



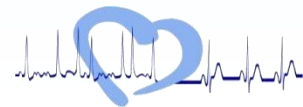
SEN. GEORGE JESSEL.

The human brain starts working the moment you
are born and never stops until you stand up to
speak in public.

(George Jessel)

1824 - 1883

Judge, Master of the Rolls





Schwindel und SYNKOPE – leitliniengerechtes Management

Beispiel: Rhythmogene Synkope

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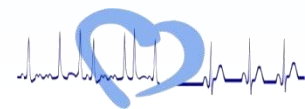




Conflict of interest - Disclosure

Between 2018 and 2020, Thomas Klingenheben has received speaker honoraria from the following companies:

Astra Zeneca, Bayer vital; Boehringer Ingelheim; Novartis



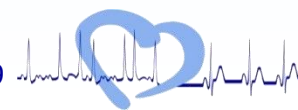
Syncope is an unpleasant diagnosis

Y

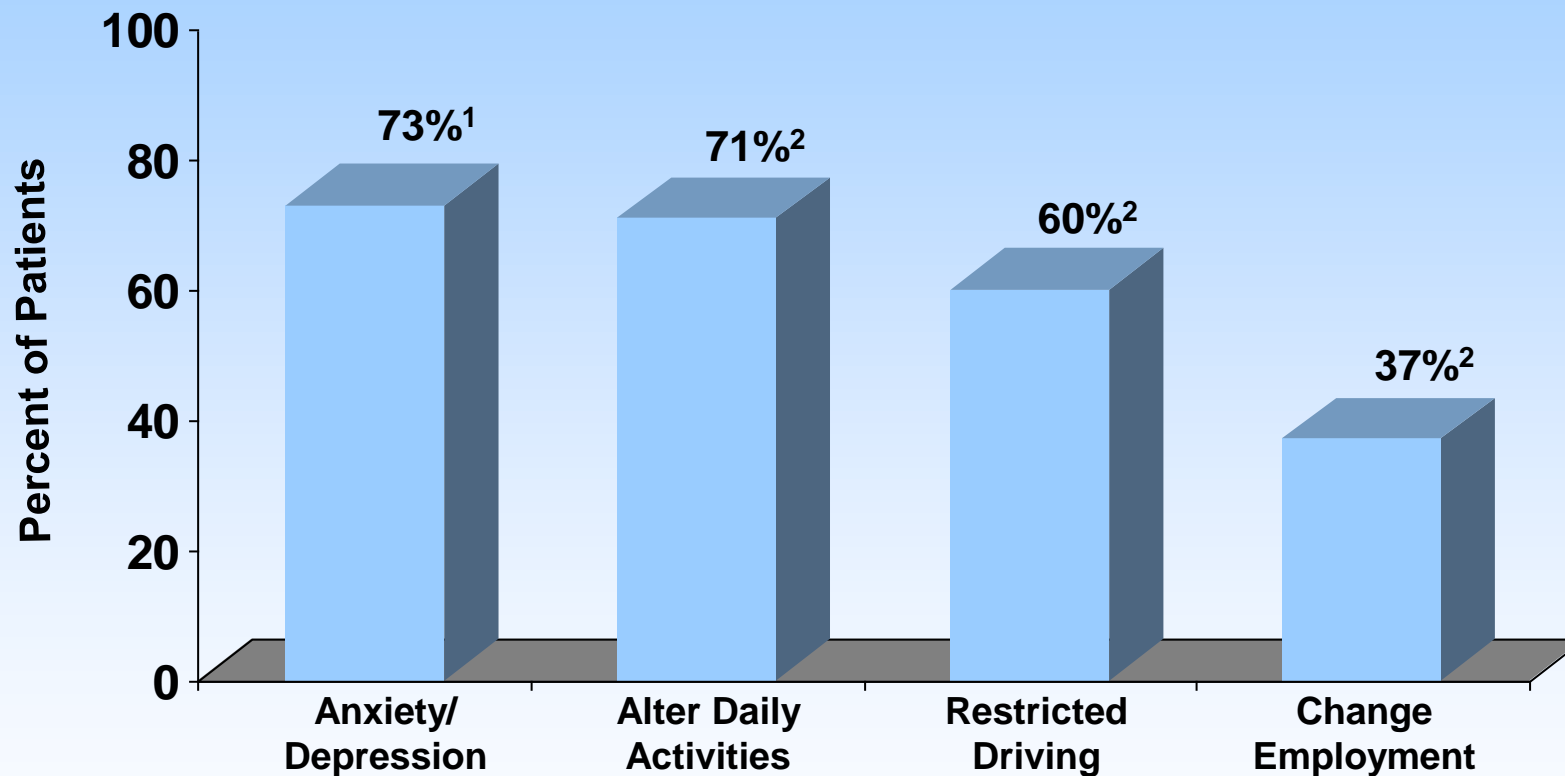
for the patient & for the physician

Uncertainties:

- exact cause
- risk of sudden death
- optimal cascade of diagnostic tests

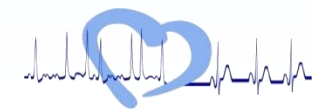


QoL und Synkope

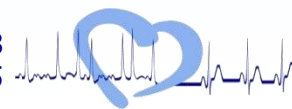
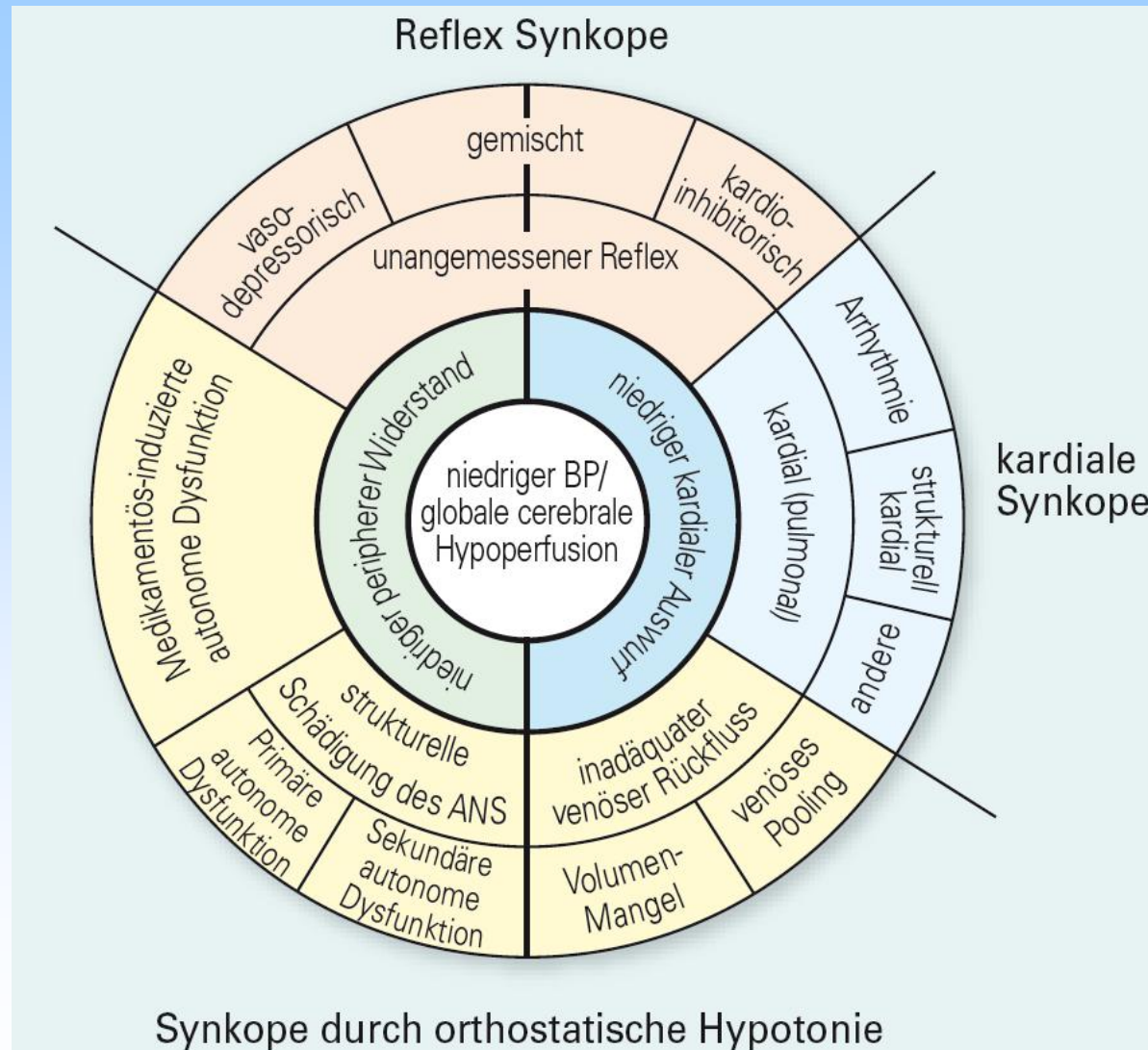


¹Linzer M. J Clin Epidemiol. 1991;44:1037.

²Linzer M. J Gen Int Med. 1994;9:181.

