

# REMOTE CARDIAC DEVICE MONITORING – OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

Impact on patient care and pacemaker clinic flow

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# OBJECTIVES

- Brief Overview of Cardiac Rhythm Management devices
  - pacemakers and implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) and Cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT) purpose and function
- Home monitor-overview of set up – video
- What can be monitored using the home monitor
- Pros and Cons of home monitoring
- Summary

# WHAT ARE IMPLANTABLE CARDIAC RHYTHM MANAGEMENT DEVICES??

How is an ICD different than a pacemaker ?

How are pacemakers and ICD's  
different than CRT devices ?

How are these device  
implanted ?

# QUICK REVIEW

# CRM DEVICES

Permanent Pacemakers are implanted devices that treat

**BRADYCARDIA**

**Pacemaker Components Combine with Body Tissue to Form a Complete Circuit THAT:**

Senses the hearts own intrinsic beats

Paces or Inhibits at the programmed interval(rate)

**Pacemaker can be single or dual chamber or Biventricular**

1 or 2 or 3 leads in the right atrium and or right ventricle and or over the left ventricle

# IMPLANTABLE CARDIOVERTER DEFIBRILLATORS

**ICD's** are implanted devices that treat both  
**BRADYCARDIA and Ventricular  
TACHYARRHYTHMIAS**

ICD's can be single or dual chamber or biventricular

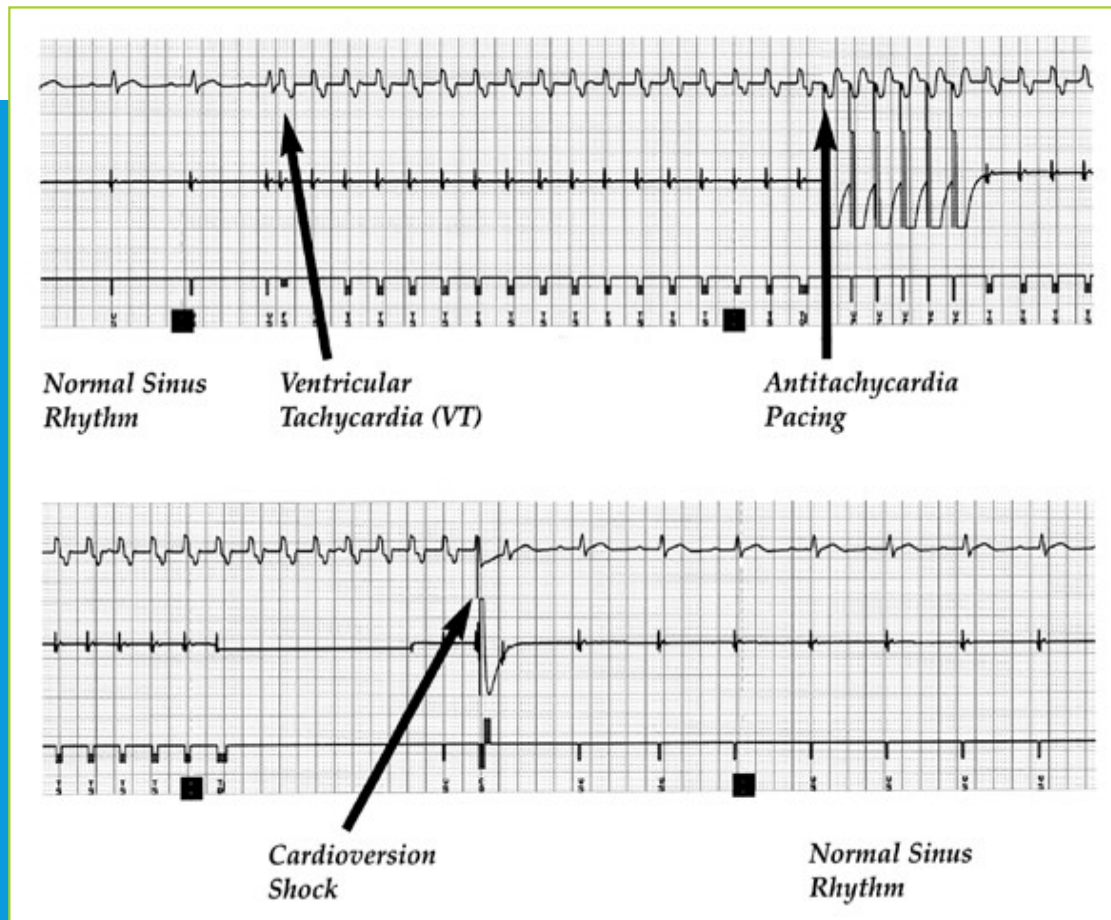
1 or 2 or 3 leads in the right atrium and or right ventricle and or over the left ventricle

# ICD FUNCTION

## ICD's

- Treat Bradyarrhythmias with pacing
- Treat tachyarrhythmias using Tachyarrhythmia therapies
  - **Defibrillation/**Cardioversion
  - **AntiTachycardia Pacing – ATP**

# VENTRICULAR TACHYCARDIA



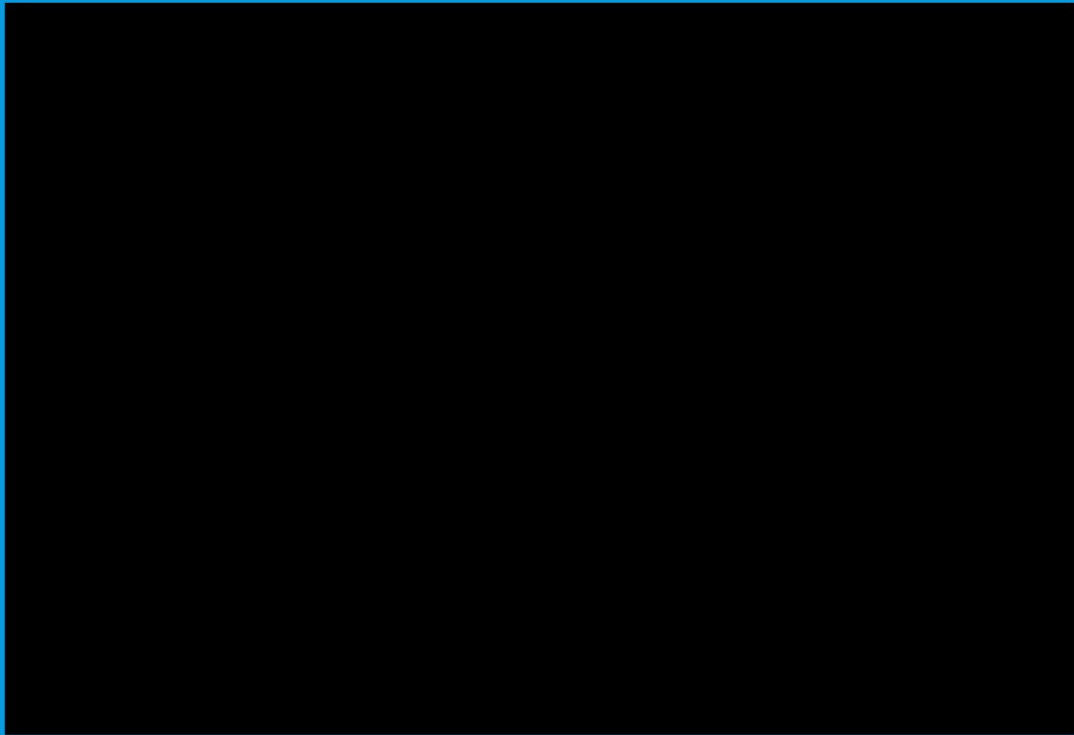
# CARDIAC RESYNCHRONIZATION THERAPY DEVICES

