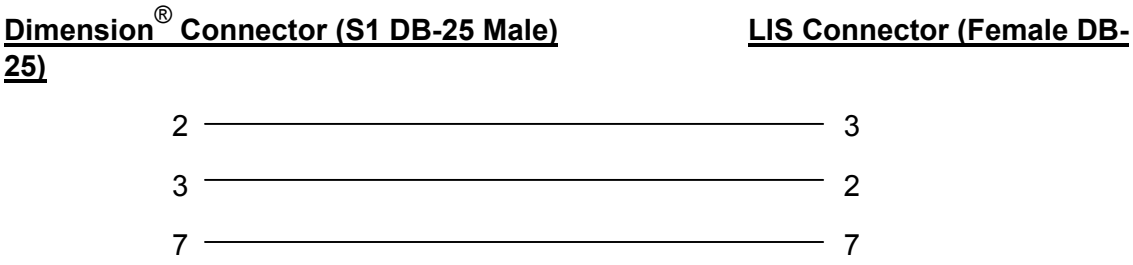
Hardware Connection

Proper communications from the Dimension® to the LIS can only be achieved through the use of a correctly wired cable. Recent failure reports have shown that over 50% of the communication problems related to the LIS were the result of a defective, wrong, or improperly wired cable.

Figure 16-2. shows the correct Dimension®-to-LIS wiring.

Figure 16-2. Dimension®–LIS Wiring



Pins 4, 5, 6, 8, 20 are all optional. The Dimension® does not need these pins connected in order to have communications. The LIS on the other hand may require these pins to be hooked up. In this case the cable should be wired to the LIS specifications. Many times the LIS cable will be pre-wired and placed near the instrument, ready for connecting when the Dimension® is installed. Other times there will be no cable at all.

Determining Whether the LIS Cable Is Configured Correctly

The best way to troubleshoot this problem is with an RS-232 breakout box or indicator box. These items are available from many computer stores and from Radio Shack. When the LIS cable is connected to the Dimension®, the indicator box should show lights on line 2 and 3.

Note: If there is only a light on either 2 or 3 and not both, then the LIS cable has pins 2 and 3 crossed and it will not work. To correct this problem have the account/LIS reverse pins 2 and 3 or insert a Null-Modem adapter (available at Radio Shack). Once the adapter is in you should see lights on both lines 2 and 3.