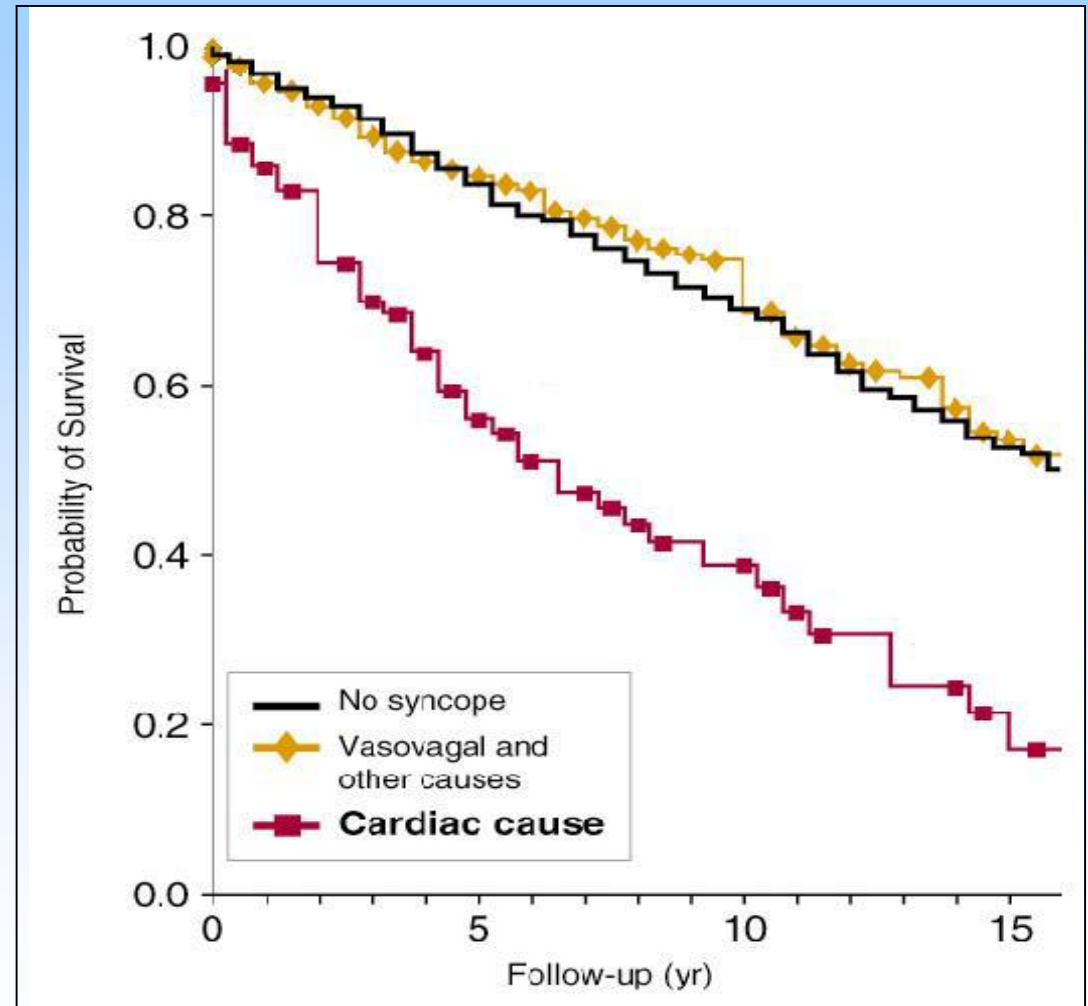


Klassifikation von Synkopen



Syncope and Mortality

- Low versus high mortality
- Neurally-mediated versus cardiac cause



Soteriades ES, Evans JC, Larson MG, et al. Incidence and prognosis of syncope. *N Engl J Med.* 2002;347(12):878-885. [Framingham Study Population]

Systematic clinical Syncope workup

Characteristic of patients evaluated for cardiac cause

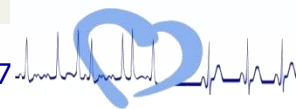
Finding	No. of Patients (No. With Cardiac Syncope)	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)	LR+ (95% CI) ^a	LR- (95% CI) ^a
Patient Demographics					
Atrial fibrillation or flutter ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.13 (0.06-0.20)	0.98 (0.96-1.0)	7.3 (2.4-22)	0.89 (0.82-0.97)
Severe structural heart disease ^{18,19b}	222 (98)	0.35-0.51	0.84-0.93	3.3-4.8	0.58-0.70
History of heart failure ^{18,27b}	1633 (299)	0.16-0.41	0.88-0.94	2.7-3.4	0.39-0.78
Age at first syncopal spell >35 y ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.91 (0.85-0.97)	0.72 (0.66-0.78)	3.3 (2.6-4.1)	0.13 (0.06-0.25)
Precipitating or Predisposing Factors					
During effort ^{18,21b}	421 (122)	0.12-0.14	0.92-0.99	1.4-15	0.88-0.96
While supine ^{18,21b}	421 (122)	0.06-0.14	0.94-0.97	1.1-4.9	0.89-1.0
Prolonged sitting/standing ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.38 (0.28-0.48)	0.31 (0.25-0.37)	0.54 (0.41-0.72)	2.0 (1.6-2.6)
On way to the toilet ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.05 (0-0.09)	0.84 (0.79-0.89)	0.28 (0.10-0.76)	1.1 (1.1-1.2)
Stress ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.08 (0.02-0.14)	0.68 (0.62-0.74)	0.25 (0.12-0.51)	1.4 (1.2-1.5)
Warm place ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.09 (0.03-0.15)	0.45 (0.39-0.51)	0.17 (0.08-0.33)	2.0 (1.7-2.4)
Pain or medical procedure ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.06 (0.01-0.11)	0.52 (0.46-0.58)	0.12 (0.05-0.28)	1.8 (1.5-2.1)
After using the toilet ¹⁷	323 (88)	0 (0-0.03)	0.89 (0.85-0.93)	0.05 (0.003-0.85)	1.1 (1.1-1.2)



Systematic clinical Syncope workup

Characteristic of patients evaluated for cardiac cause

Finding	No. of Patients (No. With Cardiac Syncope)	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)	LR+ (95% CI) ^a	LR- (95% CI) ^a
Symptoms Prior to the Episode					
Dyspnea ^{18,19,21,23}	699 (176)	0.18 (0.08-0.36)	0.95 (0.80-0.99)	3.5 (1.5-9.1)	0.87 (0.74-0.94)
Chest pain/angina ^{23,27b}	1680 (255)	0.06-0.19	0.95-0.98	3.4-3.8	0.71-0.79
Palpitations ^{17,18,21-23,27}	2836 (581)	0.13 (0.09-0.19)	0.93 (0.82-0.98)	1.9 (0.86-4.5)	0.94 (0.89-1.0)
Absence of prodromes ^{18,20-22}	1031 (353)	0.43 (0.35-0.51)	0.73 (0.55-0.86)	1.6 (1.0-2.6)	0.79 (0.69-0.96)
Pallor ^{17,23,27}	2003(343)	0.22 (0.08-0.48)	0.69 (0.34-0.90)	0.69 (0.58-0.82)	1.2 (1.0-1.4)
Blurred vision ^{17,20-23}	1401 (397)	0.16 (0.09-0.28)	0.71 (0.56-0.83)	0.55 (0.27-1.1)	1.2 (0.96-1.5)
Diaphoresis ^{21-23,27}	2352 (415)	0.15 (0.10-0.23)	0.69 (0.66-0.71)	0.49 (0.33-0.71)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)
Nausea ^{17,18,21-23,27}	2836 (581)	0.11 (0.07-0.18)	0.74 (0.65-0.81)	0.44 (0.31-0.62)	1.1 (1.1-1.3)
Awareness of being about to faint ^{22,23b}	620 (150)	0.12-0.38	0.64-0.66	0.35-1.0	0.97-1.3
Sweating or warm feeling ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.24 (0.15-0.33)	0.38 (0.32-0.44)	0.38 (0.26-0.57)	2.0 (1.6-2.5)
Auditory distortion ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.14 (0.07-0.21)	0.64 (0.58-0.7)	0.38 (0.22-0.66)	1.3 (1.2-1.5)
Lightheadedness ²²	412 (116)	0.08 (0.03-0.13)	0.8 (0.75-0.85)	0.38 (0.20-0.75)	1.2 (1.1-1.2)
Numbness or tingling ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.09 (0.03-0.15)	0.72 (0.66-0.78)	0.33 (0.16-0.66)	1.3 (1.1-1.4)
Abdominal discomfort ^{17,23b}	531 (122)	0.029 -0.034	0.84-0.93	0.21-0.39	1.0-1.2
Headache ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.03 (0-0.07)	0.8 (0.75-0.85)	0.17 (0.06-0.55)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)
Feeling cold ²²	412 (116)	0.02 (0-0.05)	0.89 (0.85-0.93)	0.16 (0.04-0.64)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)
Mood changes or prodromal preoccupation with details ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.02 (0-0.05)	0.76 (0.71-0.81)	0.09 (0.02-0.38)	1.3 (1.2-1.4)
During and After the Episode					
Cyanotic during syncope ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.08 (0.02-0.14)	0.99 (0.98-1.0)	6.2 (1.6-24)	0.93 (0.88-0.99)
Injury ^{19,27b}	1533 (241)	0.16-0.25	0.80-0.86	1.13-1.28	0.90-0.98
Numbness or tingling ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.06 (0.01-0.11)	0.82 (0.77-0.87)	0.31 (0.13-0.76)	1.2 (1.1-1.2)
Nausea ^{17,22b}	735 (204)	0.06-0.10	0.65-0.84	0.29-0.38	1.1-1.4
Cannot remember behavior during syncope ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.05 (0-0.09)	0.82 (0.77-0.87)	0.25 (0.09-0.69)	1.2 (1.1-1.2)
Mood changes ¹⁷	323 (88)	0.03 (0-0.07)	0.83 (0.78-0.88)	0.21 (0.06-0.65)	1.2 (1.1-1.2)





ESC

European Society
of Cardiology

European Heart Journal (2018) **39**, 1883–1948

doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehy037

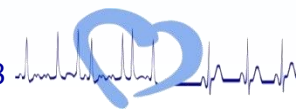
ESC GUIDELINES

2018 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of syncope

The Task Force for the diagnosis and management of syncope of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC)

