Advances in implantable device technology over the past few years can be seen in these illustrations. The photograph on the left shows a 1997-model implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) in front of an older version. Beside it is a modern single-chamber pacemaker in front of an older mercury-zinc–cell model. The Table shows their relative weights. These devices are now small enough to permit implantation of both in the same pectoral position, as shown in the photograph on the right. The implanted devices in this case were not the same as the one in the photograph but were of similar vintage. Tomorrow’s dual-chamber pacemakers and ICDs will surely be contained in the same “can” and will be smaller still.

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<th>Comparison of Pulse-Generator Weights</th>
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Victor Parsonnet

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