



Coratomic

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DOCKET NUMBER: PR-78(42FR13834)
PROPOSED RULE

October 23, 1978

Mr. Robert Bernero
Assistant Director for
Material Safety Standards
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555



Dear Mr. Bernero:

As we discussed at my meeting with you a month or so ago, you were interested in the life expectancy of pacemaker patients vs the general populace. Enclosed is a curve based upon statistical data obtained from several hospitals which we use for calculating longevity and warranty costs. The curve is by no means perfect since actuarial data is very difficult to obtain, but is the best we have at the present time.

At any specific age, half of the individuals who have the determined life expectancy can be expected to live longer than their life expectancy, half of them can be expected to die before it. The difficult thing is to determine which half one belongs to. From the table you can see that the life expectancy of a pacemaker patient at any specific age is less than that of the general population. For example, a patient at 60 years would expect to live to 70 or an additional 10 years with a pacemaker, but an additional 20 years without a pacemaker. The trend narrows as the patient populace gets older, since the pacemaker is effectively improving the individuals survivability as time progresses. It is interesting to note, however, that with an average life of 8 years, 50% of the patients who are 62 years of age can expect to have an additional pacemaker implanted.

Sincerely,

David L. Purdy
David L. Purdy
President

DLP:mb

Enclosure

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