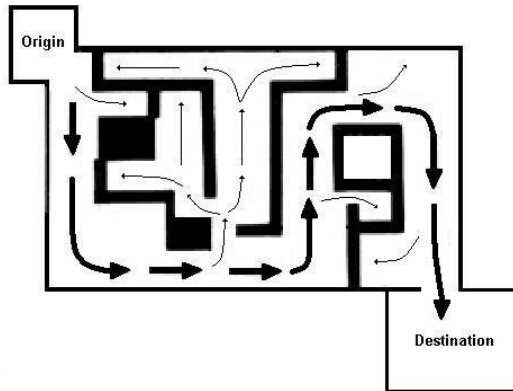


Maze Procedure

What is the MAZE procedure?

The [MAZE procedure](#) is a surgical intervention that helps relieve [Atrial Fibrillation](#) (AF) by re-directing the electrical impulses your heart uses to sustain its rhythm.



How does the Maze work ?

As the name suggests, a puzzle-like “MAZE” is surgically created in your heart. This is accomplished with the AtriCure® System, which uses radio frequency energy to create lesions in the [atria](#) (upper chamber).

What are the benefits of a successful MAZE procedure?

The MAZE procedure helps maintain your natural heart rhythm. When your heart is in its natural rhythm the output increases and there is a decreased occurrence of [heart failure](#) and [embolic events](#) (blood clots and stroke). Therefore, less medication is required and there may be no need for chronic [anticoagulation](#) (blood thinning) treatment if the procedure is successful.

How long will the procedure take?

If performed with another open-heart surgery, the MAZE will only add 20 minutes to your total procedure time.

What can you expect post-MAZE procedure?

Immediately after surgery, recurrent AF is a common outcome. Therefore, the procedure’s success is not determined until **6 months** post-op. This means:

1. You will be followed-up at 1, 3, and 6 months by individuals trained in assessment of the heart’s rhythm.
2. You may be maintained on rhythm or rate control medications through this period.
3. If AF persists, anticoagulation (blood thinning) medication will be continued.
4. Since extended time spent in AF may contribute to an unsuccessful outcome, cardioversion (electric shock) may be performed at timely intervals.

5. After 6 months, if the regular rhythm is maintained, rhythm control and blood thinning medications may be stopped.