

1 **Title:** Role of subcutaneous Implantable Loop Recorder for the diagnosis of  
2 arrhythmias in Brugada Syndrome: a single United Kingdom centre experience.

3 **Short title:** Implantable Loop Recorder in Brugada Syndrome

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5 **Authors:** Chiara Scrocco, MD<sup>1</sup>; Yael Ben-Haim, MD<sup>1</sup>; Brian Devine, MSc<sup>2</sup>;  
6 Maite Tome-Esteban, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Michael Papadakis, MBBS, MD, MRCP<sup>1</sup>;  
7 Sanjay Sharma, BSc(Hons), MD<sup>1</sup>; Peter W Macfarlane, DSc<sup>2</sup>, Elijah R Behr,  
8 MA, MBBS, MD<sup>1</sup>.

9 **Affiliations:** <sup>1</sup> Cardiovascular Clinical Academic Group St. George's,  
10 University of London and St. George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation  
11 Trust, London, United Kingdom. <sup>2</sup> Institute of Health & Wellbeing, University  
12 of Glasgow, Glasgow, United Kingdom

13 **Corresponding Author:**

14 Elijah R. Behr, MA, MBBS, MD  
15 Cardiovascular Clinical Academic Group  
16 St George's University Hospitals' NHS Foundation Trust and Molecular and  
17 Clinical Sciences Institute, St George's University of London  
18 Cranmer Terrace, London SW17 0RE, United Kingdom  
19 Email: ebehr@sgul.ac.uk

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## 1 **Abstract**

2 **Background:** Experience with implantable loop recorders (ILR) in Brugada  
3 Syndrome (BrS) is limited.

4 **Objective:** We sought to evaluate the indications and yield of ILR monitoring  
5 in a single-centre BrS registry.

6 **Methods:** Demographic, clinical and follow-up data of BrS patients with ILR  
7 were collected.

8 **Results:** Of 415 BrS patients recruited consecutively, 50 (12%) received an ILR  
9 (58% males). Mean age at ILR implantation was  $44\pm 15$  years. Thirty-one (62%)  
10 had experienced syncopal or pre-syncopal episodes, and 23 (46%) palpitations.  
11 During a median follow-up of 28 months (range 1-68), actionable events were  
12 detected in 11 subjects (22%); 7 had recurrences of syncope/presyncope, and in  
13 4 defects in sinus node function or atrioventricular conduction were detected.  
14 New supraventricular tachyarrhythmias were recorded in 6 subjects; a run of  
15 fast non-sustained VT was detected in one patient. Patients implanted with an  
16 ILR were less likely to show a spontaneous type 1 pattern or depolarisation  
17 ECG abnormalities compared to those receiving a primary prevention ICD. Age  
18 at implantation, gender, Shanghai score and ECG parameters did not differ  
19 between subjects with actionable events and those without. Device-related  
20 complications occurred in 3 cases (6%).

21 **Conclusion:** In a large cohort of BrS patients, continuous ILR monitoring  
22 yielded a diagnosis of tachy- or brady-arrhythmic episodes in 22% of cases.

1 Recurrences of syncope were associated with brady-arrhythmic events. The use  
2 of ILR can be helpful in guiding the management of low/intermediate risk BrS  
3 patients and ascertaining the cause of unexplained syncope.

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5 **Keywords:** Brugada Syndrome, Sudden Death, Ventricular Arrhythmias, ILR,  
6 ECG

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## 1 **Introduction**

2 The Brugada Syndrome (BrS) is characterised by “coved” ST segment elevation  
3  $\geq 2$  mm in the right precordial ECG leads (the type 1 pattern) and increased risk  
4 of ventricular arrhythmias (VAs) and sudden cardiac death (SCD) <sup>(1) (2)</sup>. The  
5 incidence of life-threatening VAs in previously asymptomatic subjects with BrS  
6 is estimated at 0.3 to 1 % per year <sup>(3) (4)</sup>. The only proven strategy for the  
7 prevention of SCD is the implantable-cardioverter defibrillator (ICD), which is  
8 recommended in patients with a previous aborted cardiac arrest/documentated  
9 VAs and can be useful in patients with previous arrhythmic syncope and a  
10 spontaneous type 1 pattern <sup>(1) (2)</sup>. Several other clinical, ECG and invasive risk  
11 factors have been proposed in subjects without documented VAs <sup>(5)</sup>, but risk  
12 stratification remains challenging. Subjects with BrS often suffer from  
13 neurocardiogenic or unexplained syncopal episodes as well as palpitations  
14 secondary to paroxysmal atrial arrhythmias (atrial fibrillation (AF), atrial  
15 tachycardia (AT) or atrioventricular nodal reentrant tachycardia (AVNRT)).  
16 These have not been associated consistently with VAs during follow-up <sup>(6) (7) (8)</sup>  
17 <sup>(9) (10)</sup>.

18 Implantable loop recorders (ILR) are indicated for investigation of  
19 syncope or palpitations in high-risk patients in whom comprehensive evaluation  
20 has not demonstrated a cause or led to treatment <sup>(11)</sup>. ILRs may therefore have a  
21 role in correlating symptoms and suspected VA in BrS patients <sup>(2) (12)</sup>, avoid  
22 unnecessary ICD implantation and offer reassurance. However, the experience

1 with ILRs in BrS is limited <sup>(13)(14)(8)</sup>. This study sought to evaluate the  
2 indications for ILR implantation and the yield of ILR-guided diagnosis in a  
3 large single-centre cohort of BrS patients.

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## 5 **Methods**

### 6 **Study Population**

7 Consecutive adult patients with a diagnosis of BrS were included from 2008 to  
8 June 2020. Subjects with significant coronary or cardiomyopathic disease or  
9 metabolic abnormality at time of type 1 ECG pattern were excluded. The study  
10 was approved by the regional ethics committee and Trust R&D. All the patients  
11 gave their informed consent for inclusion in the study.

