications (aspirin and clopidogrel) for 1 month followed by clopidogrel monotherapy for the intermediate period.

For the first 4 weeks, do not perform any strenuous activity including heavy lifting or bending.

Prof Ruparelia shall arrange a follow up including an interval echocardiogram.