Developed with the special contribution of the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA)

Endorsed by: European Academy of Neurology (EAN), European Federation of Autonomic Societies (EFAS), European Federation of Internal Medicine (EFIM), European Union Geriatric Medicine Society (EUGMS), European Society of Emergency Medicine (EuSEM)



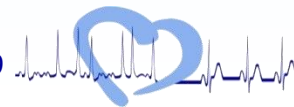
Die 2018 ESC Synkopen-Leitlinie

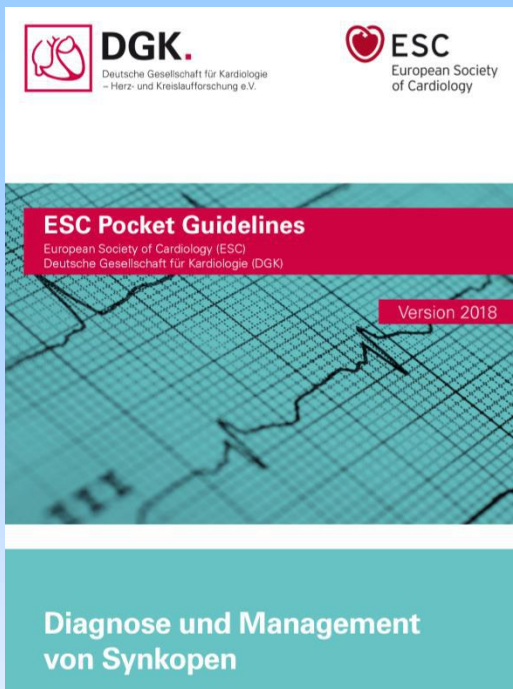


1. **Brignole M**, Moya A, de Lange FJ, Deharo J-C, Elliott PM, Fanciulli A et al 2018 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of syncope *Eur Heart J* 2018; 39: 1883-1948
2. **Brignole M**, Moya A, de Lange FJ, Deharo J-C, Elliott PM, Fanciulli A et al 2018 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of syncope - Supplementary Data *Eur Heart J* 2018; doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehy037
3. **Brignole M**, Moya A, de Lange FJ, Deharo J-C, Elliott PM, Fanciulli A et al Practical Instructions for the 2018 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of syncope *Eur Heart J* 2018; 39: e43-e80
4. **Brignole M**, Moya A, de Lange FJ, Deharo J-C, Elliott PM, Fanciulli A et al 2018 Pocket Guidelines for the diagnosis and management of syncope <https://www.escardio.org/Guidelines/Clinical-Practice-Guidelines/Guidelines-derivative-products/ESC-Mobile-Pocket-Guidelines>



5. **von Scheidt W**, Bosch R, Klingenheben T, Schuchert A, Stellbrink C, Stockburger M (2019) Kommentar zu den Leitlinien (2018) der European Society of Cardiology (ESC) zur Diagnostik und Therapie von Synkopen. *Kardiologie* 2019;13:131-137. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12181-019-0317-2>
6. **von Scheidt W**, Bosch R, Klingenheben T, Schuchert A, Stellbrink C, Stockburger M (2019) DGK Pocketleitlinie Synkope www.dgk.org/Leitlinien
7. **von Scheidt W**, Bosch R, Klingenheben T, Schuchert A, Stellbrink C, Stockburger M (2019) Manual zur Diagnostik und Therapie von Synkopen. *Kardiologie* 2019;13: 198-215. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12181-019-0319-0>





Unbedingt lesen ...

<https://leitlinien.dgk.org/?s=synkope>

www.dgk.org

Der Kardiologe

Leitlinien

Kardiologie
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12181-019-0317-2>
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Kommentar zu den Leitlinien (2018) der European Society of Cardiology (ESC) zur Diagnostik und Therapie von Synkopen

Der Kardiologe

Leitlinien

Kardiologie
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12181-019-0319-0>

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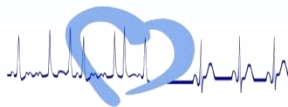
Manual zur Diagnostik und Therapie von Synkopen



Warum tun wir uns so schwer mit der Diagnostik von Synkopen-Patienten ?

- Das eigentliche klinische Problem (die Synkope) liegt zum Untersuchungszeitpunkt gar nicht mehr vor !
⇒ Abklärung kommt einem "Indizienprozeß" gleich

- Risikostratifikation:
⇒ Bedrohliche Ursachen (z.B. für plötzlichen Herztod) nicht übersehen
⇒ Keine 'Überdiagnostik' bei harmlosen Ursachen



Risikostratifikation: Hospitalisierung vs. ‚Syncope unit‘

Hochrisiko-Synkopenpatienten – Kriterien, die für den Verbleib in der ED-Beobachtungsstation und/oder die rasche Überweisung an eine Synkopen-Einheit im Gegensatz zur stationären Aufnahme sprechen

bevorzugt initiales Management auf ED-Beobachtungsstation und/oder rasche Überweisung an Synkopen-Einheit

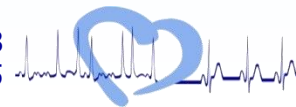
Hochrisiko-Merkmale UND:

- › stabile, bekannte strukturelle Herzerkrankung
- › schwere chronische Erkrankung
- › Synkope bei Belastung
- › Synkope im Liegen oder Sitzen
- › Synkope ohne Prodromi
- › Palpitationen während Synkope
- › inadäquate Sinusbradykardie oder sinuatrialer Block
- › Verdacht auf Devicefehlfunktion oder inadäquate Auslösung
- › QRS-Komplex mit Präexzitation
- › SVT oder paroxysmales Vorhofflimmern
- › EKG hinweisend auf eine erbliche arrhythmogene Erkrankung
- › EKG hinweisend auf ARVC

bevorzugt stationäre Aufnahme

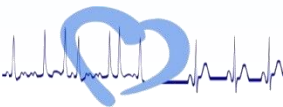
Hochrisiko-Merkmale UND:

- › jede potenziell schwere Begleiterkrankung, die eine stationäre Aufnahme erfordert
- › durch Synkope verursachte Verletzung
- › Notwendigkeit weiterer dringender Abklärung und Therapie, wenn dies anders (also auf der Beobachtungsstation) nicht möglich ist, z. B. EKG-Monitoring, Echokardiographie, Belastungstest, elektrophysiologische Untersuchung, Angiographie, Gerätefehlfunktion, usw.
- › Synkope erfordert Therapie



Fallvorstellung

- Frau A.D. * 1965; Erstvorstellung 2007
- Bereits seit Jahren in wiederholter kardiolog. Behandlung:
- Vor 20 Jahren erstmals Schwindel, verbunden mit allgemeiner Benommenheit, Dyspnoe. Zum Teil klinisch wie orthostatische Intoleranz.
- Bis auf leichte AI bei bikuspidaler Klappe Ausschluss einer relevanten strukturellen / myokardialen Erkrankung
- Ab 2007 mit wechselndem Therapieerfolg Einnahme von Midodrin.
- NB: Diagnose eines Asthma bronchiale bei interemittierender Dyspnoe.
- 2011 bis 2016 immer wieder unvermittelt Schwindelattacken
=> LZ-EKG unauffällig; Bei genetischer KHK-Disposition Bildgebender Ausschluss einer KHK



Fallvorstellung

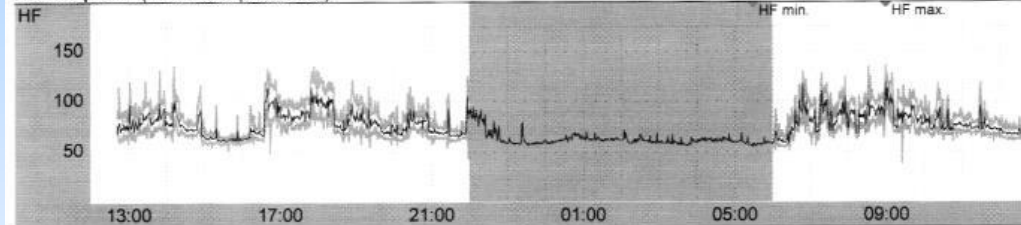
□ RUHE-EKG (2007):



Fallvorstellung

Zusammenfassung			Herzfrequenz-bezogene Ereignisse			Ventrikuläre Ereignisse		
QRS	gesamt	105344	SVT		3	Salve		1
HF	maximal	124 08:59	längste	5.9 s 03:14		Couplet		2
	mittel	70 12:48	SVES		53	2:1-Extras.		3
	minimal	55 05:29	max/Std	9 22:00		längste	23.6 s 13:50	
QT		405	Fehl. QRS		2	VES		764
QTc		437	längste	1.1 s 03:14		max/Std	91 07:00	
			Tachykard.		5			
			max HF	124 08:59				

Herzfrequenz (Mittelwerte pro Minute)



Salve 10:22 (Salve)



Befund/Beurteilung

Zusammenfassung 4-Tage-EKG 13.-17.8.2018 // Indikation: V.a. rhythmogene Synkopen
 Normfreq. Sinusrh., im Mittel 67/Min. Erhaltene HRV.
 Bis zu 760 VES / 24h, mit Couplets und einigen ventr. Salven (somit formal Lown IVb).
 Wenige SVES; einzelne supraventr. Salven.
 Keine anhaltenden komplexen Tachyarrhythmien.
 Keine patholog. Pausen.
 => somit mäßiggradige ventr. Arrhythmieeigung; jedoch kein direkter Nachweis d. Synkopen-Genese => weitere kardiolog. Dg empfohlen