### 12 **Data collection**

13 Retrospective demographic and clinical data, including symptoms, results of  
14 cardiac investigations and genetic tests, and details on device implantation were  
15 collected. Resting digital ECGs were analysed with software developed at the  
16 Institute of Health & Wellbeing, University of Glasgow <sup>(15)</sup> for ECG parameters:  
17 RR interval, P wave duration, PR interval, QRS duration, QT interval and QTc  
18 value, QRS fragmentation (defined as 2 or more spikes within the QRS complex  
19 in leads V1 to V3), Early Repolarisation Pattern <sup>(16)</sup>, duration and amplitude of S  
20 wave in lead I, and Tpeak-Tend interval. Device data included date and

1 indication for implantation, duration of follow-up and classification of  
2 transmitted tracings. These were deemed actionable if the arrhythmia detected  
3 led directly to a change of medical or device therapy. Symptoms and arrhythmic  
4 events during follow-up were recorded. A ‘Shanghai score’ was calculated for  
5 each patient based on ECG, clinical, familial and genetic data <sup>(17)</sup>.

## 6 **Statistical Analysis**

7 Descriptive statistics were used for demographic and clinical data. Categorical  
8 variables were expressed as number and percentages, while continuous  
9 variables were expressed as mean values with standard deviation (SD) if  
10 normally distributed, or as median with Interquartile Range (IQR) if not.  
11 Normally distributed data were compared with the Fisher’s exact or  $\chi^2$  test  
12 (categorical data) and with one-way ANOVA or independent t-tests (continuous  
13 data). Non-parametric tests were used for non-normally distributed data. All P-  
14 values were two-sided, and statistical significance was accepted at  $P < 0.05$ ,  
15 apart from tests involving multiple comparisons for which the Bonferroni  
16 correction was applied.

## 17 **Results**

### 18 *Clinical population*

19 Four-hundred-and-fifteen subjects were included. All underwent investigations  
20 to exclude BrS phenocopies <sup>(17)</sup>. A total of 50 (12%) received an ILR. Twenty-

1 nine (58%) were males, and 33 were Caucasian (66%). Twenty-nine subjects  
2 (58%) had a probable/definite diagnosis of BrS based on the Shanghai score.  
3 Mean age at ILR implantation was  $44\pm 15$  years. Thirty-one subjects (62%) had  
4 experienced a prior syncopal or pre-syncopal episode; in 18 the syncope was  
5 considered reflex (preceded by characteristic vasovagal prodrome including  
6 nausea/vomiting, diaphoresis, pallor, blurred vision, palpitations and/or  
7 dyspnoea), or due to orthostatic hypotension (OH); 6 subjects had at least one  
8 syncopal episode deemed unexplained or suspicious of an arrhythmic origin; 7  
9 only had pre-syncopal episodes without complete loss of consciousness.  
10 Palpitations were present in 23 subjects (46%), isolated (15 subjects) or in  
11 association with other symptoms. Three subjects were asymptomatic at  
12 presentation and another had a previous history of seizures. In these subjects the  
13 decision to implant an ILR relied mainly on the presence of a spontaneous type  
14 1 BrS pattern; two of them also harboured a pathogenic *SCN5A* variant, and in  
15 one a run of monomorphic VT was triggered during programmed electrical  
16 stimulation. *Supplementary Table 1* details demographic, clinical, genetic, and  
17 follow-up data of the ILR cohort.

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### 19 *ILR results*

20 The median follow-up time was 28 months (IQR 24, range 1-68). In two  
21 subjects the device was replaced after the end of life battery, while in three

1 cases (6%) it was explanted prematurely due to implant site infection (with  
2 subsequent re-implantation in one).

3 In total, continuous ILR monitoring detected actionable events in 11 subjects  
4 (22%) (**Figure 1**). There were no deaths. The median time from implantation to  
5 actionable event was 19 months (range 1 to 68 months). There were no  
6 differences between subjects who received an ILR-guided diagnosis and those  
7 without actionable events with regard to age at implantation, gender, Shanghai  
8 score at presentation, presence of spontaneous type 1, symptoms, results of  
9 electrophysiological study (EPS) and genetic background (**Table 1**).

10

#### 11 *Previous syncope or pre-syncope*

12 Of the 31 subjects with previous syncopal or pre-syncopal episodes, 7 (23%)  
13 had recurrences of symptoms: these were associated with brady-arrhythmias in  
14 all but one. In two cases prolonged sinus pauses were recorded and a dual  
15 chamber ICD was implanted; in another subject paroxysmal complete  
16 atrioventricular block with pauses up to 15 s were recorded (**Figure 2**) and an  
17 ICD implanted; subsequently the same subject experienced episodes of AT. In  
18 all three cases the decision to implant an ICD was determined by patient choice  
19 after careful counselling about risk and benefits of defibrillator leads compared  
20 to pacing leads, and the presence of potential risk factors for SCD. One 71-year  
21 old female with a pathogenic *SCN5A* variant and paroxysmal AF suffered  
22 multiple pre-syncopal episodes with documented diurnal pauses (ranging from



1 2.2 to 6 seconds) whilst taking a low dose of a beta-blocker. She was counselled  
2 about device therapy and opted for a permanent pacemaker. In two subjects the  
3 analysis of the electrograms (EGMs) showed sinus bradycardia during the  
4 episodes, while in another no actionable events were documented and a  
5 diagnosis of partial epileptic seizures was subsequently made.

6 Recurrences of symptoms were more frequent in subjects with  
7 unexplained/suspected arrhythmic syncope (3/6, 50%) compared to those with  
8 suspected reflex/neurogenic syncope (3/18, 17%). Only one subject with pre-  
9 syncope had a recurrence, which was not deemed to be of cardiac origin (1/7,  
10 14%). All subjects with previously unexplained syncope and recurrent episodes  
11 were diagnosed with sinus node dysfunction after detection of pathological  
12 sinus pauses, while in subjects with reflex syncope the available tracings  
13 showed sinus bradycardia in two cases, and paroxysmal complete AV block in  
14 another. In all subjects who underwent an EPS (18/31), programmed  
15 ventricular stimulation failed to induce sustained polymorphic VT/VF and the  
16 effective ventricular refractory periods were  $> 200$  ms. In addition, the HV  
17 intervals were normal.