**CRT Devices** also call **BIVENTRICULAR devices** are *PACEMAKERS* or *ICD's* that pace both ventricles to provide resynchronization of the right and left ventricle in patients with:

- CHF
- Wide QRS
- Ventricular Dysynchrony



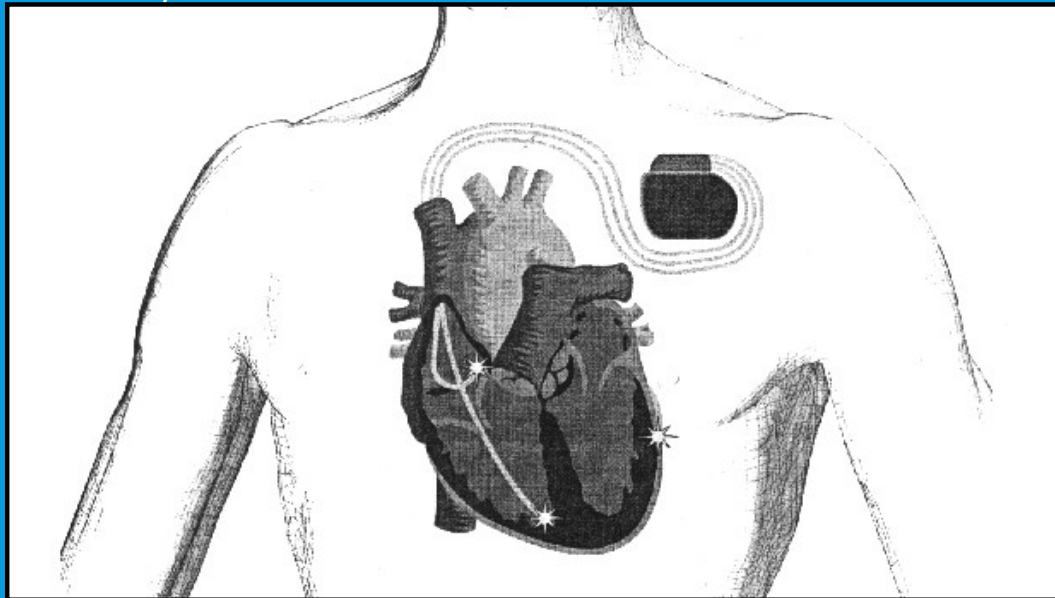
# WHAT IS VENTRICULAR DYSYNCHRONY



## ACHIEVING CARDIAC RESYNCHRONIZATION

### MECHANICAL GOAL: PACE RIGHT AND LEFT VENTRICLES

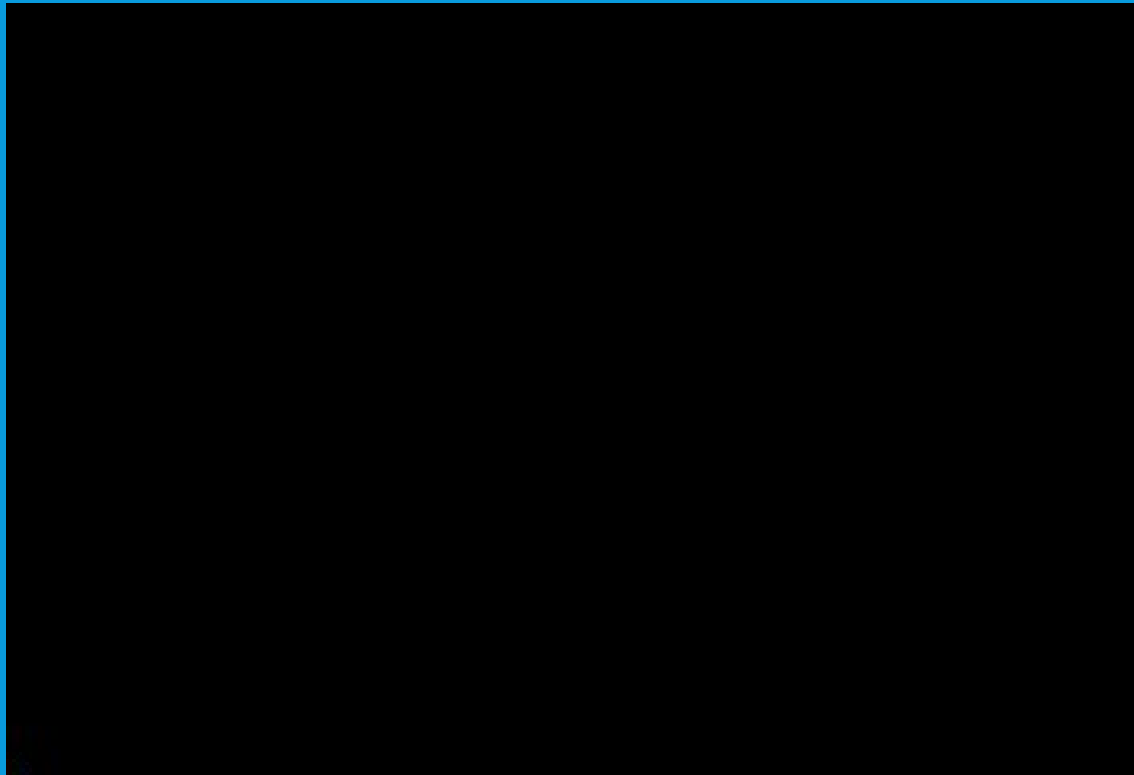
- Standard pacing leads in RA and RV
- Specially designed left heart lead placed in a left ventricular cardiac vein via the coronary sinus



Cardiac Resynchronization System

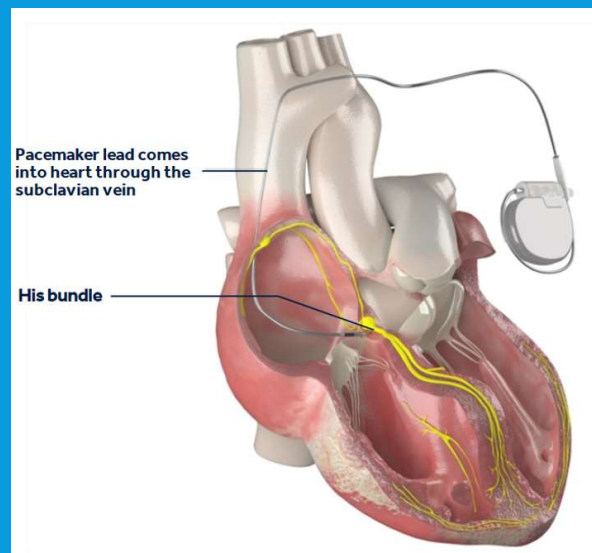
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# CRT THERAPY



# PHYSIOLOGIC PACING

At UVMHC we are also a leader in physiologic pacing  
-tapping into the natural conduction system pathway.