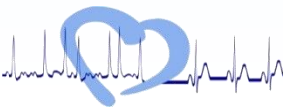
- Ab 2016 auch wieder gehäuft Palpitationen.
- In 2018, stärkere Symptome, jetzt mehr Herzrasen.
- Erneut LZ-EKG, diesmal als 'multiday recording' :



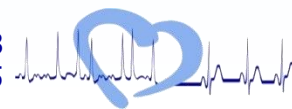
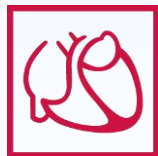
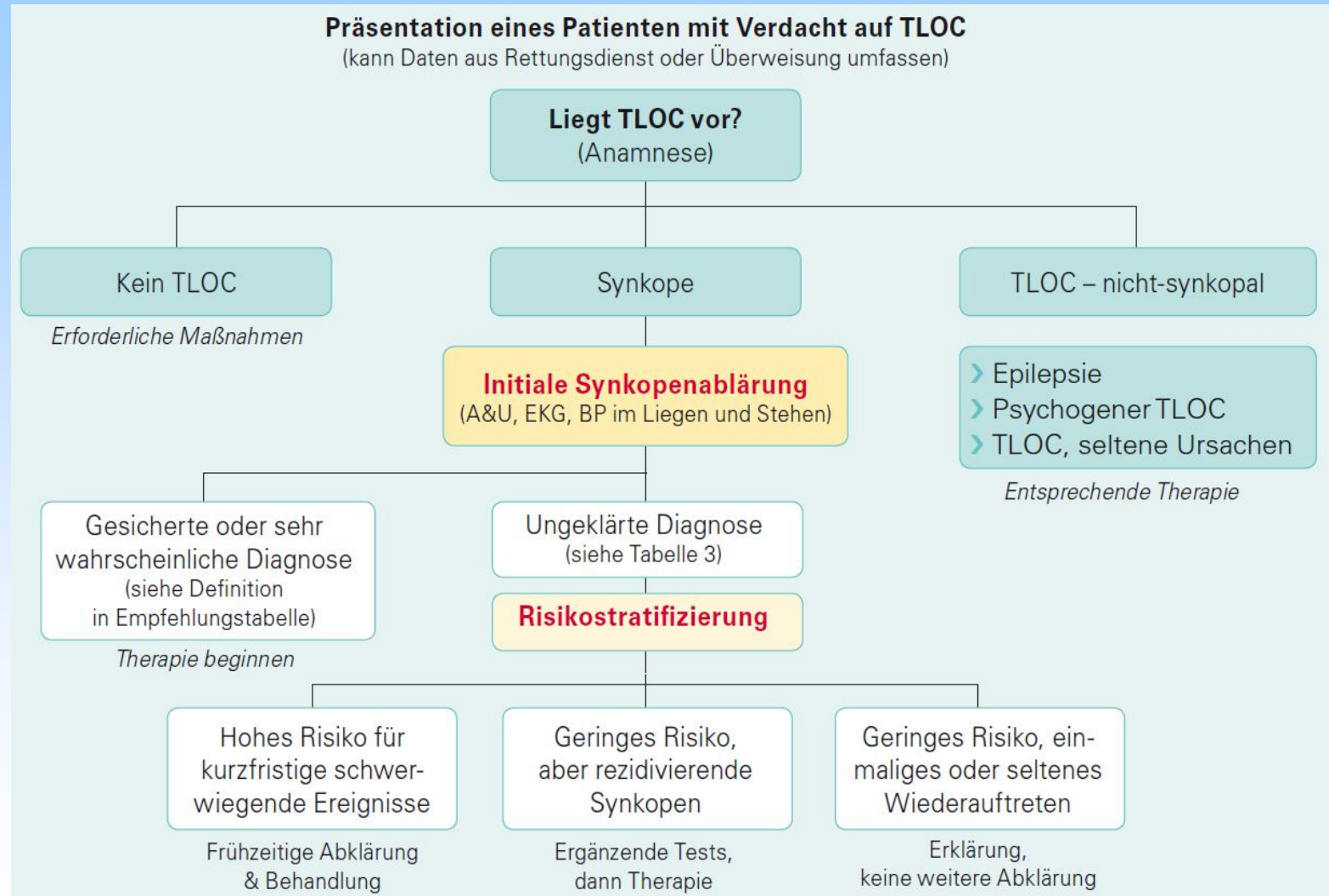
Fallvorstellung

- Re-Assessment: Inzwischen 53-j Frau; jahrelang geführt als "orthostatische Schwindel-Problematik" – aber auch jahrelang Palpitationen, Tachykardie-Neigung, und jetzt erstmals Synkopen; bei weiterhin minimaler AI, aber normaler re.- u. li.-ventr. Funktion.
- => Synkope unklarer Genese ohne relevante Herzerkrankung

- Spezifische Synkopen-Anamnese (s. Guidelines)
 - - sehr kurze Prodromi
 - - Arrhythmie scheint der Synkope voranzugehen
 - - keine Verletzung
 - - keine verwertbare Fremdanamnese



Risikostratifikation von Synkopen



Fallvorstellung

□ RUHE-EKG (2019):



Hoch- u. Niedrigrisiko-Kriterien bei Ersteinschätzung von Pat mit Synkopen

SYNKOPALES EREIGNIS

Geringes Risiko

- › geht mit für eine Reflexsynkope typischen Prodromi einher (z. B. Benommenheit, Wärmegefühl, Schwitzen, Übelkeit, Erbrechen)
- › nach einem plötzlichen, unerwarteten, unerfreulichen Anblick, Geräusch, Geruch oder Schmerz
- › nach längerem Stehen oder in überfüllten, überhitzten Räumen
- › während oder nach einer Mahlzeit
- › ausgelöst durch Husten, Defäkation oder Miktion
- › bei Kopfdrehen oder Druck auf den Carotissinus (etwa durch Tumore, Rasieren, engen Kragen)
- › beim Aufstehen aus dem Liegen/Sitzen

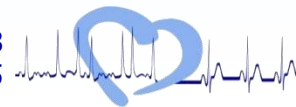
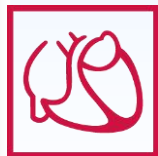
Hohes Risiko

Major

- › neu einsetzender Thoraxschmerz, Atemnot, Abdominalschmerz oder Kopfschmerz
- › Synkope während Belastung oder im Liegen
- › plötzlich einsetzende Palpitation unmittelbar gefolgt von einer Synkope

Minor (hohes Risiko nur in Verbindung mit einer strukturellen Herzerkrankung oder auffälligem EKG)

- › keine Warnsymptome oder kurze (< 10 Sekunden) Prodromi
- › SCD in jungen Jahren in der Familienanamnese
- › Synkope im Sitzen



Hoch- u. Niedrigrisiko-Kriterien bei Ersteinschätzung von Pat mit Synkopen

MEDIZINISCHE VORGESCHICHTE

Geringes Risiko

- › jahrelang rezidivierende Synkopen mit Merkmalen eines geringen Risikos mit denselben Charakteristika wie die aktuelle Episode
- › Fehlen einer strukturellen Herzerkrankung

Hohes Risiko

Major

- › schwere strukturelle oder koronare Herzerkrankung (Herzinsuffizienz, niedrige LVEF oder früherer Myokardinfarkt)

KÖRPERLICHE UNTERSUCHUNG

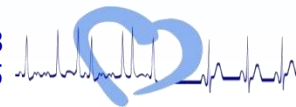
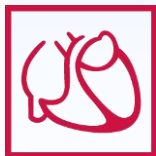
Geringes Risiko

- › normaler Befund

Hohes Risiko

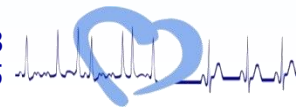
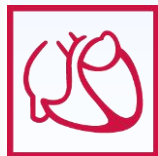
Major

- › unerklärlicher systolischer BP-Wert in der ED von < 90 mmHg
- › Hinweis auf gastrointestinale Blutung in der Rektaluntersuchung
- › persistierende Bradykardie (< 40 bpm) im Wachzustand und ohne körperliches Training
- › undiagnostiziertes systolisches Geräusch



