

Tech Note

Date: October 30, 2008
To: All Field Personnel
From: Biotronik Technical Services
Re: Electrolysis and Biotronik Pacemakers and ICDs

Electrolysis is a procedure that induces electrical current into the body that may affect Biotronik implanted devices. Biotronik has not received any reports of interference with device function resulting from the use of electrolysis, but the potential still exists for interference. The amount of energy and the frequency of the signals used in performing electrolysis varies with the type of equipment used.

As a general recommendation, we suggest that the electrologist maintain at least a 6-inch distance between a pacemaker and the area in which electrolysis is to be performed. Magnet application may be used for patients implanted with an ICD to prevent inappropriate detection and therapy only if approval is given by the patient's physician.

The patient should be instructed to alert the practitioner if he or she experiences any symptoms, in which case the procedure should be discontinued.

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