## Outcomes\*

- Narrow Paced QRS<sup>3-5, 11, 12</sup>
- Improved and preserved LV function<sup>3, 4, 12</sup>
- Lower HF-related hospitalization in frequently paced (>40%) patients<sup>3, 11, 12</sup>
- Corrected LBBB in certain patients<sup>14</sup>
- Successfully paced AVB (both infra-nodal and intra-Hisian)<sup>7</sup>

\*as compared to RV apical pacing

# IMPLANTABLE LOOP RECORDERS

An implantable loop recorder is a type of heart monitoring device that continuously records your heart rhythm for several years

- Implanted under the skin in the left parasternal region
- Used when symptoms occur infrequently or other heart monitoring tools don't detect abnormalities

# IMPLANTABLE LOOP RECORDERS

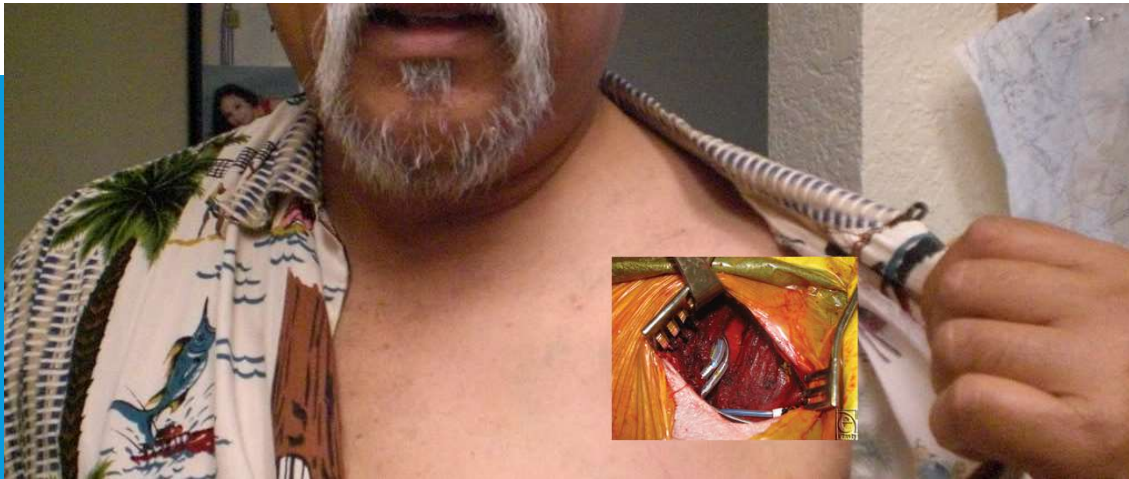
## Reasons for ILR implant

- Syncope/LOC
  - Bradycardia or pauses?
- Palpitations
  - Brady or tachyarrhythmias?
- VT Monitoring
- AF Monitoring Post Ablation
  - Was ablation successful?
  - Can we take patient off anticoagulation meds?
- Cryptogenic Stroke

# IMPLANTABLE LOOP RECORDERS



# How are these devices Implanted?

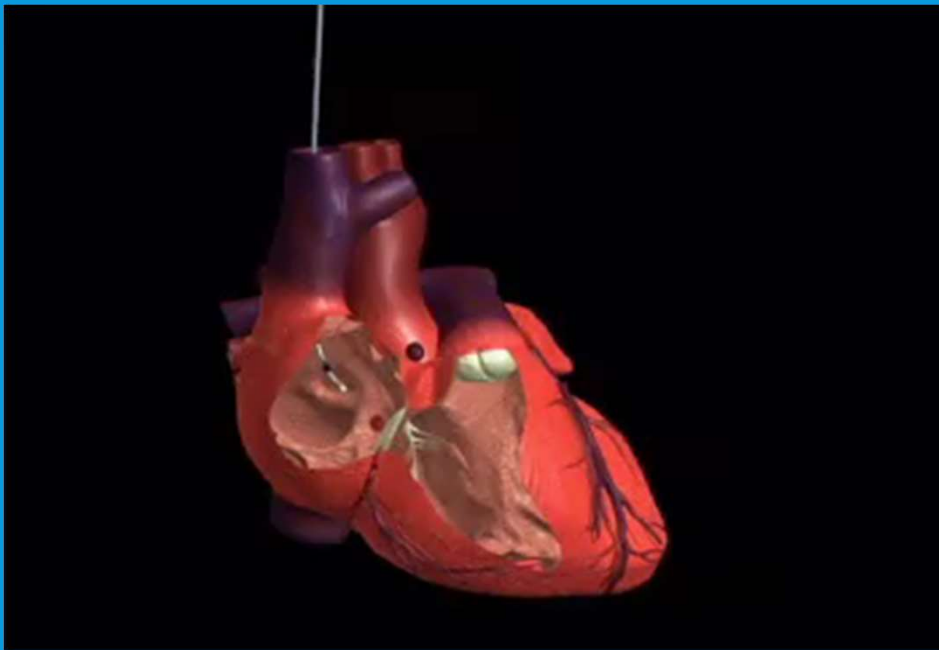


## Small devices – Pectoral site

- Transvenous, single incision
- Local anesthesia; conscious sedation
- using Fluoroscopy
- Lead or leads are delivered into the heart using an introducer via the Subclavian Vein to SVC to RA, RV or on top of the LV via the Coronary sinus .



