As a cochlear implant recipient, you must be aware that some medical situations and treatments, such as Monopolar Cautery, may have impacts on your wellbeing:

**Discuss all warnings and precautions with your physician and cochlear implant surgeon before undergoing any major medical procedure.**

**Monopolar Cautery:**

Electrosurgical instruments are capable of inducing electrical currents that could flow through the electrode array. Monopolar electrosurgical instruments must not be used on the head or neck of a cochlear implant patient as induced currents could cause damage to cochlear tissues or permanent damage to the implant. It is important to discuss any issues related to cochlear implant interaction with your physician prior to undergoing any type of electrosurgical procedure.

Bipolar electrosurgical instruments may be used on the head and neck of patients; however, the cautery electrodes must not contact the implant and should be kept more than 1 cm (~0.5 in.) from the extracochlear electrodes.

The following electrosurgical procedures are also contraindicated with a cochlear implant:
- Electroconvulsive Therapy
- Neurostimulation over the Cochlear Implant
- Ionizing Radiation Therapy over the Cochlear Implant
- Diathermy using Electromagnetic Radiation

To determine the specifications of your cochlear implant, please visit the manufacturer website:


Questions or concerns, please contact:
jpisa@hsc.mb.ca or visit umanitoba.ca/faculties/medicine/units/otolaryngology/