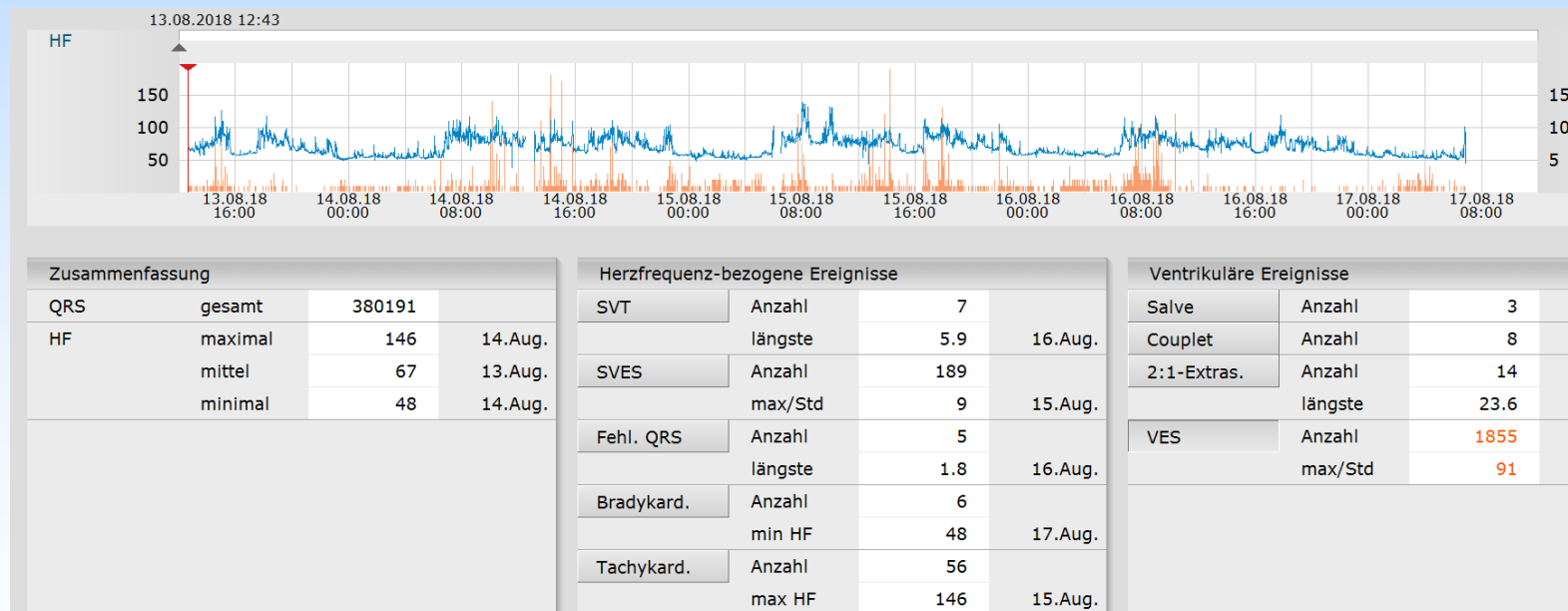
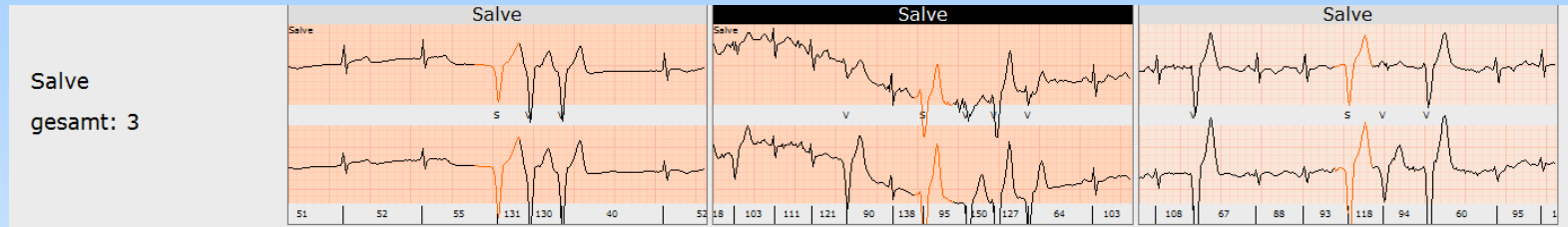
Hoch- u. Niedrigrisiko-Kriterien bei Ersteinschätzung von Pat mit Synkopen

EKG	
Geringes Risiko	
› normales EKG	
Hohes Risiko	
Major	Minor (hohes Risiko nur, wenn Anamnese für arrhythmogene Synkope spricht)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › EKG-Veränderungen vereinbar mit akuter Ischämie › AV-Block II°, Typ Mobitz 2, oder AV-Block III° › Langsames AF (< 40 bpm) › Persistierende Sinusbradykardie (< 40 bpm) oder wiederholter sinuatrialer Block oder Sinusarrest von > 3 Sekunden im Wachzustand und ohne körperliches Training › Schenkelblock, intraventrikuläre Leitungsstörung, ventrikuläre Hypertrophie oder Q-Zacken vereinbar mit ischämischer Herzkrankheit oder Kardiomyopathie › anhaltende und nicht-anhaltende VT › Fehlfunktion eines implantierbaren kardialen Gerätes (Schrittmacher oder ICD) › ST-Streckenhebung mit Typ-1-Morphologie in den Ableitungen V1-V3 (Brugada-Muster) › QTc > 460 ms in wiederholten 12-Kanal-EKGs hinweisend auf LQTS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › AV-Block II°, Typ Mobitz 1 (=Wenckebach), und AV-Block I° mit deutlich verlängertem PR-Intervall › asymptotische unangemessene milde Sinusbradykardie (40-50 bpm) oder langsames AF (40-50 bpm) › Paroxysmale SVT oder paroxysmales Vorhofflimmern › QRS-Komplex mit Präexzitation › verkürztes QTc-Intervall (≤ 340 ms) › atypische Brugada-Muster › negative T-Wellen in den rechtspräkordialen Ableitungen, Epsilon-Wellen hinweisend auf ARVC

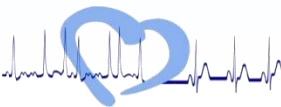


Fallvorstellung

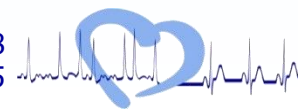
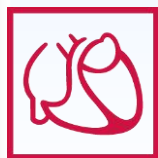
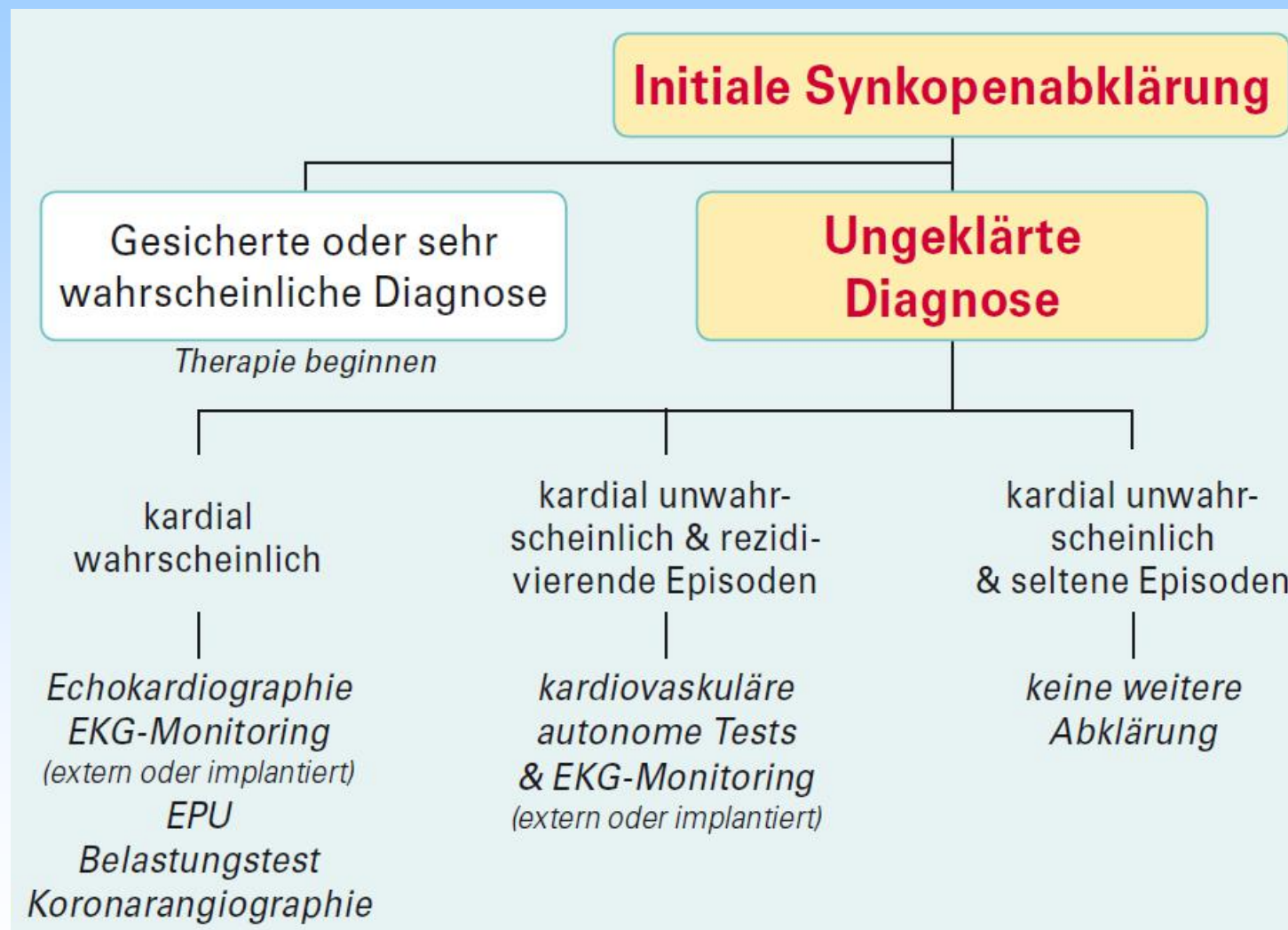
Re-Assessment: Wertung des LZ-EKG Befundes



=> Mäßiggradige ventrikuläres Arrhythmie ohne relevante Herzerkrankung

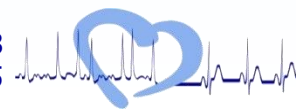


Ungeklärte Synkope nach ‚initialer Evaluation‘



Risikostratifikation von Synkopen

Kardiale Synkope		
<p>5. Eine arrhythmogene Synkope ist sehr wahrscheinlich, wenn sich Folgendes im EKG zeigt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Persistierende Sinusbradykardie < 40 bpm oder Sinusarrest > 3 Sekunden im Wachzustand und ohne körperliches Training › AV-Block II°, Typ Mobitz 2, oder AV-Block III° › Alternierender Links- und Rechtsschenkelblock › VT oder schnelle SVT › Nicht-anhaltende Episoden polymorpher VT und verlängertes oder verkürztes QT-Intervall › Schrittmacher- oder ICD-Fehlfunktion mit Pausen. 	I	C
<p>6. Kardiale Ischämie-assoziierte Synkope ist diagnostiziert, wenn die Synkope zusammen mit dem Nachweis einer akuten Myokardischämie mit oder ohne Myokardinfarkt auftritt.</p>	I	C
<p>7. Eine Synkope aufgrund struktureller kardiopulmonaler Erkrankungen ist sehr wahrscheinlich, wenn die Synkope bei Patienten mit prolabierendem Vorhofmyxom, Kugelthrombus im linken Vorhof, hochgradiger Aortenstenose, Lungenembolie oder akuter Aortendissektion auftritt.</p>	I	C



