

# Breast implants may disrupt heart tests

**Chris Smyth**

Breast implants may put women at risk of false heart disease diagnoses by interfering with a crucial medical test.

A study has suggested that implants may prevent electrocardiograms giving true readings, leading to diagnoses of abnormal heart rhythms. A test before surgery could help to determine whether later tests are distorted.

ECGs test for issues with electrical

activity in the heart. Doctors in Monaco, whose patients have often had cosmetic surgery, found implants made it hard to find the heart with ultrasound.

Concerned that implants could also disrupt electrical readings, they asked specialists to look at ECGs from 28 healthy women with implants and 20 without. One woman without implants was thought to have an abnormal ECG but 57 per cent of ECGs from women with them were abnormal, according to

a study presented at the EHRA Europace-Cardiostim conference in Vienna.

“We think the abnormal ECG recordings were false readings due to the implants,” Sok-Sithikun Bun, a cardiologist at Princess Grace Hospital in Monaco, said, adding that there was no other reason to think the women whose tests were abnormal had heart problems. “Doctors should be aware that ECG interpretation can be misleading in patients with breast implants.”