18 Eight patients with prior syncope activated the device because of  
19 sustained palpitations; in four, paroxysmal episodes of supraventricular  
20 arrhythmias were recorded, and catheter ablation was performed in three of  
21 them. In the other four cases, no actionable events were detected.

1           In one subject, no symptoms occurred and no arrhythmias were recorded  
2 during ILR monitoring. However, a 4-beat run of monomorphic NSVT was  
3 recorded on 24h Holter ECG after the explantation of the device.

#### 4 *Previous palpitations*

5 Of the 15 patients presenting with palpitations only, 3 (20%) had a recurrence of  
6 symptoms. Episodes of AT/AF were recorded in one subject, who started  
7 hydroquinidine. Another subject with palpitations, family history of SCD,  
8 normal cardiac investigations, other than a 5-beat NSVT during 24h ambulatory  
9 monitoring, experienced an asymptomatic run of fast non-sustained  
10 polymorphic VT (**Figure 3**) and was offered an ICD. No arrhythmic episodes  
11 were recorded in the other subject with recurrent palpitation.

12

#### 13 *Other symptoms or no symptoms*

14 One subject with previous seizures had an asymptomatic episode of AT  
15 recorded. The three subjects with no previous symptoms did not experience  
16 events during follow-up.

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#### 18 *Comparison between subjects receiving ILR, ICD or no device therapy*

19           We compared the demographic, clinical, ECG, and genetic characteristics  
20 of subjects without previous aborted cardiac arrest who received an ILR, an  
21 ICD or no device (**Supplementary Table 2**). Those who received an ICD in  
22 primary prevention were more likely to display a spontaneous type 1 pattern

1 compared to those receiving an ILR, whereas there were no differences in  
2 gender, age at implantation, Shanghai score, genetic background, inducibility of  
3 VF at EPS between the two groups. Subjects not receiving any device had a  
4 lower Shanghai score and lower prevalence of spontaneous type 1 pattern,  
5 *SCN5A* variants and VF inducibility during EPS. They also had lower  
6 prevalence of symptoms, i.e. syncope or presyncope, as compared to the other  
7 two groups. With regard to the baseline ECG characteristics and other markers  
8 of increased arrhythmic risk, subjects receiving an ICD showed broader QRS  
9 duration, had a higher prevalence of fragmented QRS compared to the other two  
10 groups, and longer PR interval with higher prevalence of first-degree AV block  
11 compared with the group not receiving any device. Increased Tpeak-Tend  
12 interval were observed in the ILR group compared to the group without devices.

13 **Figure 4** illustrates the follow-up events in the three groups considered.  
14 There were no life-threatening arrhythmias detected in subjects receiving an  
15 ILR or not receiving any device, whereas in the ICD group three subjects  
16 experienced short runs of NSVT and three received appropriate ICD shocks on  
17 sustained VT/VF; interestingly, these latter occurred in 2 subjects without  
18 previous symptoms and one with palpitations. After the implantation of the ICD  
19 or PM in the ILR cohort, no events were recorded during a median follow-up of  
20 1.5 years. In the group with no device implanted, there were four deaths due to  
21 non-cardiac causes.

## 1 **Discussion**

2 The present study details, to our knowledge, the largest experience of the use of  
3 ILRs in BrS reported so far. The main finding is that ILR monitoring detected  
4 an actionable arrhythmia in 22% of subjects considered to be at insufficient risk  
5 of life-threatening VAs to warrant immediate ICD implantation. Diagnoses  
6 were made in 4/7 of subjects who suffered a recurrence of syncope or pre-  
7 syncope and 5/10 subjects with symptomatic palpitations. Paroxysmal sinus  
8 node or atrioventricular conduction dysfunction caused unexplained and even  
9 presumed vasovagal/reflex syncope in BrS subjects, while supraventricular  
10 arrhythmias were detected in half of the subjects with recurrent palpitations.

11       There were no deaths or sustained VAs in subjects receiving an ILR; only  
12 one episode of fast polymorphic NSVT was detected at ILR interrogation in a  
13 subject without previous symptoms, prompting prophylactic ICD implantation.  
14 In another case a short run of NSVT was detected after the device explant. The  
15 median time from implantation to actionable events was 19 months, ranging  
16 from 1 to 68 months. This suggests that in some cases prolonged monitoring  
17 may be necessary.

18       The rate of complications from the ILR implant was 6% in our cohort.  
19 This is higher than previously reported in the literature <sup>(18)</sup> <sup>(19)</sup>.

20

21 *Syncope in Brugada syndrome*

1 Syncope is a common symptom in BrS, affecting 24% to 34% of patients <sup>(6) (8)</sup>  
2 <sup>(7)</sup>; in the majority of cases, syncopal episodes appear to be vasovagal/reflex  
3 syncope or secondary to OH, and are associated with a good prognosis.  
4 Conversely, suspected arrhythmic syncope is associated with VAs during  
5 follow-up <sup>(20)</sup>. Moreover, increased vagal activity can trigger arrhythmic  
6 episodes in BrS and typical vasovagal prodromes are not exclusive to reflex  
7 syncope <sup>(21)</sup>. A significant proportion of syncopal episodes (30 to 39% in  
8 different case series) remains unexplained after comprehensive cardiac work-up.  
9 For this group the prognosis is less well defined, but the rate of recurrence is up  
10 to 53% <sup>(8) (7)</sup>.

11 A previous study of ILRs for the diagnosis of unexplained syncope in  
12 subjects with cardiovascular disease indicated that the episodes were secondary  
13 to brady-arrhythmias in the vast majority of cases <sup>(22)</sup>. Experience with ILRs in  
14 BrS is more limited. In 2012 Kubala et al. reported ILR monitoring in 11 BrS  
15 subjects. Eight subjects had recurrence of syncope, with two experiencing sinus  
16 bradycardia and two second-degree AV block <sup>(13)</sup>. Giustetto et al. reported the  
17 use of ILR to help adjudicate the cause of syncope in 27 subjects <sup>(8)</sup>. A recent  
18 study of 20 Dutch BrS patients did not highlight recurrences or new episodes of  
19 syncope, although three patients required antiarrhythmic therapy or catheter  
20 ablation and one permanent pacing <sup>(14)</sup>.

