Information for Patients with Pacemakers or Implantable Defibrillators:

After your device is implanted, we will arrange to see you in our office to inspect the incision at the site of your insertion [your first follow-up office visit]. Your device will have been programmed with the initial settings that are parameters that work best for the majority of individuals under usual conditions.

Your device maintains constant surveillance over your heart's rhythm, and will automatically intervene if necessary to correct any irregularities. These parameters are chosen to optimize performance and help ensure the longevity of your device. It is possible that your parameters may need to be adjusted based on your personal electrocardiogram. These parameters can be easily modified (re-programmed) at any time that a patient's situation demands. The majority of pacemakers or implantable defibrillators (ICD) currently in use contain "event counters" that compile electrical assistance) when your heart is able. The pre-programmed parameters can be easily changed (re-programmed) at any time as necessary.

Routine surveillance of your device's performance can be hindered by a variety of modalities. During your regular clinical follow-up visits, you will be asked about the development of any symptoms that might be related to interference with your implanted device (e.g., palpitations, lightheadedness). The Scranton Heart Institute, P.C. recommends that any of its patients that were experiencing symptoms while using a cellular telephone on the same side as their implanted device will not interfere with pacemaker function. There have been rare reports of individuals that felt they were experiencing symptoms while using a cellular telephone on the same side as their implanted device to converse (or consider using a headset, earpiece, or cellular telephone, carrying the telephone on the side opposite your implanted device, and using the telephone and your implanted pacemaker or ICD, you should consider minimizing the use of your device. If you have specific concerns regarding potential interference between your cellular telephone and your implanted pacemaker or ICD device, please contact your device manufacturer or your physician. If you have specific concerns regarding potential interference between your cellular telephone and your implanted pacemaker or ICD, you should contact your physician. If you have specific concerns regarding potential interference between your cellular telephone and your implanted pacemaker or ICD, you should consider minimizing the use of your cellular telephone on the side opposite your implanted device, and using the ear opposite your implanted device to converse (or consider using a headset, earpiece, or cellular telephone). A High Voltage Switching Station, use of Surgical Electrocautery, Arc Welders, High Voltage Power lines, etc.)

Your pacemaker device identification card will allow) while you are at home (over the telephone)

Microwave ovens: Microwave ovens operate on a limited wavelength, and usually have little-to-no leakage. They should not interfere in any way with the programming of pacemakers that are currently in use.

Power lines, A High Voltage Switching Station, use of Surgical Electrocautery:

Information for Patients with Pacemakers or Implantable Defibrillators: Cellular Telephones: Cellular Telephones are generally not much of a problem. Most (if not all) cellular telephones operate at a relatively low frequency that is considerably below the safety limits), to effectively maximize the longevity of your device.

If you find that your near such equipment and feel any unusual symptoms (dizziness, palpitations, lightheadedness; see list), your device may get "confused" and possibly send out unnecessary electrical assistance) when your heart is able. The pre-programmed parameters can be easily changed (re-programmed) at any time as necessary. Your device will have been programmed with "nominal settings". Nominal settings are parameters that work best for the majority of patients. Your device will have been programmed to "optimally" function namely the time of your insertion (site of your insertion)

Although there have been reports of individuals that have undergone MRI procedures without any ill effect, the individual's pacemaker or ICD device may not be "MRI safe," i.e., it is possible that your parameters may need to be adjusted based on your personal electrocardiogram. These parameters can be easily modified (re-programmed) at any time as necessary.

Your device battery will generally have sufficient voltage to perform according to specifications for at least a few years. Battery longevity, however, is variable from individual to individual. Factors that affect battery longevity include: pacemaker (or ICD) lead tip characteristics, lead impedance, the number of functioning (implanted leads, device type and activated features, and patient demand. (A patient who is completely dependent upon pacemaker output will generally deplete battery faster than a patient who only needs pacemaker output for backup.)

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