

**DEFINITION:**

An AICD is an implanted defibrillator device that consists of: A lead system that senses cardiac activity, logic circuitry to analyze sensed signals, a power supply for device function and generating high voltage, and a capacitor that stores and delivers shocks. This device activates when bradycardia and/or a tachyarrhythmia is detected within programmed parameters.

**INDICATIONS:**

For verified frequent and recurrent inappropriate AICD discharges, a doughnut magnet may be utilized to deactivate “runaway” devices. Inhibition of AICD devices should be considered when continuous ECG monitoring verifies malfunction and ACLS is readily available.

**PROCEDURE:**

- A. Contact OLMC.
- B. Monitor ECG and verify sinus rhythm AND inappropriate defibrillator discharge.
- C. Locate the position of the AICD device.
- D. Place doughnut magnet directly over the device.
- E. After proper positioning and AICD deactivation, tape magnet securely in place and transport.

**NOTES & PRECAUTIONS:**

- A. It is very important to make the correct diagnosis before utilizing this protocol. Be sure that the ECG is showing a normal sinus rhythm without ectopy AND indications of recurrent AICD discharges.
- B. Some AICD devices will emit varying beeping or continuous tones when magnets are applied, others will not. Disregard these tones.
- C. If the magnet placement is successful in overriding the pulse generation of the AICD, **DO NOT REMOVE THE MAGNET**. Some units will return to normal operation after removal from the magnetic field.
- D. Magnets should be stored so as not to come into contact with magnetic sensitive materials, i.e., monitor screens, tapes, credit cards, magnetic door entry cards, and other electronic equipment.
- E. A small percentage of AICDs are impervious to magnetic fields (AICD recipients who normally work around magnetic fields have these special units). This will not be deactivated with the doughnut magnet. In such cases, advise OLMC and transport.
- F. A magnet will not deactivate a cardiac pacemaker, it will simply pace the underlying rhythm asynchronously at 100, 90, or 85 BPM depending on the life of the battery. Call OLMC.
- G. Identification information of the AICD type, date implanted, and location of implantation should accompany the patient to the hospital. This information is typically found on a wallet card that the patient has.