21 Our study confirmed the overall good prognosis for subjects with  
22 reflex/OH syncope although some did have actionable findings with one patient

1 requiring pacing for paroxysmal AV block, which had occurred without any  
2 change in sinus rate to indicate increased vagal tone. Furthermore, syncopal  
3 recurrences in our cohort were associated with conduction defects instead of  
4 VAs.

5

### 6 *Supraventricular arrhythmias*

7 New supraventricular arrhythmias, including AF, AT, and AVNRT occurred in  
8 12% of subjects in our cohort, and were symptomatic in the majority of them.  
9 The mean age at detection was  $49 \pm 16$  years, in keeping with previous reports  
10 on AF in BrS<sup>(9)(10)</sup>. In our cohort, atrial arrhythmias were not associated with  
11 the occurrence of VAs.

12

### 13 *ILR implantation in BrS*

14 **Figure 5** shows the trend of ILR implantations in BrS subjects symptomatic for  
15 pre-syncope and syncope in our centre; this steadily increased from 12% in  
16 2006 to 51% in 2019, likely reflecting the evolution of guidelines endorsed by  
17 international cardiac societies for the evaluation of subjects with syncope and  
18 prevention of SCD<sup>(10)(11)(2)</sup>. In our experience, patients receiving an ILR were  
19 more likely to experience symptoms, i.e. syncope/ pre-syncope, while the  
20 presence of a spontaneous type 1 pattern and other ECG markers of risk (i.e.  
21 depolarisation abnormalities) were more often associated with ICD implantation  
22 (*Supplementary Table 2*).

1

2 *Type 1 pattern, EP studies and risk in BrS*

3 Current expert consensus documents and guidelines recommend lifestyle

4 measures to reduce the risk of arrhythmias in all BrS patients and suggest that

5 the presence of a spontaneous type 1 pattern and previous arrhythmic syncope

6 may support prophylactic ICD implantation <sup>(1) (2)</sup>. Yet none of the subjects with

7 a spontaneous type 1 Brugada ECG in the ILR cohort had actionable events

8 after recurrent syncope, and the only VA occurred in a subject with a sodium

9 channel blocker induced pattern. However, due to the dynamic nature of the

10 type 1 Brugada ECG <sup>(23) (24)</sup> we cannot exclude that subjects with recurrent

11 syncope or presyncope never showed it.

12 The use of programmed electrical stimulation during EPS to identify the

13 best candidates for a prophylactic ICD implantation is controversial <sup>(1) (4)</sup>. In our

14 cohort, more than half of the subjects with previous syncope (18/31, 100% of

15 those with recurrent episodes) underwent programmed electrical stimulation,

16 which did not induce ventricular arrhythmias; in addition, effective ventricular

17 refractory periods were always above 200 ms and HV intervals were normal.

18 Syncopal recurrences were not associated with VAs lending support to the

19 findings of Giustetto et al. who highlighted the negative predictive value of the

20 EP study for VAs in BrS subjects with syncope <sup>(8)</sup>. Our findings would suggest

21 that equivocal and even presumed reflex syncope in BrS may be attributable to

22 sinus node or AV conduction defects rather than VAs or vagal triggers.

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### *Conduction disease and SCN5A gene variants*

Conduction disturbances are common in BrS<sup>(25) (26)</sup>. Subjects with pathogenic *SCN5A* variants display longer PR intervals, QRS durations and HV intervals and are more likely to suffer syncope<sup>(27) (28)</sup>. Furthermore, the clinical spectrum of loss-of-function *SCN5A* variants also includes sick sinus syndrome, isolated cardiac conduction defects, and AF<sup>(29)</sup>. In our ILR cohort, conduction disease was detected in only one patient with a pathogenic/likely pathogenic *SCN5A* variant, however the total number of genotyped subjects in our cohort (including those in whom the genetic test was not offered as the family's index case tested negative for mutations in *SCN5A*) is too small to make appropriate conclusions on the incidence of actionable events attributable to a specific genetic predisposition.

### *Clinical implications*

Our findings support the use of ILR for monitoring and stratifying risk in symptomatic subjects with BrS and insufficient risk of life-threatening VAs to warrant immediate ICD implantation. In fact, an ILR-guided diagnosis was made in 57% of subjects with recurrent syncope (especially those with previous unexplained or suspected arrhythmic episodes), and 50% of subjects with symptomatic palpitations. This is especially important considering that palpitations are not usually associated with the presence of ventricular



1 arrhythmias <sup>(30)</sup>, and therefore ICD implantation may not always be indicated. It  
2 is worth noting, however, that no clinical or ECG features allowed identification  
3 of subjects with actionable events at ILR interrogation, conceivably due to the  
4 small size of our cohort. With the increasing widespread use of non-invasive,  
5 commercially available wearable devices, it is foreseeable that a higher  
6 proportion of clinical and sub-clinical arrhythmias will be detected in subjects  
7 with BrS or other primary arrhythmia syndromes.

8         In the absence of precise risk stratification strategies, the decision to  
9 implant an ICD for primary prevention should rely on a multiparametric  
10 approach (including ECG and EP features, personal and family clinical history),  
11 recognising and communicating to the patient some of the inconsistencies in the  
12 literature: for example, the use of EP studies. In selected patient groups (e.g.  
13 those with atrioventricular and intraventricular conduction diseases, or multiple  
14 high risk features), the systematic use of ILR may reduce the burden of physical  
15 and psychological distress associated with ICD implantation and provide at the  
16 same time reassurance on symptoms. It should also consider patient preference  
17 and mindset, as device-related complications can be significant <sup>(31)</sup>. Due to  
18 limited data, recommendations on ILR re-implantation after previous  
19 unremarkable monitoring cannot be made; this may be reasonable in specific  
20 circumstances.

