

## Patient Information

# Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- WPW or Wolff-Parkinson-White is a syndrome that causes the heart to intermittently beat very fast.
- It is caused by an extra pathway that connects the top part of the heart (the atria) with the bottom portion (the ventricle.)

### SYMPTOMS

- Patients typically feel palpitations or heart racing that can persist for minutes to hours.
- This can cause chest discomfort, lightheadedness, and even “passing out.”

### DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

- There can be clues of the disease on a basic EKG, however longer electrical monitoring devices called Holters are typically needed.
- In some instances an electrical conduction study is needed.

### TREATMENT

- The treatment depends on how severe the symptoms are.
- Sometimes the fast heart beats can be terminated with specific maneuvers like coughing, bearing down, or rubbing the carotid artery.
- Typically, medications are needed.
- Radiofrequency ablations can be done to find the pathway and eliminate it.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** or to make an appointment at URMC Cardiology at Highland Hospital, please call (585) 341-6780 or visit us online at [www.highlandheart.urmc.edu](http://www.highlandheart.urmc.edu)