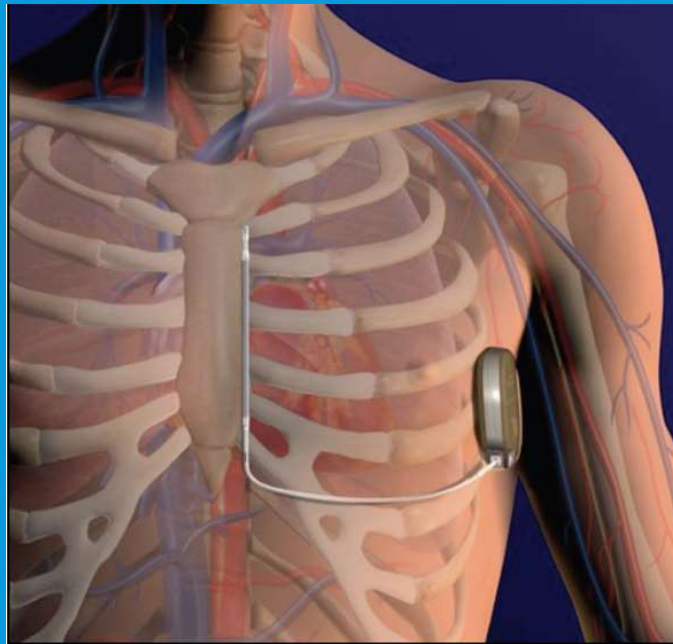
# RIGHT VENTRICULAR LEAD PLACEMENT ACTIVE FIXATION LEAD



# CRT DEVICE CORONARY SINUS -LV LEAD PLACEMENT

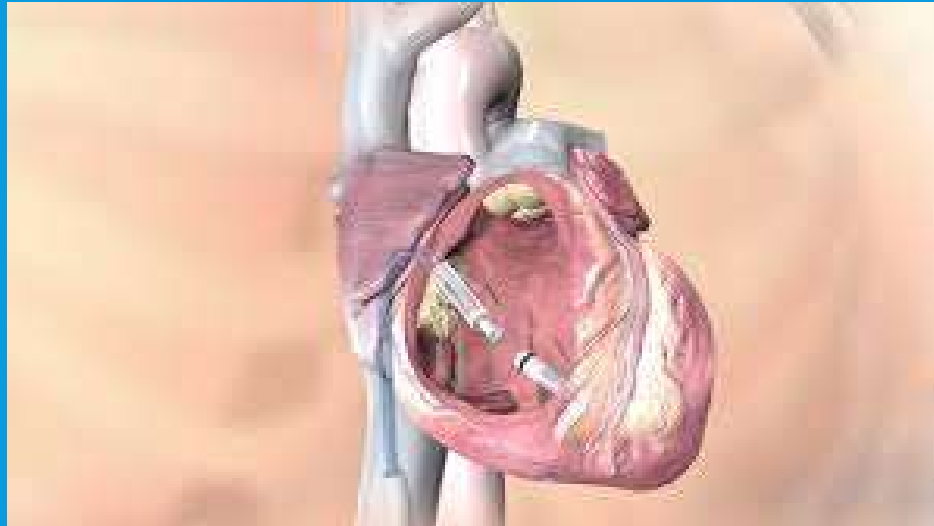
Click to Start/Stop

# SUBCUTANEOUS ICD OR SICD



- Limited or No Fluoroscopy
- MAC or general anesthesia

# LEADLESS PACEMAKERS



- Pacemaker is deployed directly in the right ventricle via the femoral vein > ICD

# REMOTE MONITORING



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m\\_cRAntpZo8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_cRAntpZo8)

# DEVICE CLINIC WORKFLOW

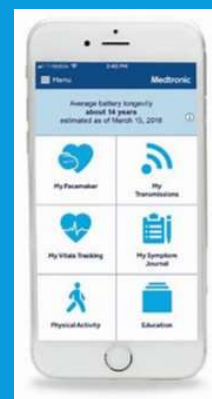
- Remote monitoring workflow at UVMCC Device Clinic:
  - Patients are set up with a remote monitor within 2-4 weeks of PPM/ICD implant. On day of ILR implant patients will receive their monitor.
  - Follow up process with the remote monitor is discussed with the patient and/or family at the 3 month s/p implant check

Type of Device	Frequency of follow up
ILR	1/ month
Pacemaker	Every 6 months
ICD	Every 3 months
Physiologic pacing	Every 3 months for first 2 years of implant

# HOW/WHERE WE DO REMOTE MONITORING

- Staff log into the remote sites Monday-Friday, 7:00am-4:30pm
- Throughout the day staff are routinely monitoring: scheduled reports, alerts, patient initiated transmissions, disconnected monitoring, missed reporting.
- Alert criteria for reporting
  - Defined critical values:
    - • New onset of AF/flutter
    - • AF with ventricular rate >100bpm for  $\geq 3$  hours
    - • SVT >170bpm
    - • NSVT for >10 consecutive beats
    - • Brady <30bpm
    - • Pause >3 seconds in NSR or  $\geq 6$  seconds in AF
    - • Battery at ERI
    - • Any tachy therapy from ICD
    - • Thoracic Impedance value above baseline
    - • Any value outside of manufacturer's programmed alerts
      - o Ex: lead impedances, device malfunction, etc.

# HOW/WHERE WE DO REMOTE MONITORING





# HOW/WHERE WE DO REMOTE MONITORING

The screenshot shows the Abbott CareLink Network interface. At the top, there's the Abbott logo and navigation tabs for 'Recent Transmissions', 'Patient List', and 'Tools'. Below this is a search bar with the text 'Search by Name, ID, Di'. A table below the search bar has columns for 'Patient', 'Transmission', 'Schedule', 'Device', and 'DirectAlerts™ Alerts List'.

The screenshot shows the Medtronic CareLink Network interface. It features a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Transmissions', 'Patients', and 'Clinic'. The main content area is divided into two sections: 'Transmission Views' and 'Manage My Patient Views'. Under 'Transmission Views', there are three categories: 'New Transmissions' (1), 'Without Events' (1), and 'New Summary Reports' (4). Under 'Manage My Patient Views', there are four categories: 'Missed Transmissions' (1), 'Disconnected Monitors' (4), and others.

The screenshot shows the Boston Scientific interface for a patient named 'Petry, Melissa'. The page title is 'View Patient List'. It includes a search bar and a table with columns: 'Patient/Device', 'Review Status', 'Latest Device Transmission', 'Alerts', 'Review Reason', 'Next Remote Follow-up', and 'Monitor Date'. The table currently shows 'No patient records for display.'

The screenshot shows the Boston Scientific interface for a 'For Review' patient list. It includes a navigation bar with 'Patient List', 'Enroll Patient', and 'Manage Clinic'. The main content area has a search bar and a table with columns: 'Patient Info', 'Review Reason', 'Reason For Monitoring', 'Review Status', and 'Latest Device Transmission'. The table currently shows 'No patient records for display.'

The screenshot shows the BIOTRONIK Home Monitoring Service Center interface for a patient named 'Melissa Petry'. It features a navigation bar with 'Monitoring', 'Administration', 'Users', and 'Patient groups'. The main content area has a section titled 'Your patients today' with a notification: 'You've got 3 patients for review.' Below this, there are two alerts: 'Early detection' (0) and 'Home Monitoring-supported follow-up' (1).

