ASUGI
Azienda Sanitaria Universitaria Giuliano Isontina
REGIONE AUTONOMA FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS UNDERGOING IMPLANTATION OF A DEVICE FOR CONTINUOUS ECG MONITORING (LOOP RECORDER)

Azienda Sanitaria Universitaria Giuliano Isontina

PURPOSE OF THE PROCEDURE

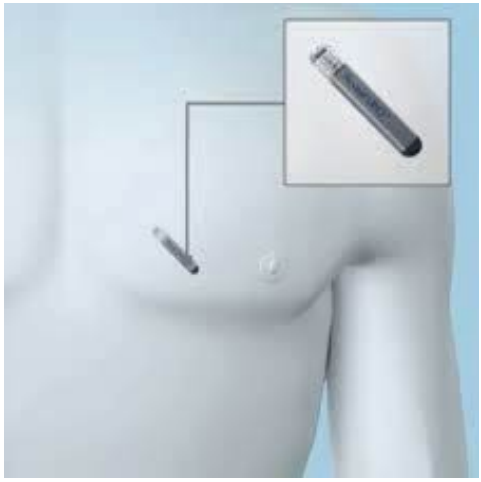
The application of a device for continuous ECG monitoring (loop recorder) allows to continuously monitor for a prolonged period (about 2 years with the devices currently available) and to identify, or exclude, any arrhythmic causes (excessive slowing or acceleration of the heart beat).

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCEDURE

The loop recorder is a small device and consists of a battery and an electronic circuit that is placed under the skin from where it continuously records the heartbeat. The implantation is performed under local anesthesia and usually lasts between 10 and 20 minutes.

The surgery is performed on an outpatient or day hospital basis and discharge from hospital usually takes place immediately after the procedure. The operation begins with a skin incision of about 2 cm, generally under the left clavicle, which serves to prepare a space ("pocket") under the skin for housing the device. The pocket is closed with 1 or 2 stitches.

After battery exhaustion (lasting 3-5 years) or in case of syncope with evidence or exclusion of a concomitant arrhythmia, the device will be removed as it is no longer necessary.



POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

No complications associated with device implantation have been described. However, as this is an invasive procedure, pocket bleeding or

infection may occur.

ALTERNATIVES

I have been informed that THERE ARE NO REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES to implanting a loop recorder for constant and prolonged ECG monitoring.

AFTER THE PROCEDURE

In general, the period necessary for functional recovery is approximately 7 days, after suture removal, in order to allow for adequate healing of the surgical wound.

After discharge from hospital, it is necessary to follow all the prescribed provisions and treatments; in particular, there are periodic checks (1/year) in our or another electrostimulation center autorized for PM control, which can be replaced by remote internet monitoring.

In the event of pain with swelling or redness in the pocket, it is necessary to promptly contact the Pacemaker Clinic.

FORESEEABLE OUTCOMES OF NON-TREATMENT

I have been explained that if I decide NOT to have the surgery, it may not be possible to determine the cause of my symptoms (syncope).

SCARS

Scars are represented by a small surgical scar (about 5 mm long) near the sternum; you can also see a slight swelling caused by the device (about 3-4 mm thick) at the level of the scar. After the removal of the device only the evidence of the surgical scar remains.

THE PROCEDURE WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING DOCTORS or NURSES:

- **dr. Massimo Zecchin,**
- **dr. Bianco Elisabetta**
- **dr Luca Salvatore**
- **dr. Fulvia Longaro**
- **dr. Cosimo Carriere**
- **inf. Angelo Rinaldi**

DIAGNOSTIC AND INTERVENTIONAL ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY UNIT
Responsible: dr. M. Zecchin
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Drafted by ASUGI's Communication, External Relations, Press Office, URP on the basis of texts provided by dr. Zecchin of the Cardiolgy Department

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