## 21 **Limitations**

1 This is a retrospective, observational, single-centre study. While this ensured  
2 consistent work up for the assessment of the individual risk, referral bias cannot  
3 be excluded. The number of patients included is relatively small. Head-up-tilt-  
4 test was not routinely used for the investigation of syncope and therefore the  
5 adjudication of unexplained/presumed arrhythmic syncope was made based on  
6 the clinical characteristics of the event. Further multicentre trials are needed in  
7 order to better understand the yield of ILR use for diagnosing dysrhythmias in  
8 low-to-moderate risk BrS.

9

## 10 **Conclusion**

11 Implantable cardiac monitor devices are useful to guide diagnosis in  
12 symptomatic BrS subjects deemed at insufficient risk of SCD to require  
13 immediate ICD implantation. Recurrent syncope, including unexplained  
14 episodes in subjects without spontaneous type 1 pattern and with negative EPS,  
15 is often secondary to conduction and sinus node dysfunction.

16

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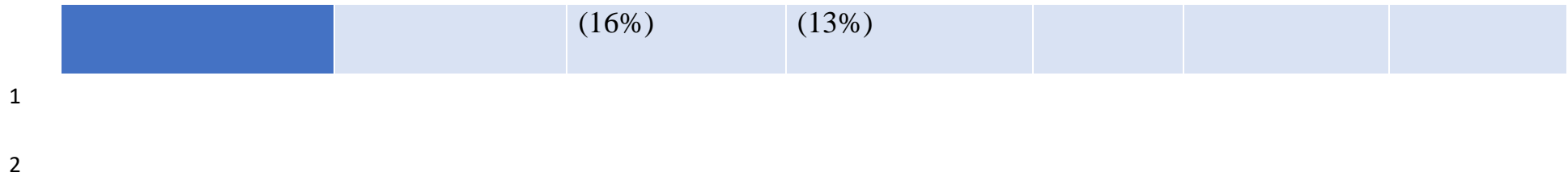
1 **Tables**2 **Table 1.**3 **Comparison of demographic, clinical, genetic and ECG data in the ILR, ICD, and no device cohorts**

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				P value		
	ICD = 58	ILR = 50	NO DEVICE = 232	ILR vs ICD	ILR vs NO DEVICE	ICD vs NO DEVICE
Age (y)	45 [IQR 18]	44 [IQR 23]	44 [IQR 25]	NS	NS	NS
Male	38 (66%)	29 (58%)	112 (48%)	NS	NS	NS
Shanghai score	4 [IQR 2]	3.5 [IQR 1]	3 [IQR 2]	NS	NS	< 0.001
	42 (72%)					< 0.001

Probable/definite BrS		29 (58%)	104 (45%)	NS	NS	
P/LP SCN5A variant	18/43 (42%)	7/29 (24%)	21/115 (18%)	NS	NS	0.002
Positive EPS	9/24 (38%)	3/27 (11%)	1/45 (2%)	NS	NS	< 0.001
Symptoms	40 (69%)	47 (94%)	84 (36%)	0.001	< 0.001	< 0.001
• Syncope/pre-syncope	26 (65%)	31 (66%)	33 (39%)	NS	< 0.001	< 0.001
• Palpitations	8 (20%)	15 (32%)	36 (43%)	NS	NS	NS
• Other	6 (15%)	1 (2%)	15 (18%)	NS	NS	NS
<b>ECG parameters</b>						
Spontaneous type 1	35 (60%)	18 (36%)	44 (19%)	0.01	0.008	< 0.001

RR	874±146	837±128	830±148	NS	NS	NS
PR	179±33	166±28	165±27	NS	NS	0.009
QRS	114±21	102±14	98±14	0.002	NS	< 0.001
QTc	424±25	424±21	424±24	NS	NS	NS
PR > 200 ms	14/57 (25%)	6/50 (12%)	25/226 (11%)	NS	NS	0.008
S wave in lead I ≥40 ms and/or ≥0.1 mV	35/58 (60%)	23/50 (46%)	118/232 (51%)	NS	NS	NS
Tpeak-Tend in V1-V4 ≥ 100 ms	32/58 (55%)	32/50 (64%)	89/232 (38%)	NS	0.001	NS
Fragmented QRS	9/58 (16%)	0/50 (0%)	8/232 (3%)	0.003	NS	0.002
Early repolarisation	6/58 (10%)	8/50	30/232	NS	NS	NS



1 **Figures**

2

3 **Figure 1.** Overview of ILR's cohort symptoms and actionable events.

4 BrS = Brugada Syndrome; ICD=Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator; ILR =  
5 Implantable Loop Recorder; AF = Atrial Fibrillation; AT = Atrial Tachycardia;  
6 VT=Ventricular Tachycardia.

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8 **Figure 2.** Paroxysmal complete third-degree AV block in one subject with  
9 previous syncope.

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11 **Figure 3.** Late-onset run of polymorphic non-sustained VT in one subject with  
12 palpitations, family history of SCD and structurally normal heart.

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14 **Figure 4: Follow-up events according to device implantation and symptoms**

15 NSVT = non-sustained ventricular tachycardia; SVT = supraventricular  
16 tachycardia; SCD = Sudden Cardiac Death.

17 + Appropriate shock = appropriate ICD intervention on VT/VF.

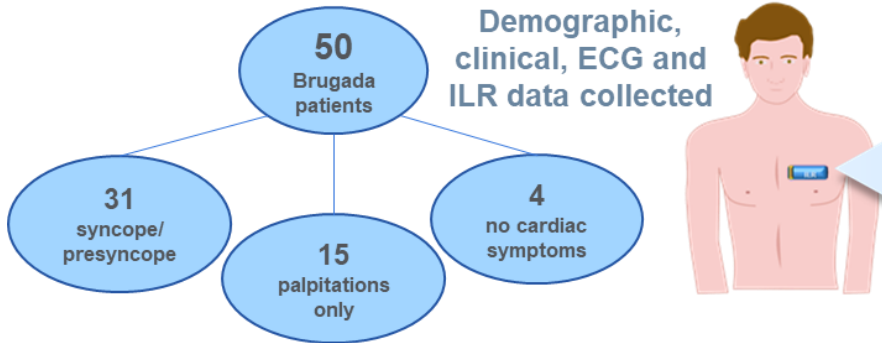
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19 **Figure 5: Device implantation trend in BrS patients with syncope or pre-**  
20 **syncope in our centre.** Bars show the annual running total of subjects without  
21 devices (grey), with ICD (blue) and with ILR (orange).

