

Pressrelease

Screening with Zenicor-ECG can save billions for Swedish healthcare

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During the European Digital Heart Congress ESC, the health economic results from the STROKESTOP study were presented for the first time. The study where the Zenicor-ECG was used to screen for atrial fibrillation with the aim of preventing stroke. The health economic results indicated that screening with the Zenicor-ECG is cost-effective and cost-saving for society. For every cohort of 75/76-year-olds in Sweden screened for atrial fibrillation, the costs for the society can be reduced by SEK 3.6 billion.

The STROKESTOP study has, as previously announced, presented its results and showed that thousands of stroke cases can be prevented by screening older people with the Zenicor-ECG. This study is the first of its kind to demonstrate the benefits of atrial fibrillation screening.

Now the researchers at the University of Linköping and the Karolinska Institute are also presenting the first results of the health economic analysis which shows that screening with the Zenicor-ECG is cost saving for society. The results of the study indicate a cost saving to occur already after three years when screening a population of 75- and 76-year-olds. In a “life-time” perspective, there is a saving in social costs of EUR 1,800 per person screened in this population. This means that for every cohort of 75- and 76-year-olds in Sweden (approx. 200,000 people) who are screened for atrial fibrillation, the Swedish healthcare costs could be reduced by SEK 3.6 billion.

– The fact that screening with Zenicor-ECG has shown that you can avoid thousands of stroke cases and that Zenicor-ECG has proven to be a simple and user-friendly digital solution for the age group 75/76-year-olds, and now also proves to be cost-saving is fantastic. Zenicor now has a completely unique position for future evaluations and the introduction of national screening programs in Sweden and in other countries, says Mats Palerius, CEO, Zenicor Medical Systems AB.

Atrial fibrillation means an increased risk of having a stroke. Many people have atrial fibrillation without feeling symptoms, which leads to these people remaining undiagnosed and untreated and thus running a fivefold increased risk of having a stroke compared to healthy people. Screening for atrial fibrillation with the aim of identifying people with an unknown fibrillation, as well as treatment of these with blood-thinning drugs has now been shown not only to reduce the number of stroke cases, but also to be cost-saving for society. These important conclusions reinforce the benefit of introducing atrial fibrillation screening as a possible national screening program.

As early as 2017, the National Board of Health and Welfare evaluated the introduction of national screening programs for atrial fibrillation, but then there were no research results that showed the benefits of screening. With the presented medical results together with the now presented health economic analysis, there is evidence with significant new findings to make a new evaluation of the benefits of screening for atrial fibrillation.

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About the STROKESTOP study

STROKESTOP is the world's first randomized study examining whether systematic screening prevents stroke. A total of 28,000 people aged 75 and 76 are included in the study, half of whom have been invited for screening with a Zenicor-ECG for two weeks. The study is led by researchers at the Karolinska Institute and the first results were published in 2015. Data from the recently presented five-year follow-up regarding stroke diseases show that more than 2,300 stroke cases could be avoided for each cohort of 75/76 year olds in Sweden who are invited for atrial fibrillation screening.

About Zenicor

Zenicor Medical Systems is a leader in arrhythmia diagnostics and stroke prevention. Zenicor-ECG is a system optimized for healthcare for the diagnosis of cardiac arrhythmias, including atrial fibrillation, and the solution is currently used in ten countries in Europe. The effectiveness of the solution has been documented in a number of studies and articles in internationally leading scientific journals. Zenicor works together with healthcare, which has enabled an integrated specialist and primary care solution in a more efficient digital care pathway for arrhythmia investigation, where the patient is in focus and healthcare resources can be used more efficiently. Zenicor's solution has been used in the large screening studies STROKESTOP I and II, and in one of the world's largest randomized screening studies SAFER in the United Kingdom and SAFER -AUS in Australia. These studies are carried out to produce a basis for health authorities for decisions on the introduction of national screening programs for atrial fibrillation. For more information, visit: www.zenicor.se

About atrial fibrillation and stroke

Atrial fibrillation is the most common form of heart rhythm disorder with over three percent of the population affected. Atrial fibrillation is a significant risk factor for stroke. Atrial fibrillation does not always have to give symptoms and many may therefore have the disease without knowing it. By detecting atrial fibrillation early, stroke can be prevented. Every year, 15 million people worldwide suffer from stroke. Of these, one third die within 30 days and one third receive permanent damage. The suffering for the patient is enormous and entails very great costs for society. If fibrillation is detected and preventive treatment with blood-thinning drugs is initiated in time, stroke due to atrial fibrillation can be prevented in 70 percent of cases.

For more information, please contact:

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High-resolution images of Zenicor ECG are available for download:
<https://zenicor.com/press-material/>