# WHAT CAN BE MONITORED

- Device function
- Device integrity – lead integrity
- Rhythm diagnostics
- Heart failure diagnostic

# WHAT CAN BE MONITORED

TRANSMISSIONS		MANAGE MY PATIENTS		MANAGE MY CLINIC		
<a href="#">Status</a>   <a href="#">Summary Reports</a>   <a href="#">Advanced Search</a>   <a href="#">Transmission Schedule</a>						
(20)						
<input type="button" value="Update Status"/> <input type="button" value="Customize Columns"/>						
Received	Alerts	Event Summary	Status	Battery	Device	Next Send
29-Mar-2021 2:50 PM <i>(Unscheduled)</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AT/AF Therapies disabled</li> <li>AT/AF Daily Burden &gt; Threshold</li> <li>Atrial lead position check failed</li> <li>31 hours in AT/AF Since Last Session</li> </ul>	New	3.01 V	Evera MRI™ XT DR 12-Oct-2020	Not Scheduled
29-Mar-2021 7:24 AM		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 minutes in AT/AF Since Last Session</li> </ul>	Viewed	2.99 V	Evera MRI™ XT DR 20-Sep-2017	Not Scheduled
29-Mar-2021 3:52 AM <i>(Initial Setup)</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>16 seconds in AT/AF Since Last Session</li> </ul>	New	11.8 yrs	Azure™ XT DR MRI 02-Mar-2021	Not Scheduled
29-Mar-2021 3:35 AM		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible Fluid Accumulation</li> <li>41 V. Sensing Episodes</li> </ul>	Viewed	2.96 V	Viva™ Quad XT CRT-D 22-Dec-2016	Not Scheduled
29-Mar-2021 12:05 AM		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pause Episode(s)</li> </ul>	Viewed		Reveal LINQ™ 23-Sep-2020	Not Scheduled
28-Mar-2021 10:24 PM <i>(Unscheduled)</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AT/AF Daily Burden &gt; Threshold</li> <li>Fast V Rate During AT/AF</li> <li>4 VT-NS</li> <li>44 hours in AT/AF Since Last Session</li> </ul>	New	3.02 V	Evera MRI™ XT DR 20-Jan-2020	Not Scheduled
28-Mar-2021 3:55 PM		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sensing Integrity Warning</li> <li>4 Monitored VT</li> <li>1756 VT-NS</li> <li>Monitored Fast A&amp;V Episode</li> <li>73 seconds in AT/AF Since Last Session</li> </ul>	Viewed	11.0 yrs	Azure™ XT DR MRI 26-Jun-2020	Not Scheduled
28-Mar-2021 5:18 PM		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tachy Episode(s)</li> </ul>	Viewed		Reveal LINQ™ 24-Oct-2018	Not Scheduled
28-Mar-2021 12:05 AM		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary Report Created On: 29-Mar-2021 1:40 AM</li> </ul>	Viewed		Reveal LINQ™ 02-Dec-2020	Not Scheduled
28-Mar-2021 12:05 AM		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pause Episode(s)</li> </ul>	Viewed		Reveal LINQ™ 10-Feb-2021	Not Scheduled
27-Mar-2021 11:34 PM <i>(Unscheduled)</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 VT-NS</li> </ul>	New	12.2 yrs	Azure™ S SR MRI 27-Jul-2018	12-Jul-2021
27-Mar-2021 3:47 PM <i>(Unscheduled)</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low Patient Activity</li> <li>33 seconds in AT/AF Since Last Session</li> </ul>	New	2.96 V	Advisa DR MRI™ 26-Oct-2017	20-Apr-2021
27-Mar-2021		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Events</li> </ul>	New	4.0 yrs	Azure™ S DR MRI	Not Scheduled

# DEVICE INTEGRITY AND LEAD FUNCTION

## Device Status (Implanted: 22-Dec-2016)

Remaining Longevity 2.9 years (29-Mar-2021)



(based on initial interrogation)

	Atrial(5076)	RV(6935M)	LV(4598)
Pacing Impedance	456 ohms	399 ohms	323 ohms
Defibrillation Impedance		RV=56 ohms	
Capture Threshold	1.375 V @ 0.40 ms	0.750 V @ 0.40 ms	1.000 V @ 0.40 ms
Measured On	29-Mar-2021	29-Mar-2021	29-Mar-2021
Programmed Amplitude/Pulse Width	2.00 V / 0.40 ms	2.00 V / 0.40 ms	1.50 V / 0.40 ms
Measured P/ R Wave	1.0 mV	7.4 mV	
Programmed Sensitivity	0.30 mV	0.30 mV	

## Parameter Summary

Mode	DDDR	Lower Rate	60 bpm	AdaptivCRT	Adaptive Bi-V and LV
Mode Switch	171 bpm	Upper Track	130 bpm	V. Pacing	LV->RV
		Upper Sensor	120 bpm	Paced AV	160 ms
				Sensed AV	110 ms

## Detection

AT/AF	Monitor
VF	On
VFT	OFF
VT	OFF

## Rates

>171 bpm
>188 bpm

## Therapies

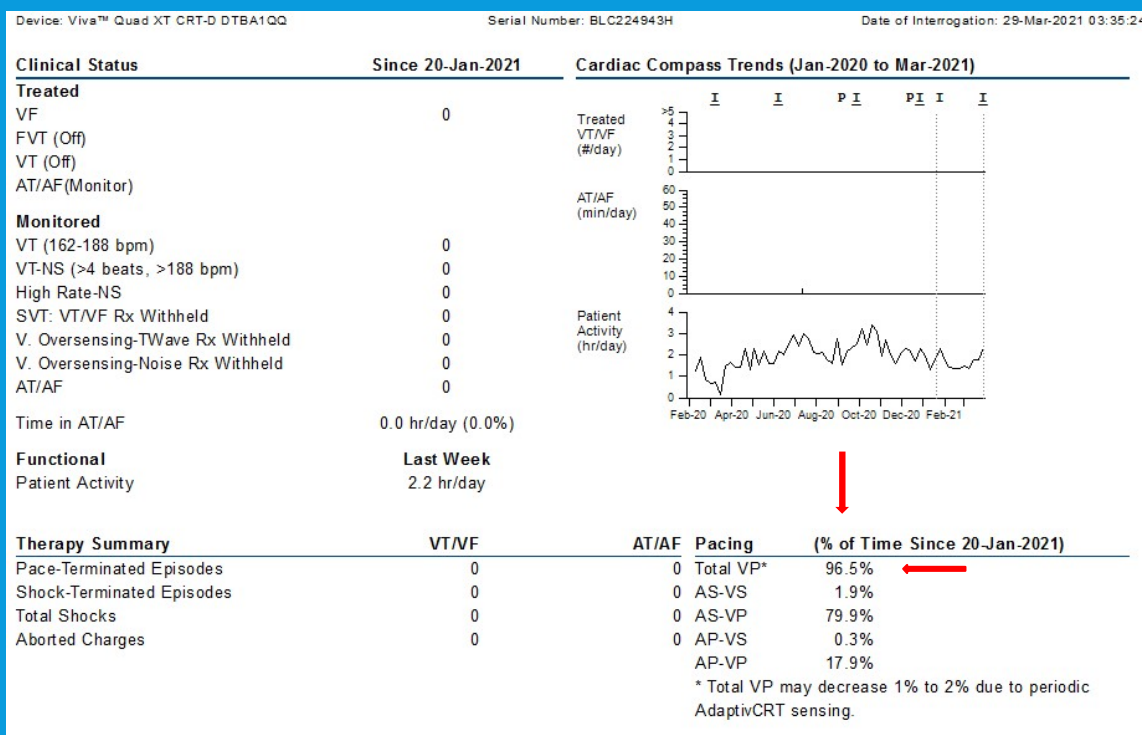
All Rx Off
ATP Before Charging, 35J x 6
All Rx Off
All Rx Off

