

## **International recognition for research on stroke prevention screening with Zenicor's thumb-ECG**

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**The internationally renowned journals *Circulation* and *Europace* have recently published two scientific articles from the Swedish STROKESTOP study on primary preventive screening for atrial fibrillation with Zenicor's thumb-ECG. The articles show that screening individuals aged 75 years leads to both earlier and more detection of atrial fibrillation, which is expected to produce a significant reduction in the number of stroke cases.**

Screening not only results in fewer people having a stroke; it also leads to advantages in terms of health economics by reducing stroke-related medical costs for society. The published articles provide international scientific support for use of the thumb-ECG in conjunction with screenings for atrial fibrillation for the public.

Mårten Rosenqvist, professor of cardiology at Karolinska Institutet, medical expert on atrial fibrillation and head of the STROKESTOP study says: *"We believe that screening for atrial fibrillation with the accompanying anticoagulant treatment will be able to prevent strokes and thus reduce suffering among the elderly. The results of STROKESTOP strongly support screening as medically justified and cost-effective. The study results are an important foundation for the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare's work on guidelines and an important step on the road toward implementing a national screening programme."*

Professor of health economics at Linköping University Lars-Åke Levin says, *"Our analysis shows that screening for atrial fibrillation is cost-effective. For every 1,000 people screened, we can avoid eight cases of stroke. Each stroke case costs about SEK 600,000. Screening 1,000 people costs about SEK 1 million. These results have also been verified by the Swedish Dental and Pharmaceutical Benefits Agency (TLV) in their report from November 2014."*

Mats Palerius, CEO of Zenicor, says, *"These results are incredibly positive and justify the introduction of a national screening programme with Zenicor's thumb-ECG to reduce the risk of stroke among the elderly. The international attention means we can now be even more confident about our geographic expansion and continued growth."*

## **About atrial fibrillation and stroke**

Atrial fibrillation is the most common form of arrhythmia, affecting over 3% of the population. Atrial fibrillation is a significant risk factor for stroke. Atrial fibrillation does not always show symptoms and many people may therefore have the disease without realising it. A stroke can be prevented through early detection of atrial fibrillation. Worldwide, 15 million people are affected by stroke annually. Of these people, one third die within 30 days and one third have permanent damage. The suffering for patients is tremendous and entails extremely high costs for society. If atrial fibrillation is detected and preventive anticoagulant treatment is initiated in time, stroke due to atrial fibrillation can be prevented in 70% of cases.

## **About Zenicor and the thumb-ECG from Zenicor**

The Swedish medical technology company Zenicor is a leader in cardiology diagnostics and stroke prevention. Zenicor's thumb-ECG is a system for diagnosing atrial fibrillation and other cardiac arrhythmias and is currently used in about 300 clinics in northern Europe. Zenicor's solution consists of a handheld device (thumb-ECG) that the patient can use over an extended period to register short episodes with ECG readings, which are then automatically transferred to a central database via the mobile network. The caregiver can then access the patient's ECG results online at any time and make a diagnosis. The efficiency of the solution has been documented in several articles in internationally leading scientific journals. These studies have shown that in addition to cost-efficiency and user-friendliness, Zenicor's thumb-ECG has a superior diagnostic ability compared with traditional methods.

## **For more information**

Mårten Rosenqvist, Professor of Cardiology, Karolinska Institutet, [marten.rosenqvist@ds.se](mailto:marten.rosenqvist@ds.se), Mobile phone: +46 (0)70-794 02 71

Lars-Åke Levin, Professor of Health Economics, Linköping University, [lars-ake.levin@liu.se](mailto:lars-ake.levin@liu.se), Mobile phone: +46 (0)70-640 68 98

Mats Palerius, CEO, Zenicor Medical Systems AB, [mats@zenicor.se](mailto:mats@zenicor.se), Mobile phone: +46 (0)70-561 55 64.

High-resolution pictures of Zenicor's thumb-ECG are available for download:

<http://zenicor.se/pressmaterial>

## **Link to article in Circulation:**

<http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/early/2015/04/24/CIRCULATIONAHA.114.014343.abstract>

## **Link to article in Europace:**

<http://europace.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2015/04/12/europace.euv083>