PACEMAKERS ARE GOING WIRELESS

Cardiac pacemaker manufacturers are creating devices that transmit information over a wireless network. By removing human error, this new technology is improving healthcare by making it safer and more accurate.

WIRELESS PACEMAKERS ARE BETTER FOR PATIENTS, PROVIDE A MORE COMPLETE PICTURE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND, IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES, IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY A PATIENT’S DOCTOR.

In 2009 and 2010, the major pacemaker manufacturers introduced their version of a remote monitoring system:

**ST. JUDE MEDICAL:**
The Accent RF cardiac pacemaker was introduced and approved by the FDA in 2009, equipped with daily remote monitoring capabilities. Automatic test results and complete diagnostics are available via wireless communication.

**BIOTRONIK:**
In 2010, the U.S. FDA cleared the Evia, a small pacemaker with integrated, wireless, remote-monitoring capabilities. Using the system, device data can be transmitted via cellular networks to perform a complete remote follow-up.

**MEDTRONIC:**
In 2010, Medtronic introduced a wireless pacemaker that doctors can use to wirelessly monitor and even control the pacemaker from a nearby smartphone.

**BOSTON SCIENTIFIC:**
In early 2012, it was announced that future iterations of the LATITUDE Patient management system would include cardiac devices that allow the transmission of data to physicians in North America through a wireless telephone network, without the need for landline-based technology.

Wireless pacemakers allow for real-time monitoring, 24 hours a day, seven days a week—and remove the possibility for errors. The battery of a pacemaker lasts seven to eight years, so as the devices are replaced, patients will likely upgrade to newer wireless devices.

The precision of these new technologies means that older pacemakers, connected with antiquated landlines, will be phased out over time and replaced with the newer devices.

THE MEDICAL INDUSTRY IS KEEPING PACE WITH TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY. SHOULDN’T OUR LAWS KEEP UP, TOO?

Sources:
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