Enhancements On: VT Monitor, AF/Afl, Sinus Tach, Wavelet, TWave, Noise(Timeout)

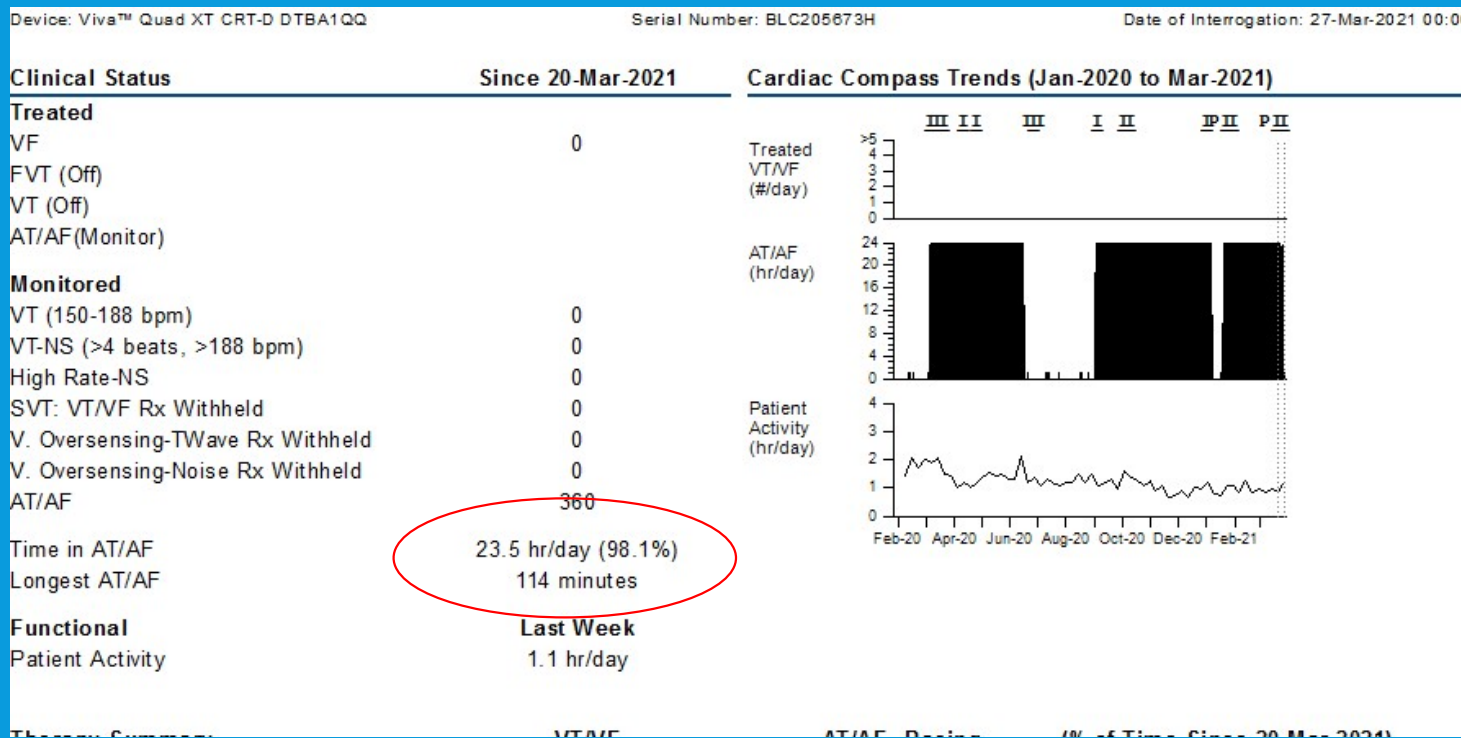
## OBSERVATIONS (2)

- Possible OptiVol fluid accumulation: 01-Mar-2021 -- ongoing.
- RV Capture Management: Actual safety margin (2.7 X) > programmed margin (2 X).

