



12 Commons Street, Rutland, VT 05701
1.855.RHC.BEAT (1.855.742.2328) 802.747.3600 802.773.8501 fax

Bartholomew J. Bonazinga, MD, FACC

James M. Fitts, MD, PhD, FACC

Michael E. Robertello, MD, FACC, FACP, FCCP

Stanley M. Shapiro, MD, FACC, FASNC

Medical Director

Laura M. Cohen, APRN

Cardiac Risks and Surgery

Stanley Shapiro, MD, FACC

It is common for patients with heart disease to undergo surgery. In order to decrease the risk of having a worsening of your heart condition during surgery, your provider may recommend an evaluation by a cardiologist prior to your surgery

Surgical risks that are evaluated include: the extent of the current heart disease and how complex or significant the surgical procedure will be. For example, a person who is having a cataract removal has much less risk than someone who is undergoing a major abdominal or orthopaedic procedure. Similarly, a patient who has advanced heart problems has a greater risk than a person who has not had a previous heart issue.

Your provider may ask you to come in for a physical, do an EKG or refer you to a cardiologist or primary care provider to determine if you have a low, intermediate or high cardiac risk prior to surgery. Any person older than 70, who has had a previous heart attack, angina (chest pain), fluid in the lungs or critical heart valve problems, should be seen prior to any operation.

It is important to remember, that your team of healthcare providers follow well established guidelines and criteria to ensure your surgery will be successful and safe.