1 **Visual abstract**

**Role of subcutaneous Implantable Loop Recorder for the diagnosis of arrhythmias in Brugada Syndrome: a single United Kingdom centre experience.**

**Population and methods**



**Findings**

**22% actionable events:**

- 4 pre-syncope/syncope recurrence associated with conduction disease
- 6 new supraventricular arrhythmias
- 1 fast NSVT

Increasing ILR implantation trend over time

No ECG features able to predict events

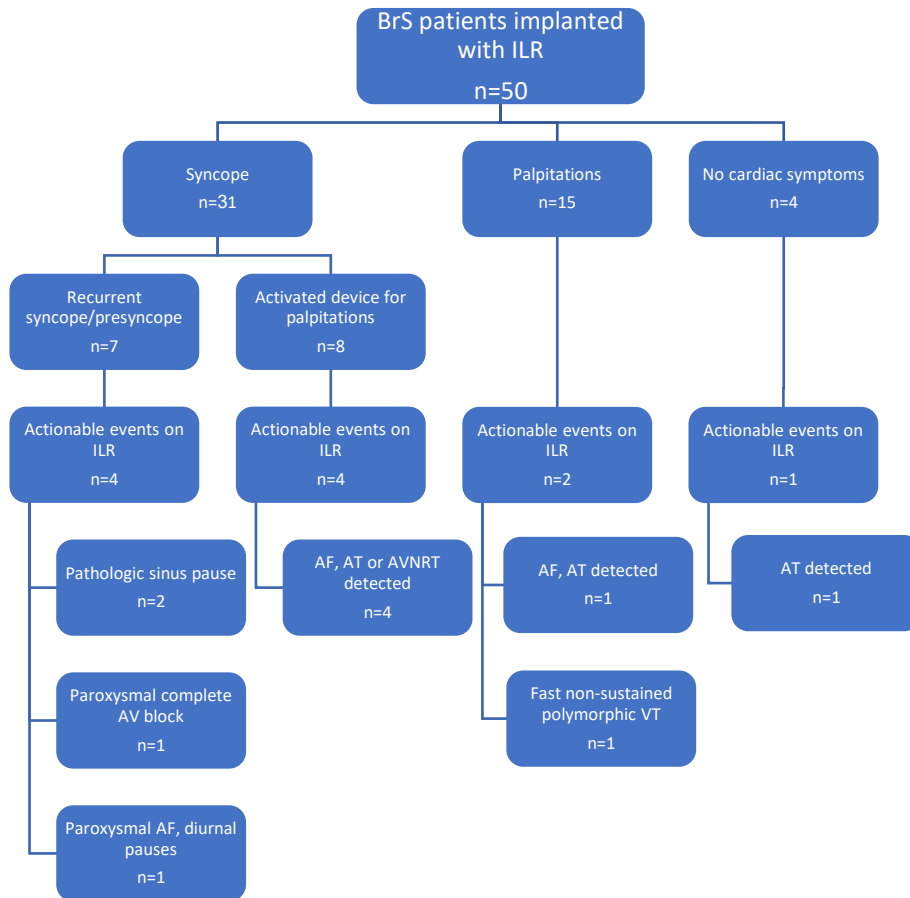
**Conclusion**

ILR can be helpful in guiding the management of low/intermediate risk Brugada patients and ascertaining the cause of unexplained syncope

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1 **Figure 1**



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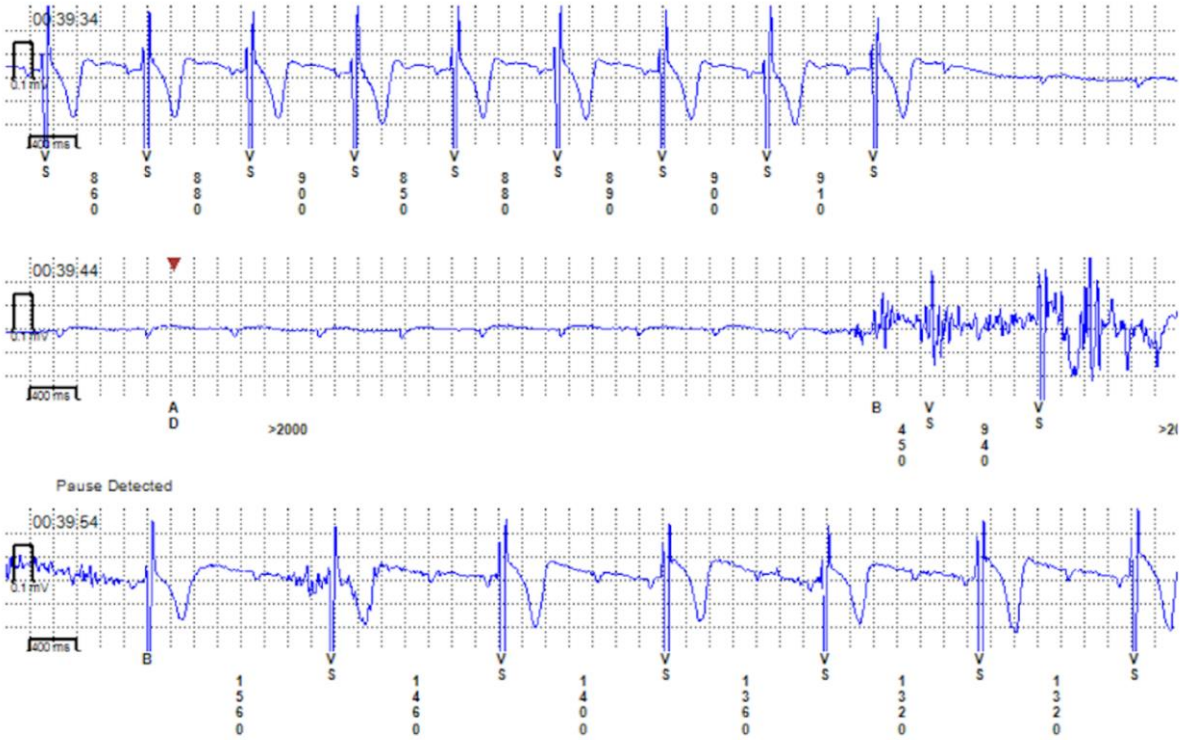
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1 **Figure 2**



