



Reply to letter to the editor by Gulmira Kudaibedieva and Bulent Gorenek

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Sirs:

We thank the authors for their interesting comment regarding our recent article on patients undergoing ECG monitoring with an implantable loop recorder after cryptogenic stroke.

We definitely agree with the authors' statement that routine use of implantable loop recorders in patients with cryptogenic stroke should be based on randomized prospective studies and is not yet unrestrictedly recommended in the cited recent consensus document [1]. However, we are convinced that the observational data currently available is promising and may even allow prediction of atrial fibrillation before it is detected. While the current analysis merely focuses on incidental findings during long-term follow-up of patients with implantable loop recorders [2], a previous study displayed a strong correlation between detection of supraventricular premature beats and short atrial runs and the later registration of atrial fibrillation in the same patient cohort [3]. The results of such analyses imply that current risk stratification in patients with cryptogenic stroke is not yet sufficient and the information offered by implantable loop recorders may significantly improve this. Nevertheless,

we agree that further prospective studies are warranted to confirm these findings and to constitute a basis for routine employment of implantable loop recorders in cryptogenic stroke patients.

References

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