

Electrosurgery and Monitor Interference

Monitor interference can be an artifact of electrosurgery. Steps to minimize interference are as follows:

1. Insure that the ECG electrode is well attached to the patient through proper skin preparation prior to electrode placement.
2. Insure the electrosurgical cables (active and return) do not cross the cables of the affected equipment.
3. Plug the affected equipment into a separate power outlet.
4. Use the lowest possible power setting to achieve the desired effect.
5. Interference is usually greatest in the fulguration mode, it can be reduced by using a lower voltage mode such as desiccate, or cut.
6. Check all connections to the generator, patient return electrode, and accessories.
7. Some manufacturers of ECG electrodes offer RF (radio frequency) choke filters for use in the monitor leads. These filters reduce interference while the generator is activated. RF filters minimize the potential for an electrosurgical burn at the site of the monitor electrode.