

## **Over ten thousand 75-year-olds in Stockholm offered stroke prevention with Zenicor-ECG**

**Stockholm March 3rd, 2016**

**A new large study, STROKESTOP II, will be conducted during 2016 and 2017. In the study, led by Karolinska Institute and Danderyd Hospital, 11,000 75- and 76 -year-olds in Stockholm County will be invited to screening for Atrial Fibrillation with Zenicor-ECG in order to reduce the risk of stroke. The new study, a continuation of the internationally acclaimed STROKESTOP study, aims to further develop methods and processes to increase participation in the screening and to streamline the screening process.**

The study attendees will borrow a Zenicor-ECG device and screen themselves at home by taking their ECG a few times every day. Early detection of so-called silent Atrial Fibrillation, will allow early treatment of these people and the risk of developing a stroke can be greatly reduced. In total, about 11,000 75-and 76-year-olds in Stockholm County will be invited for screening. The study is expected to start in March 2016 and be completed during 2017. With screening fewer people will suffer a stroke and at the same time major health economical gains can be achieved when care cost for stroke in the community decreases.

The Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare have been given a mandate by the Government to investigate and assess the introduction of a National screening program for Atrial Fibrillation. The mission will be reported to the Government Offices (Ministry of Health and Social Affairs) during 2017. The results from the STROKESTOP II project will be part of the basis for the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare evaluation of a National Screening program for Atrial Fibrillation.

*Mårten Rosenqvist, Professor of Cardiology at the Karolinska Institute and the study lead for STROKESTOP II comments: In the STROKESTOP II study, we intend to further develop our methods and processes to cost-effectively find untreated people with Atrial Fibrillation, and thus be able to reduce the stroke incidence, which in addition to the human suffering also burdens society with significant costs. The overall objective of STROKESTOP II is to get an even better basis for evaluation of a National screening program to reduce the incidence of stroke.*

*Mats Palerius, CEO of Zenicor comments: "We are very pleased that once again Zenicor-ECG has been chosen for a major project for screening of Atrial Fibrillation. It shows that Zenicor-ECG is an effective, proven and cost-effective method for detecting Atrial Fibrillation in the context of population screenings. We at Zenicor feel very empowered and inspired to continue our work of "Spotting AF - Stopping Stroke." Our vision is that no one should suffer a stroke because of undiagnosed Atrial Fibrillation.*

## **About Atrial Fibrillation and Stroke**

Atrial Fibrillation is the most common form of cardiac arrhythmia with over 3 % of the population affected. Atrial Fibrillation is a major risk factor for stroke. Atrial Fibrillation does not always cause symptoms and many can therefore suffer from the disease without knowing it. Through early detection of Atrial Fibrillation Stroke can be prevented. Every year, 15 million people in the world suffer a Stroke. Of these, a third die within 30 days and a third will have permanent disabilities. The suffering of the patient is enormous and it also involves huge costs for society. If the Atrial Fibrillation is detected and preventive treatment with blood-thinning medication is started in time, Stroke due to Atrial Fibrillation can be prevented in up to 70 % of the cases.

## **About Zenicor**

The Swedish Medical Technology company Zenicor is a leader in Cardiovascular diagnostics and Stroke prevention. Zenicor thumb-ECG is a system for diagnosis of Atrial Fibrillation and other cardiac arrhythmias and is currently used in over 300 clinics in the Nordic countries, Germany and the UK. The Zenicor solution consists of a handheld device (Zenicor thumb-ECG) where the patients can register short episodes of their own ECG spread out during a long time period. The ECGs are then automatically sent through the mobile network to a central database. Via internet connection the caregiver has access to the patient's ECGs at any time and can make a diagnosis easily and quickly. Efficiency of the system has been documented in numerous studies and articles in leading international scientific journals. These studies have shown that Zenicor thumb-ECG, in combination with cost-effectiveness and ease of use, has a superior diagnostic capability compared to traditional methods.

## **For more information**

Mats Palerius, CEO, Zenicor Medical Systems AB, [mats@zenicor.se](mailto:mats@zenicor.se) , phone: +4670-561 55 64.  
Mårten Rosenqvist, Professor, Karolinska Institute, [marten.rosenqvist@ds.se](mailto:marten.rosenqvist@ds.se) , phone: +4670-794 02 71.

High resolution images of Zenicor ECG available for download: <http://zenicor.se/pressmaterial>

**Link to previous STROKESTOP I publication in Circulation:**

<http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/early/2015/04/24/CIRCULATIONAHA.114.014343.full.pdf+html>