EKG-Diagnostik nach Synkopen

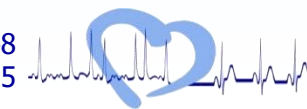
Indikationen

<i>Sofortiges intrahospitales Monitoring</i> (Monitorbett oder Telemetrie) ist bei Hochrisikopatienten indiziert (definiert in Tabelle 4).	I	C
<i>Holter-Überwachung (Langzeit-EKG)</i> sollte bei Patienten mit häufiger Synkope oder Präsynkope (≥ 1 Episode pro Woche) erwogen werden.	IIa	B
<i>Externer Loop-Rekorder</i> sollte erwogen werden, früh nach dem Indexereignis bei Patienten mit einem symptomfreiem Intervall ≤ 4 Wochen.	IIa	B
ILR (Implantierbarer Loop-Rekorder): <i>ILR ist in einer frühen Phase zur Abklärung bei Patienten mit</i>		



Die aktuelle ESC-Leitlinie stärkt die Bedeutung des ILR zur effektiven und zeitnahen Ursachenklärung von Synkopen nochmals gegenüber der Vorgängerversion. In Deutschland besteht bezüglich der Implantation von ILRs eine von ärztlicher und Patientenseite nicht akzeptable Situation aufgrund fehlender ambulanter und häufig abgelehnter stationärer Vergütung. Ebenso wird die ambulante Nachsorge nicht vergütet. Es besteht daher eine Unterversorgung von Patienten mit ungeklärten Synkopen, da eine leitliniengerechte Stellung von Diagnosen und Initiierung von Therapien nicht möglich ist wegen fehlender ILR-Verwendung. Hier besteht dringender administrativer Handlungsbedarf.

<i>ILR</i> sollte bei Patienten mit vermuteter oder sicherer Reflexsynkope mit häufigen oder schweren synkopalen Episoden erwogen werden.	IIa	B
<i>ILR</i> kann bei Patienten erwogen werden, bei denen der Verdacht auf Epilepsie bestand, die Therapie aber nicht wirksam war.	IIb	B
<i>ILR</i> kann bei Patienten mit ungeklärten Stürzen erwogen werden.	IIb	B



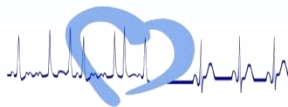
Fallvorstellung

- Entscheid zur ILR-Implantation 11.9.2018 : (s. Guidelines)
- Regular FU 11.9.2018: Dokumentation einer nicht-anh. SVT (asymptomatisch)



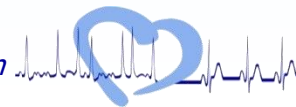
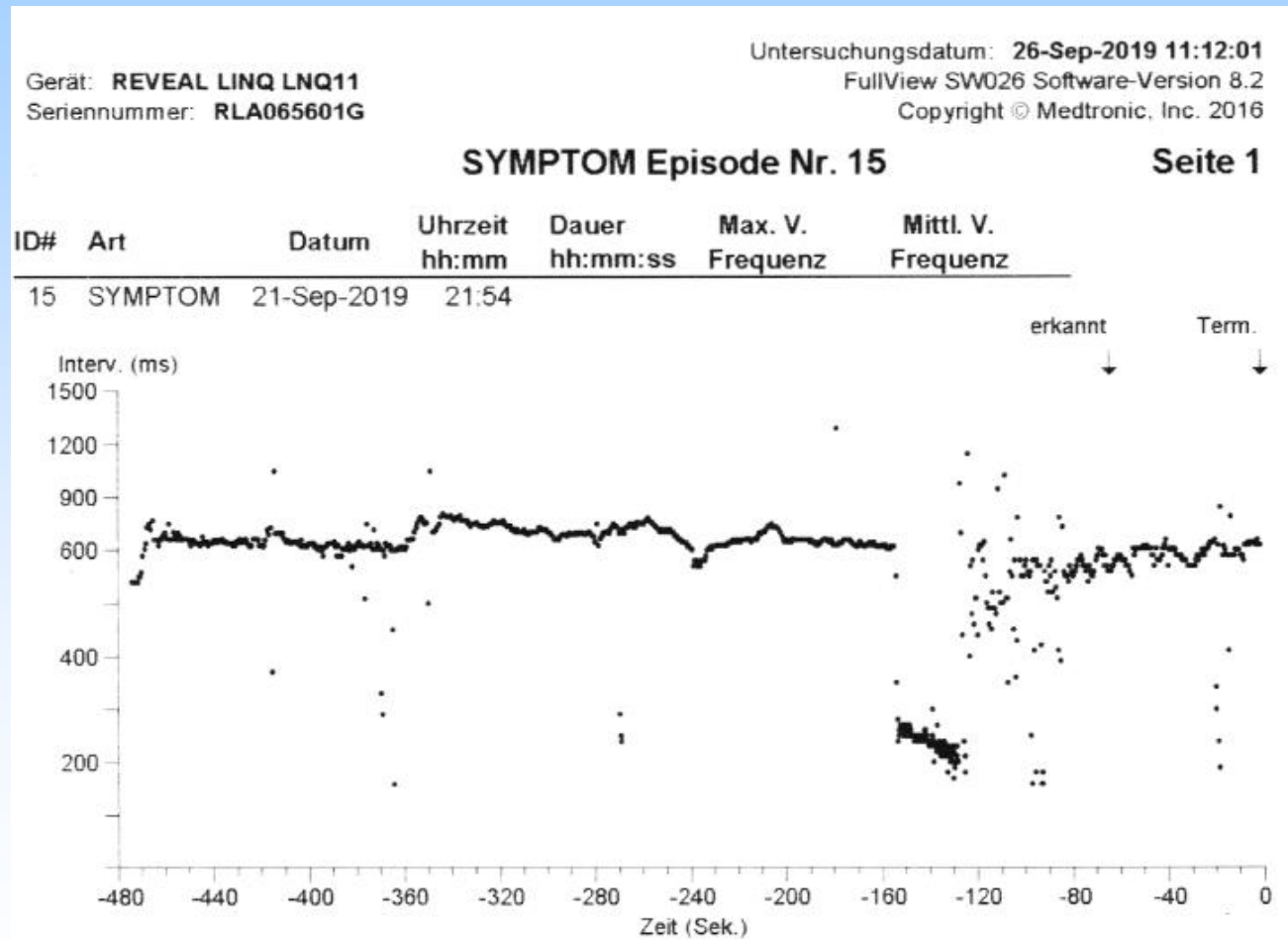
Fallvorstellung

- Außerplanmäßiges FU 26.9.2019 (1 Jahr nach ILR Implantation) :
anamnestisch in jüngerer Zeit gehäuft Präkollaps (ein Ereignis auch beim Autofahren) sowie mind. eine Episode einer veritablen Synkope



Fallvorstellung

□ ILR - Abfrage:



Fallvorstellung

- ILR - Abfrage: Beginn der Episode

Gerät: REVEAL LINQ LNQ11
Seriennummer: RLA065601G

Gerät: REVEAL LINQ LNQ11
Seriennummer: RLA065601G
SYMPTOM Episode Nr. 15

Tachy Episode

Episode #15
Aufzeichnungsgeschwindigkeit: 25.0 mm/Sek

Episode #14: 21-Sep-2019 21:52:42

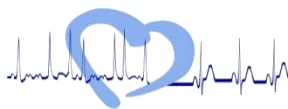
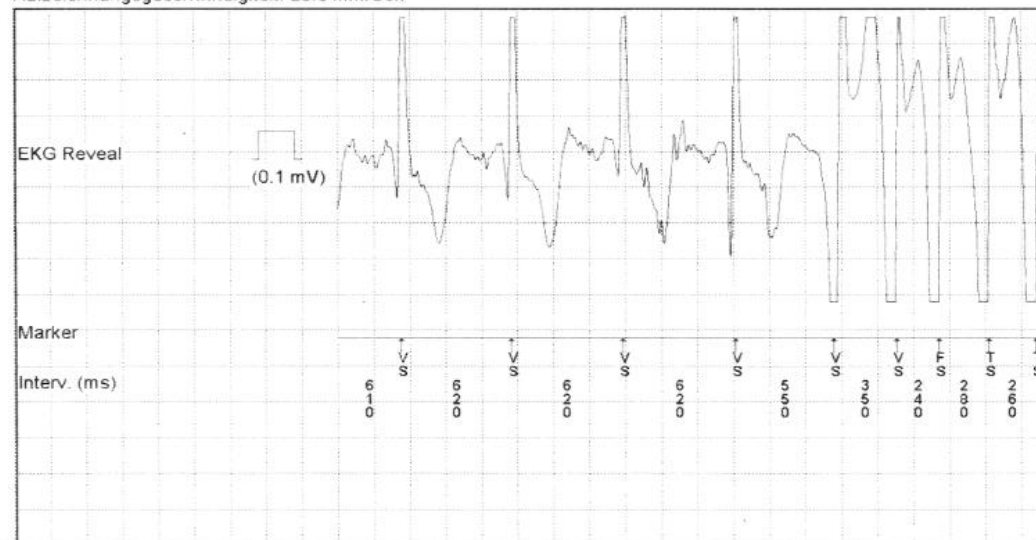
Episodenliste