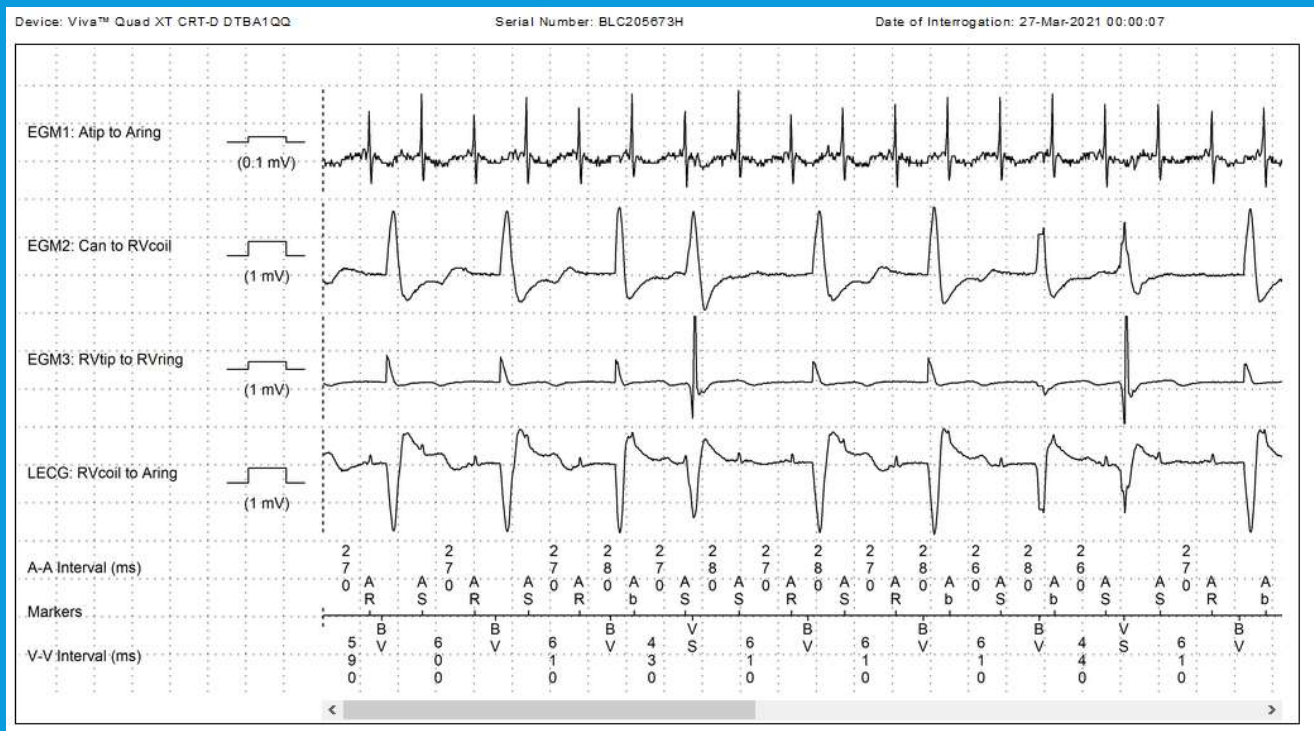
# RHYTHM DIAGNOSTICS



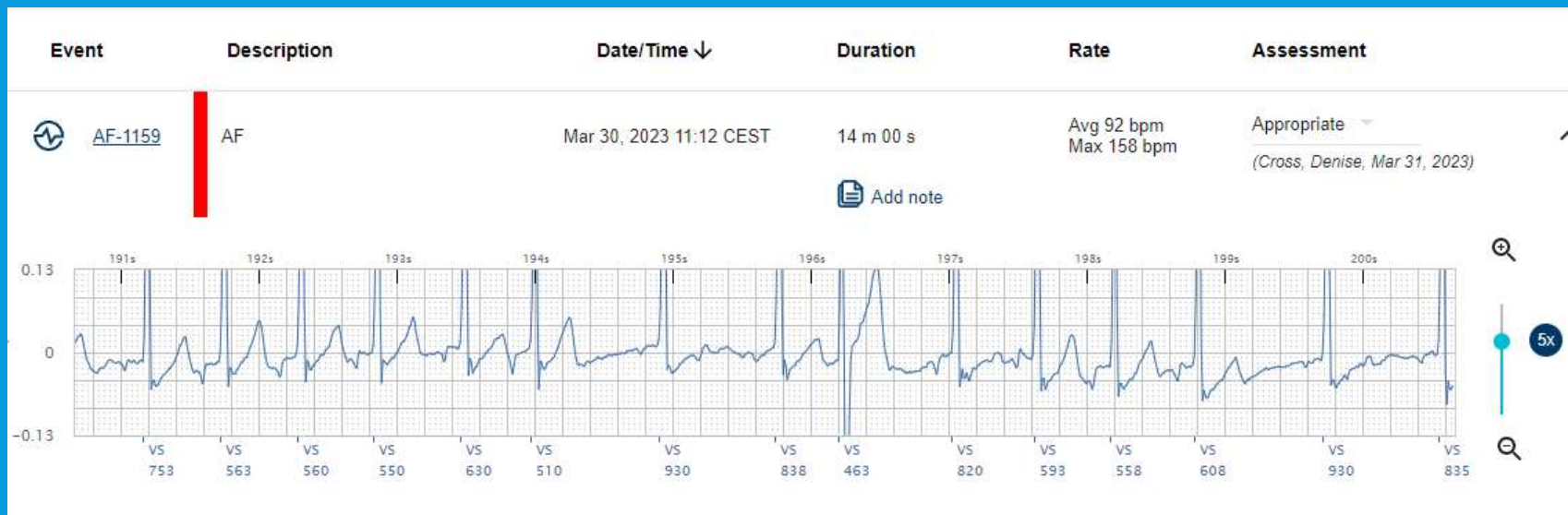
# RHYTHM DIAGNOSTICS – AT/AF



# EGM - AT/AF

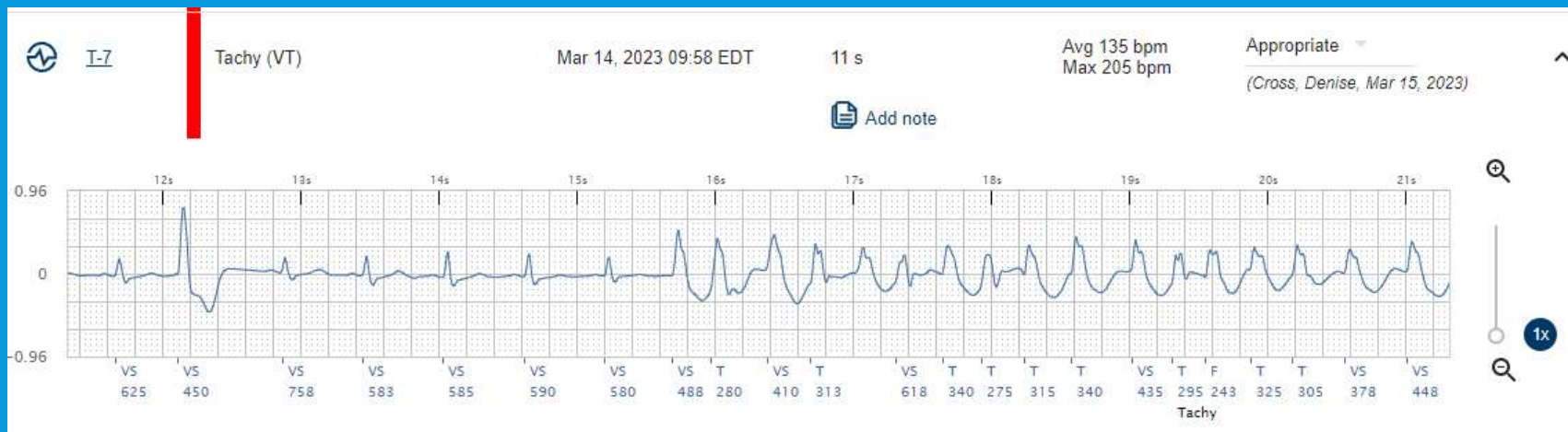


# ILRS--

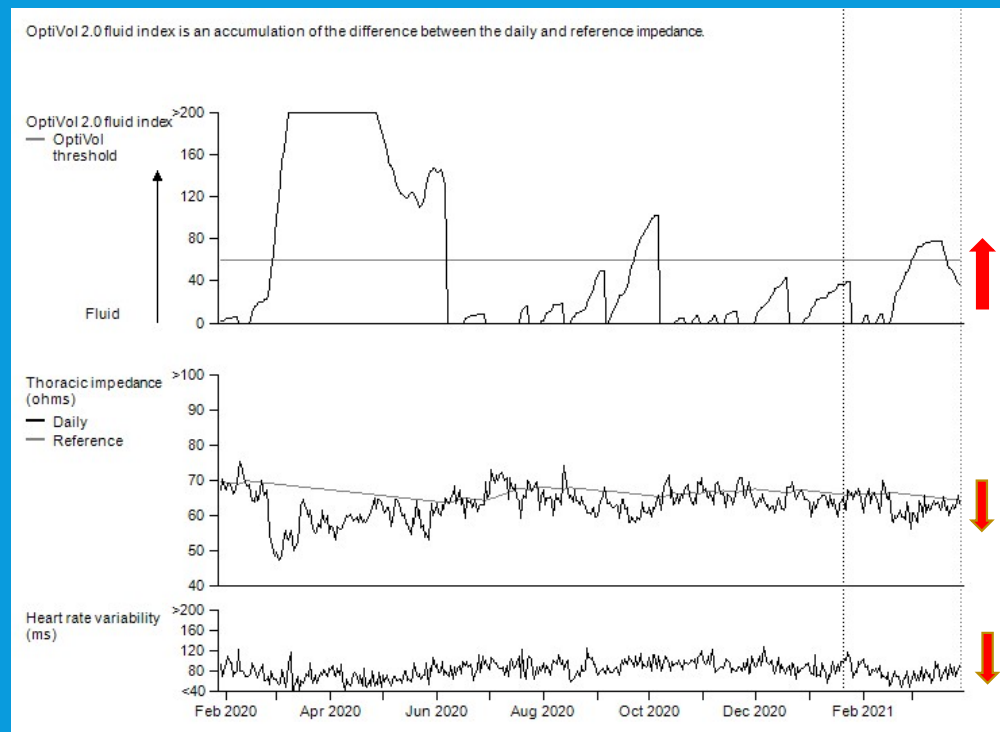




# ILRS--VT



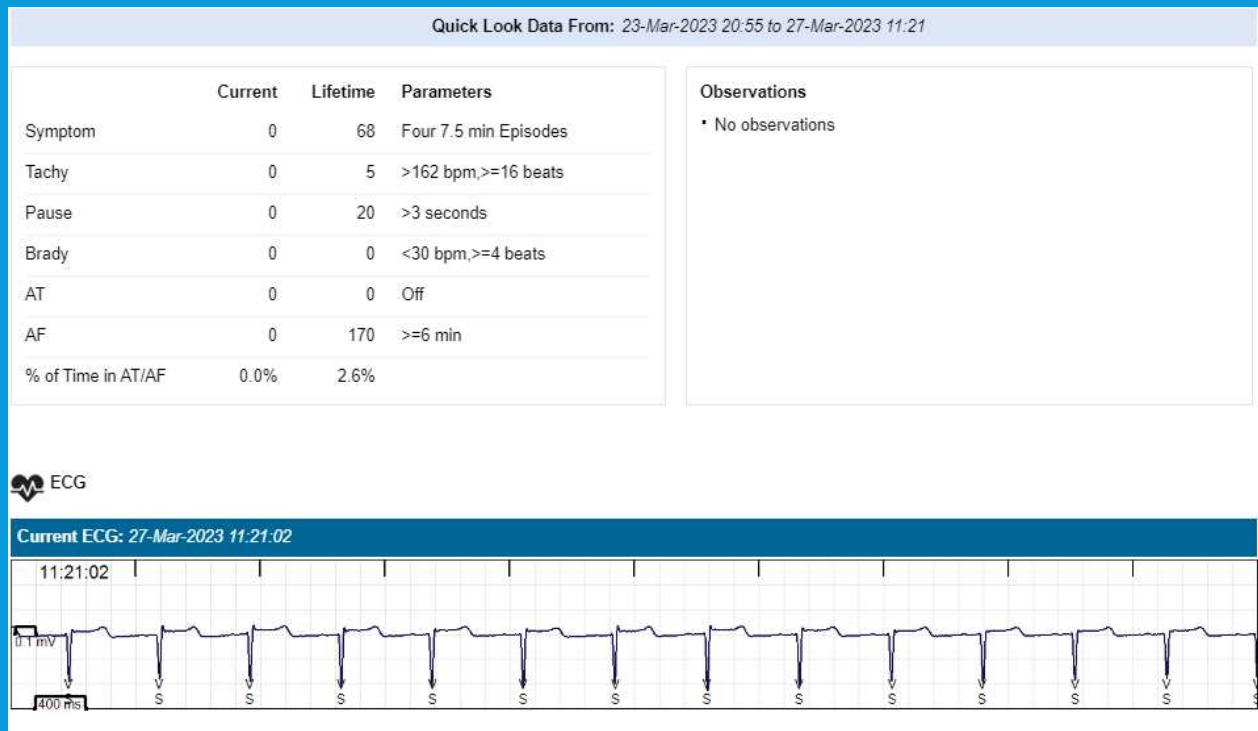
# HEART FAILURE DIAGNOSTICS



# CURRENT RHYTHM – EGM



# ILRS--



# PROS AND CONS OF HOME MONITORING

- **Pros**
  - **Decreased in- person visits – COVID friendly**
    - Provides real time physiologic data – to assist with management of heart failure
    - Decreasing the need for in person visits - ( case study Ahmed et al., 2020)
  - **Quicker recognition of device alerts – ( afib, lead fracture, unsuccessful tachy therapy etc)**
    - Landolina et al. (2012) showed significantly faster recognition/review of device alerts
    - 1.4 days remote group vs. 24.8 days for the standard arm (P< 0.001)
  - **Decreased ED visits/ urgent office visits for Heart Failure, arrhythmia, or ICD related events.**
    - 35% less frequent in the remote group over a 16 month period (75 remote vs. 117 standard; P= 0.005) - (Landolina et al.,2012)

# PROS AND CONS OF HOME MONITORING

## • Pros

- Increased access to care for those with limited mobility
- Increased clinic efficiency by decreasing amount of time per follow-up
  - Mean time spent on follow-up (Garcia-Fernandez et al., 2019)
    - Physicians - 5 minutes remote vs 10 minutes in office ( $P < 0.0001$ )
    - Nurse/tech 6 minutes remote vs. 13 minutes ( $P = 0.002$ )
- Improved quality of life scores (Landolina et al., 2012 )

