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PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE

A doctor relies on many tools to make his determination of a patient's condition. A thermometer for checking temperature, a stethoscope for listening to the heart, and a blood pressure monitor are just a few items he might utilize. An increase in the patient's temperature, elevated blood pressure, or change in the heart's rhythm might indicate an internal problem. The doctor reviews the patient's charts, performs additional testing and makes his prognosis based on the accumulated data. Many lives are saved and prolonged because of his proper diagnosis and intervention. Likewise, data can be accumulated and analyzed on machinery. By trending the machine's vibration, the analyst has a "chart" to refer to. It is no longer a matter of subjection (it feels rough to me...), but rather, a real (trendable) value has been assigned to the unit. Additional testing such as temperature trending, ferrographic analysis, and motor circuit testing can assist in the diagnosis. The benefit...minimal loss of downtime due to planned repair, reduced repair cost due to early intervention and extended machine life.