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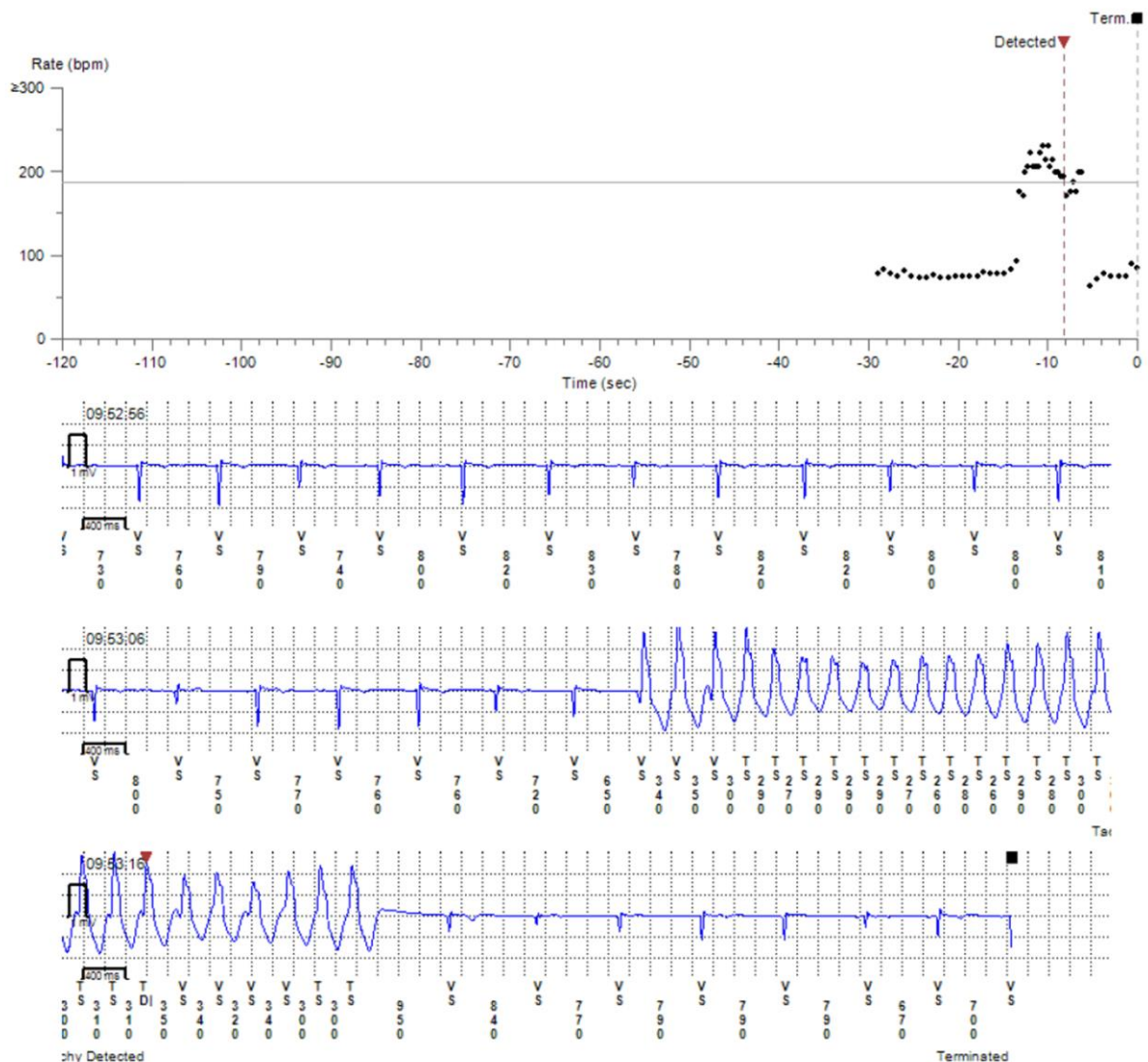
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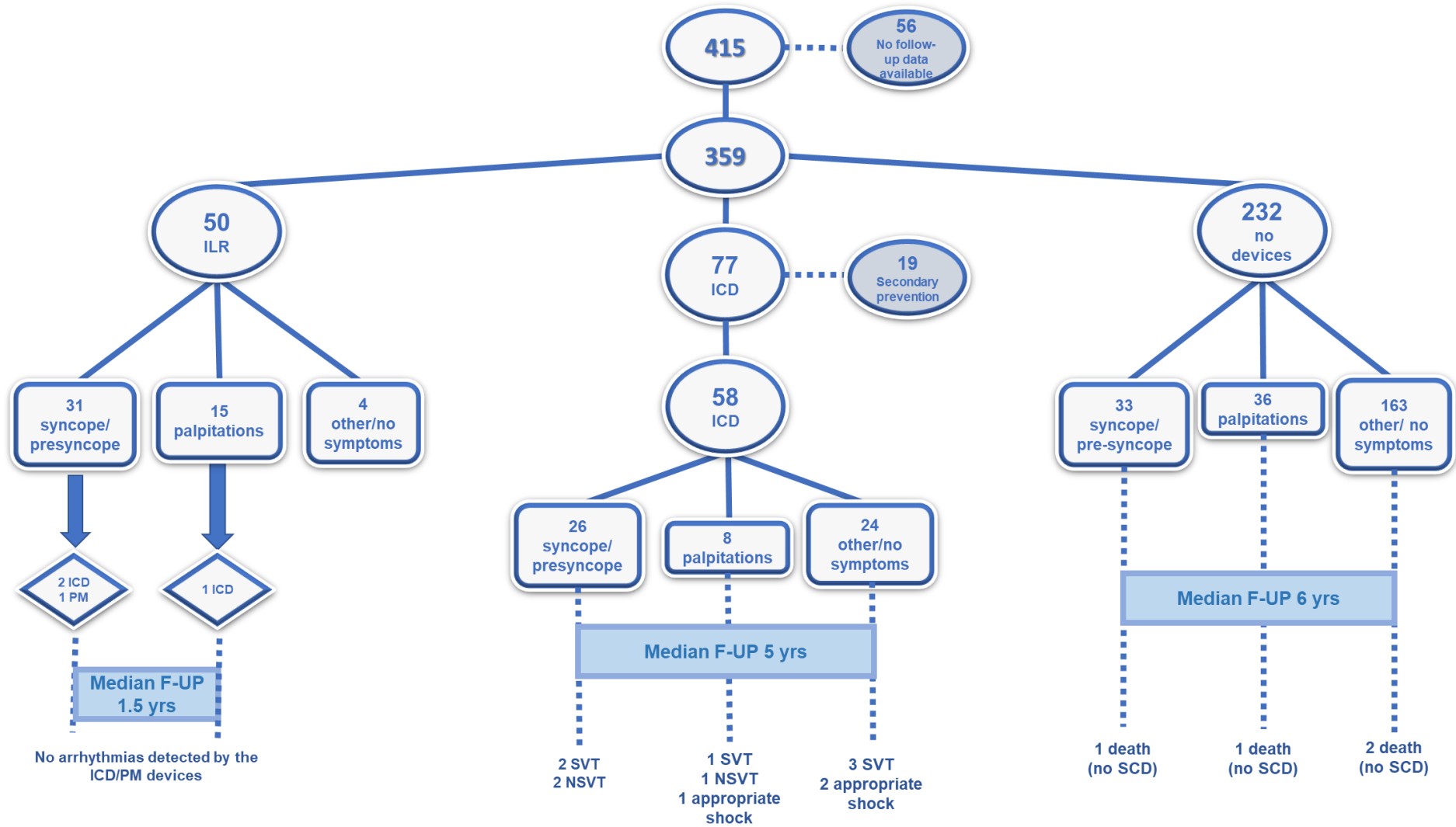


