AICD OR MANAGEMENT

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Automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator OR management also includes preoperative management with the cardiologist. A decision must be made regarding chronic antiarrhythmic medication. Most often patients are continued on these medications intraoperatively. It is important to determine if the AICD needs to be reprogrammed to a lower threshold for firing. It is also important to find out from the patients how many shocks have been delivered over the last several days before surgery, this will indicate the possibility of requiring treatment intraoperatively. Always apply external defibrillator patches, ensuring that these patches are as far away from the device as possible. Also always have a magnet available. If electrocautery is to be used, and a charge is detected place a magnet over the AICD and the AICD will discharge into itself and not to the patient. There are devices by Medtronics and Intermedics that will prevent the AICD from sensing and discharging. Electrocautery must not be used within 6 inches of the device or leads. Interrogate and reprogram the AICD as soon as possible postoperatively.

Reference: