

Dental and Medical Procedures

When scheduling any dental or medical procedure not related to your pacemaker or implantable defibrillator, it is important to inform the dentists, doctors, and technicians that you have a heart device. They may need to consult with your cardiologist or electrophysiologist (EP) before performing the procedure. This is true especially if the procedure is a new or unusual one. Even though most dental and medical procedures are unlikely to affect the function of your heart device, some may require precautionary measures that prevent or minimize any effects.

Assuming the equipment is properly maintained and used as designed, many procedures are unlikely to affect your heart device and can be performed, including:

- Dental X-rays and dental procedures, including the use of dental drills and ultrasonic probes used to clean teeth.

- Diagnostic X-rays, routine chest X-rays, and mammograms.
- Diagnostic ultrasound, including bone density tests, when the transducer head is not directly over the heart device. For therapeutic ultrasound, have the clinician keep the transducer head 6 inches from your heart device.

Not Recommended Under Normal Circumstances

Some procedures produce high levels of electromagnetic interference (EMI). Prior consultation between the technician and your cardiologist or electrophysiologist is necessary in order to weigh the risks and benefits of the procedure. Possibly the adverse effects can be minimized, or your heart device could be programmed differently for the procedure. These include:

- Cautery (used during most surgeries to stop bleeding), lithotripsy (used to break down kidney stones).
- Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulators (TENS is used for treating pain), when used on the torso.
- CT/CAT scans, depending on the type of scanner being used.



- Electrolysis (for removal of unwanted hair), depending on the method used, the location, and the placement of the electrical grounding plate if used.
- Radiation Therapy, depending on the amount of cumulative radiation exposure. Usually the doctors can direct the radiation beam to miss the heart device. If not, the pacemaker or implantable defibrillator could be moved, or a new heart device implanted at an alternate site.

Not Recommended

- MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scans.
- Diathermy (high frequency, short wave, or microwave).

On occasion, your doctor, dentist, or other medical personnel may request the technical assistance of the manufacturer of your pacemaker or implantable defibrillator. You can help by knowing the model number and the manufacturer name of your heart device. This information can be obtained from your device identification card. Carrying it with you at all times allows for quick access.

If you have specific questions regarding dental or medical procedures, please ask your doctor or nurse. Your doctor should discuss all potential risks with you. You can also call Medtronic Patient Services toll-free at 1 (800) 551-5544, x41835 (7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday – Friday, Central Time) with non-medical questions.

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24-hour information available
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UC200605082 EN
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Printed in USA
April 2006