1 **Figure 3**



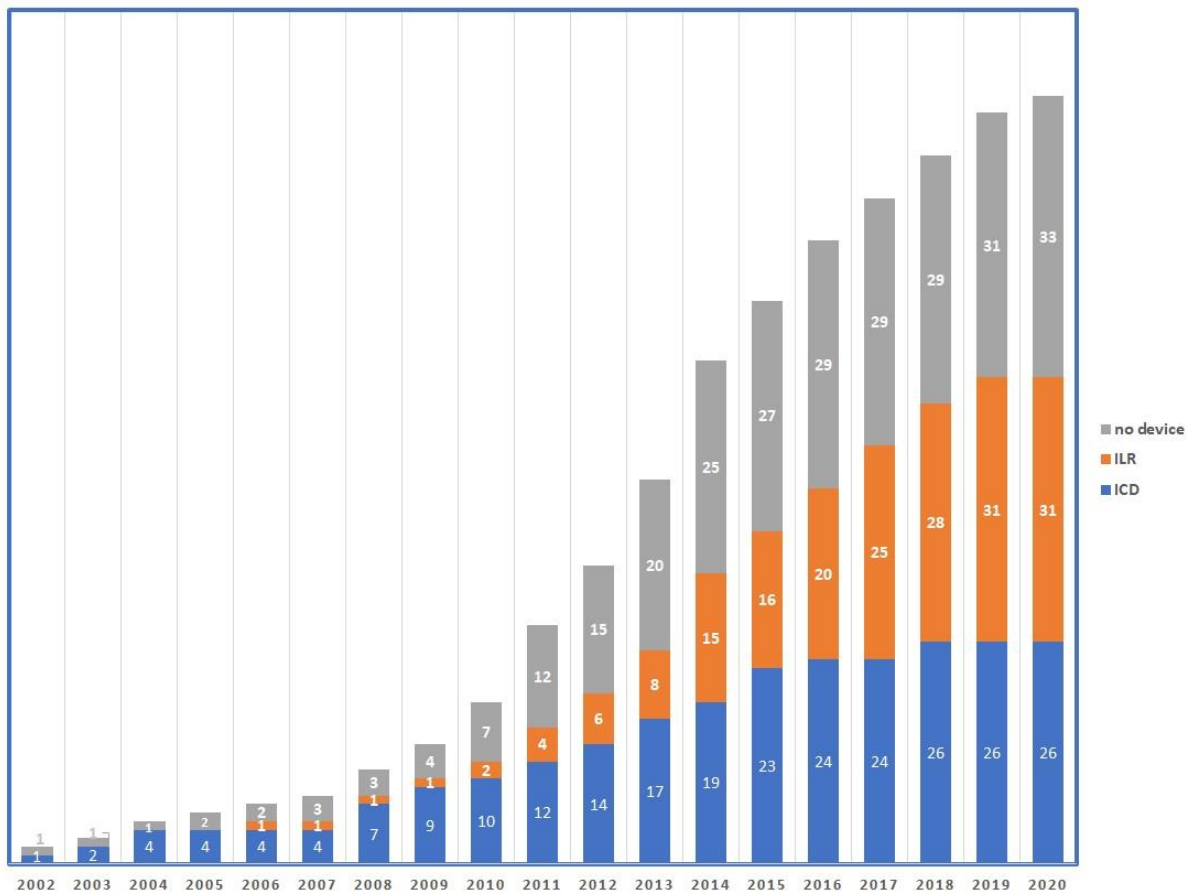
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1 **Figure 4**



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1 **Figure 5**



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