# PROS AND CONS OF HOME MONITORING

- Cons
  - Integration with EMR can be clunky ( Van der Velde, E. T., et al., 2013)
  - Alert fatigue – can be mitigated with proper programming of alerts (O'Shea, C. J., et al., 2021)
  - Connectivity – rural area – cell service- wifi –
  - Compliance - Patient resistance
  - Financial
  - Traveling (Pro as well)

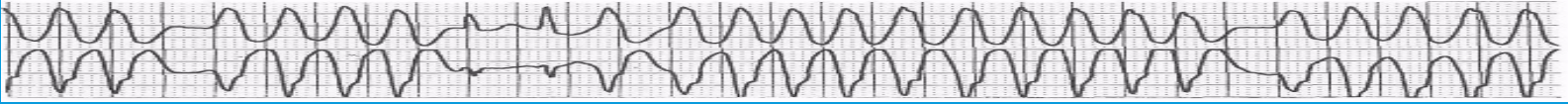
# SUMMARY

- CRM devices are implanted device that treat bradycardia, tachycardia and or heart failure
- Home monitor set up is relatively simply although may be confusing to the less tech savvy
- CRM home monitor are used to monitor a variety of things including
  - Device system integrity
  - Arrhythmia episodes
  - Heart failure diagnostics
- Pros of using home monitoring
  - Quicker recognition of device alerts
  - Increased access to care for those with limited mobility
  - Better patient satisfaction
  - Decreased ED visits for Heart Failure
- Cons of home monitoring
  - Integration with EMR
  - Alert fatigue – proper programming of alerts
  - Connectivity – rural area – cell service- wifi –
  - Compliance - Patient resistance



# REFERENCES

- Ahmed, F. Z., Crosbie, C., Kahn, M., & Motwani, M. (2020). Protecting the most vulnerable during COVID-19 and beyond: a case report on the remote management of heart failure patients with cardiac implantable electronic devices. *European heart journal. Case reports*, 4(F11), 1–6. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.uvm.edu/10.1093/ehjcr/ytaa249>
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## Life Before ICDs

