

## Tech Note

Date: November 10, 2008  
To: All Field Personnel  
From: Biotronik Technical Services  
Re: Electrosurgical Cautery and Biotronik Pacemaker Patients

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In the event that a patient with a Biotronik pacemaker is subjected to surgery including the use of electrosurgical cautery, Biotronik recommends the following:

- Continuously monitor the patient's cardiac rhythm during the procedure, (i.e., via ECG).
- When the pacemaker interprets the electrocautery as "noise", the device will pace asynchronously, providing pacing therapy regardless of the patient's intrinsic rhythm.
- Do not apply a magnet to the pacemaker.
- It is recommended that only short burst of electrocautery be applied (one second or less).
- The bovie machine should be programmed to bipolar mode and the grounding pad should be placed under the buttocks or around the thigh (away from the pacemaker). If possible, the grounding pad should be placed so that the pacemaker and leads are not between the electrocautery wand and the pad.
- Electrocautery should never be performed within 15cm (6 inches) of the implanted pacemaker or lead.

In the event that electrocautery is used within 15cm of the implanted pacemaker or lead, the device may function in the Back-up mode or temporarily function in ERI mode.

If the device goes into the Back-up mode or temporary ERI mode, contact the local BIOTRONIK representative for evaluation and resetting of the device.

Please contact Technical Services for additional questions: 1-800-284-6689