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Medical Implant Demand: The U.S. market for implantable medical devices is expected to grow over 10% annually and is projected to be \$36.4 billion by 2009. The two largest segments are the orthopedic implants which is projected to grow 9% annually to \$15.2 billion, and cardiovascular implants which is projected to grow 10.4% annually to \$17.4 billion by 2009.

Intraocular lenses, brachytherapy devices, drug pumps, cochlear devices, brain stimulators, breast implants, and tissue implants are expected to grow around 10% annually and will make up the remaining \$3.8 billion of the projected \$36.4 billion market.

[Implant Demand](#)

Breast Cancer Treatment: Xoft, Inc. has received FDA approval for the Axcent(TM) Electronic Brachytherapy System indicated for the treatment of breast cancer. This is an isotope free product that requires minimal shielding and allows the oncologist to provide treatment at multiple energy levels to provide the best possible therapy.

[More information](#)

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Minimally Invasive Hip Replacement: Zimmer recently announced that they are now tracking 2,500 patients who have undergone minimally invasive hip replacement surgery. The MIS(TM) 2-Insicision(TM) Hip Replacement Procedure was first introduced in clinical trials in 2001.

When compared to traditional hip replacement surgery Zimmer has found the the minimally invasive technique shortens the hospital stay to 1 to 2 days, versus 3 to 5 for traditional technique. Minimally invasive surgery also allows less painful rehab and shortens recovery time.

[More Information](#)

Reduction in the ICD Market?

A recent article in the New York Times (Dec. 23, 2005) discussed a CMS decision to begin reimbursement for a type of non-invasive heart test that has the potential to better identify patients who will benefit from an implantable defibrillator. The test is called a Microvolt T-Wave Alternans (MTWA) and can be performed on a machine similar to a typical EKG machine. The machine is currently made by Cambridge Heart.

The CMS decision has many market analysts considering whether this decision is a first step in reducing the growth of the implantable defibrillator market. The current ICD/CRT market is a \$6 billion business and the analysts have projected the market to continue a 15-20% growth per year over the next few years.

Unknown Zone (Mixed)

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