Art	Tachy
Dauer	29 Sek
Max. V. Frequenz	300 min ⁻¹ (200 ms)
V. Median Frequenz	222 min ⁻¹ (270 ms)
Mittlere V. Frequenz	231 min ⁻¹ (260 ms)
Aktivitätsniveau	Inaktiv

Parameter	V. Intervall (Freq.)	Dauer
Tachy	340 ms (176 min ⁻¹)	16 Schläge

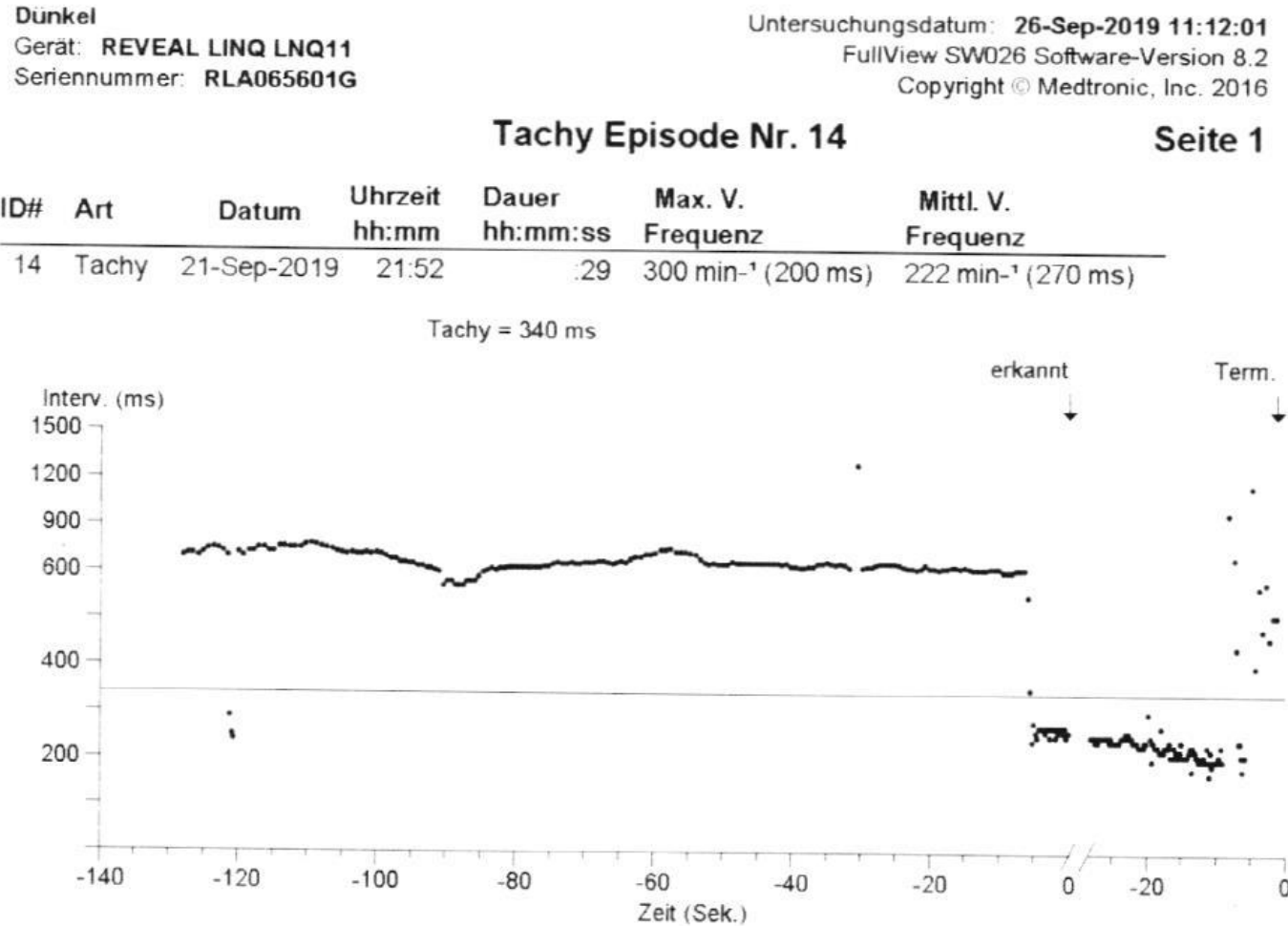
Wahrnehmung

Empfindlichkeit	0.035 mV (35 µV)
Ausblendzeit nach Wahrnehmung	150 ms



Fallvorstellung

□ ILR - Abfrage:



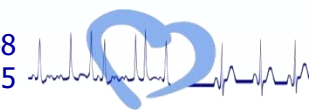
EKG-Diagnostik nach Synkopen: Kriterien

Diagnostische Kriterien

Arrhythmogene Synkope ist bestätigt, wenn eine Korrelation zwischen Synkope und einer Arrhythmie (Bradyarrhythmie oder Tachyarrhythmie) festgestellt wird.

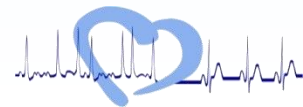
I**B**

Bei fehlender Synkope sollte eine arrhythmogene Synkope erwogen werden, wenn Perioden eines AV-Blocks II^o, Typ Mobitz 2, eines AV-Blocks III^o oder eine ventrikuläre Pause von > 3 Sekunden (mit möglichen Ausnahmen: junge trainierte Menschen, Schlafzustand oder frequenzkontrolliertes Vorhofflimmern) beziehungsweise schnelle, anhaltende paroxysmale SVT oder VT festgestellt werden.

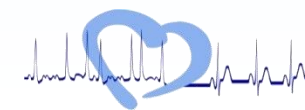
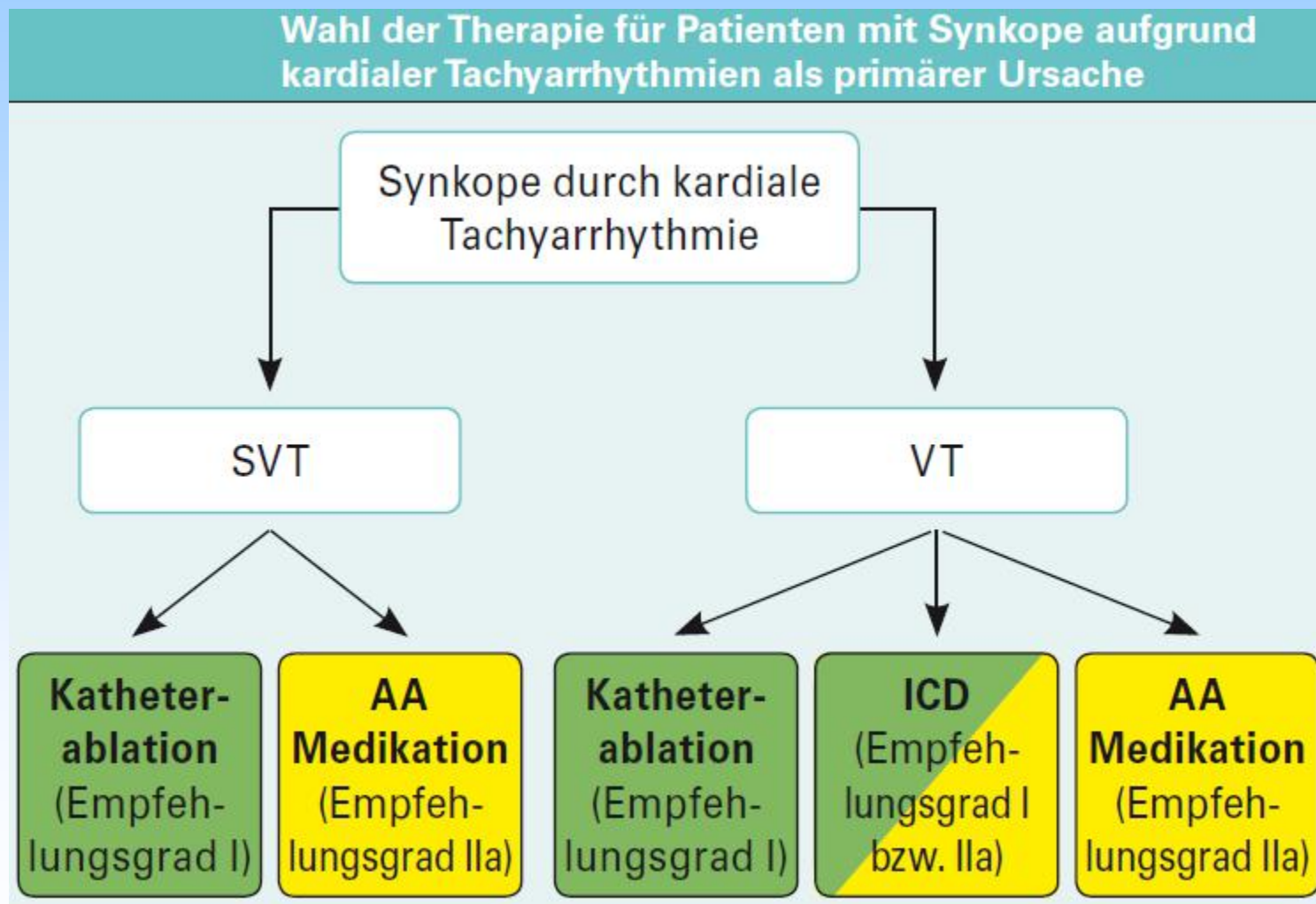
IIa**C**

Fallvorstellung: wie geht's weiter

- **Invasiv-Diagnostik:** unauff.
- **MRT:** Umschriebene Narbe inferolateral (alte Myokarditis ??); jedoch erhaltene LV – u. RV- Funktion
- **EPU:** keine anhaltenden supraventr. / ventr. Tachykardien induzierbar
- Aufgrund der klinischen Arrhythmie mit Synkope Indikation zur sekundär-präventiven ICD-Implantation
- Ursache der VT bleibt aktuell unklar.
- 'Genetic counseling' geplant; ggf. molekulargenetische Aufarbeitung



