

## Anti-Theft Detectors and Airport Security Systems

### Can I go through store anti-theft detectors and airport security systems?

Yes. *Anti-theft detectors* used in stores and libraries operate on the principle of generating electromagnetic interference (EMI) fields that can “sense” embedded “tags” on the merchandise being protected. It may be possible, under unique circumstances, for these same interference fields to affect the operation of an implanted pacemaker or defibrillator. Significant effects from the interference are unlikely to occur if you pass “normally” through the detectors because the interference fields end as soon as you walk through (or move away from) the anti-theft equipment. It is recommended that you:

1. become aware of anti-theft detectors,
2. walk through at a “normal” walking speed, and
3. do not linger close to the detection system equipment.

If you are near an anti-theft system and you feel symptoms, promptly move away from the equipment. Your Medtronic pacemaker or implantable defibrillator will resume its previous state of operation when you move away from the equipment.

*Airport security systems* are less likely to affect the operation of a pacemaker or implantable defibrillator. However, airport security systems (both the walk-through archways and hand-held wands) are metal detectors. Therefore, when you walk through the security archway at a normal walking speed, it may **detect the metal of your pacemaker or implantable defibrillator**. Because the metal detector cannot determine whether or not you are carrying a dangerous metal object (such as a weapon), you may be asked to undergo additional search methods. If so, it is helpful to show your device identification card. Then, if you have a **pacemaker**, ask to be cleared with a hand-held screening wand held away from the pacemaker, or request a hand search. If you have an **implantable defibrillator**, ask for a hand search because a screening wand has the potential to cause a shock therapy.



If you have specific questions regarding anti-theft detectors or airport security systems, please ask your doctor or nurse. 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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UC200605076 EN  
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Printed in USA  
April 2006

