

Electrosurgical Cautery and Radiofrequency Ablation and BIOTRONIK Pacemaker Patients

In the event that a patient with a BIOTRONIK pacemaker undergoes a surgical procedure that requires the use of electrosurgical cautery or radiofrequency ablation, BIOTRONIK recommends the following:

For electrocautery and radiofrequency ablation procedures:

- Continuously monitor the patient's cardiac rhythm during the procedure (i.e., via ECG).
- Do not apply a magnet to the pacemaker.
- Use only short bursts of electrocautery (one second or less).
- Program the electrocautery unit to a bipolar mode. If the electrocautery unit is programmed to a unipolar mode, place the grounding pad away from the pacemaker, such as under the buttocks or around the thigh. If possible, the grounding pad should be placed so that the pacemaker and leads are not between the electrocautery wand and the grounding pad.
- Electrocautery and radiofrequency ablation should not be performed within 15 cm (6 inches) of the implanted pacemaker.

When the pacemaker interprets the electrocautery or radiofrequency ablation as "noise," the device will pace asynchronously at the programmed basic rate, providing pacing therapy regardless of the patient's intrinsic rhythm.

In the event that electrocautery or radiofrequency ablation is used within 15 cm (6 inches) of the implanted pacemaker or leads, the device may revert to Back-up mode.

If the device goes into the Back-up mode, contact the local BIOTRONIK representative to evaluate and reset the device.