Fallvorstellung: wie geht's weiter

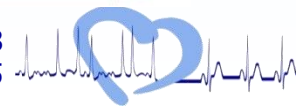


Zusammenfassung

The role of the ILR in syncope

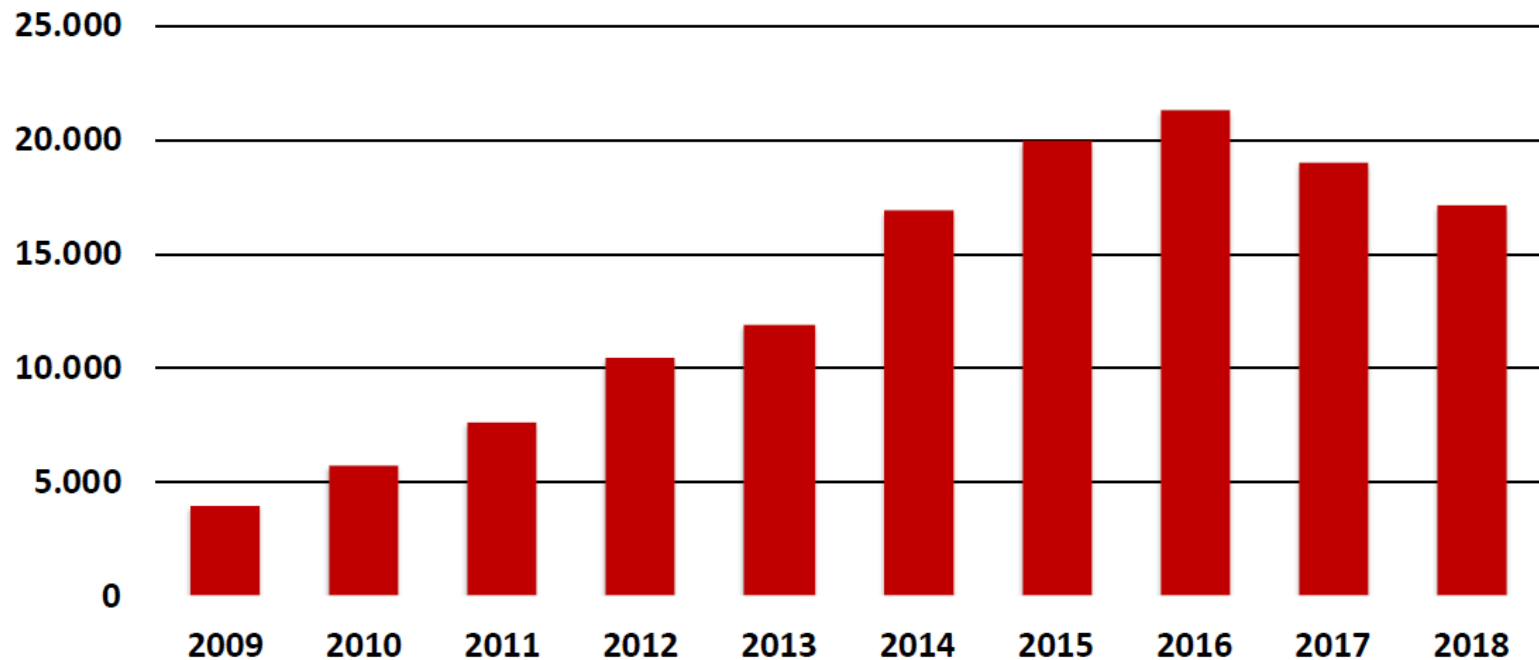
Electrocardiographic monitoring

Recommendations	Class ^a	Level ^b
Indications		
Immediate in-hospital monitoring (in bed or by telemetry) is indicated in high-risk patients (defined in Table 6).	I	C
Holter monitoring should be considered in patients who have frequent syncope or presyncope (>1 episode per week). ¹⁶¹	Ila	B
ILR is indicated in an early phase of evaluation in patients with recurrent syncope of uncertain origin, absence of high-risk criteria (listed in Table 6), and a high likelihood of recurrence within the battery life of the device. ^{175,176,181–184,202} , Supplementary Data Table 5	I	A
ILR is indicated in patients with high-risk criteria (listed in Table 6) in whom a comprehensive evaluation did not demonstrate a cause of syncope or lead to a specific treatment, and who do not have conventional indications for primary prevention ICD or pacemaker indication. ^{174,180,187,188,195} , Supplementary Data Tables 5 and 6	I	A
ILR should be considered in patients with suspected or certain reflex syncope presenting with frequent or severe syncopal episodes. ^{184–186}	Ila	B
episodes. ^{184–186}	Ila	B
ILR may be considered in patients in whom epilepsy was suspected but the treatment has proven ineffective. ^{137,189–191} , Supplementary Data Table 7	Ilb	B
ILR may be considered in patients with unexplained falls. ^{191–194} , Supplementary Data Table 8	Ilb	B



Implantation of ILR in Germany

5-377.8 - Implantation Ereignis-Rekorder

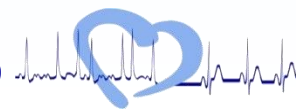


ESC GL
2009

German
comment
2011

ESC GL
2018

<https://reimbursement.info>



Kardiologie 2019 · 13:24–25
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12181-018-0297-7>
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Versorgungslücke bei Patienten mit Rhythmusstörungen und Synkope

Stellungnahme der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Kardiologie – Herz- und Kreislaufforschung e. V.

Herzrhythmusstörungen gehören zu den verbreitetsten Herzerkrankungen mit zunehmender Erkrankungshäufigkeit und Sterblichkeit. Die häufigste anhaltende Rhythmusstörung ist Vorhofflimmern, welches zu Schlaganfällen führen kann. Nach aktuellen Schätzungen leiden in Deutschland fast 1,8 Mio. Menschen (2,2% der Bevölkerung) an Vorhofflimmern. Eine kurze Synkope tritt v. a. im höheren Lebensalter gehäuft auf, die Inzidenz beträgt ca. 6% pro Jahr. Etwa 40% der Menschen erleiden im Leben mindestens eine Synkope. Die zugrunde liegende Herzrhythmusstörung ist in vielen Fällen eine Bradykardie oder eine Asystolie.

Derzeit in der Regelversorgung verfügbare diagnostische Verfahren (EKG, Langzeit-EKG) werden häufig eingesetzt, führen jedoch in den seltensten Fällen zur Stellung der Diagnose und zur Einleitung einer adäquaten Therapie. Das international etablierte diagnostische Verfahren zum Nachweis dieser Herzrhythmusstörungen ist der implantierbare Ereignisrekorder (implantierbarer Loop-Recorder [ILR]), welcher den Herzrhythmus kontinuierlich und langfristig überwacht, die Daten im Bedarfsfall sekundengenau aufzeichnen und telemedizinisch übermitteln kann, damit sie zeitnah für die

klinische Interpretation zur Verfügung stehen.

Der klinische Nutzen der Detektion von selten und unregelmäßig auftretenden Herzrhythmusstörungen mit implantierbaren Ereignisrekordern ist durch zahlreiche randomisierte Studien sowie Metaanalysen belegt und wird durch die Leitlinien der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Kardiologie sowie der European Society of Cardiology mit hohem Empfehlungsgrad und hoher Evidenz gestützt [1–3].

In Deutschland besteht bezüglich der Versorgung von ILRs eine von ärztlicher und Patientenseite nicht akzeptable Situation. Bei Hochrisikopatienten im stationären Bereich kann die Abrechnung über eine entsprechende DRG-Ziffer erfolgen. Jedoch wird die Kostenerstattung für eine ILR-Implantation in vielen Fällen vom Medizinischen Dienst der Krankenkassen abgelehnt. Viele Patienten mit intermediärem und niedrigem Risiko könnten nach den gültigen Leitlinien ambulant abgeklärt werden, der technische Fortschritt ermöglicht ambulante Implantation. In Deutschland besteht jedoch, abgesehen von Sonderverträgen für eine Minderheit von Patienten, bei gesetzlich versicherten Patienten keine Möglichkeit der ambulanten Implantation von ILR. Entsprechende Abrechnungsziffern sind im Katalog für ambulante Operationen nicht abgebildet.

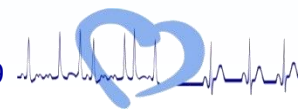
Die Nachsorge von ILR ist nicht Bestandteil des Einheitlichen Bewertungsmaßstabs (EBM), weshalb eine Abfrage der Systeme in der Klinik/Praxis bei gesetzlich versicherten Patienten in Deutschland nicht möglich ist. Nach der Implantation können ILR die Daten bei Auftreten von Rhythmusstörungen auf telemetrischem Wege an den betreuenden Arzt übertragen. Jedoch ist auch für diese Art der Nachbetreuung keine Möglichkeit der Abrechnung im EBM vorgesehen. Seit vielen Jahren wird von den Fachgesellschaften und den Berufsverbänden auf diese untragbare Situation hingewiesen, ohne dass entsprechende Änderungen im Leistungskatalog des EBM erfolgt sind.

Durch die genannten Sachverhalte besteht in Deutschland eine Unterversorgung von Patienten mit Herzrhythmusstörungen und Synkopen. Eine leitliniengerechte Stellung von Diagnosen und Initiierung von z. T. lebenswichtigen Therapien ist daher in vielen Fällen nicht möglich und erhöht die Morbidität/Mortalität der betroffenen Patienten.

Dieser Beitrag wurde parallel in den Zeitschriften *Der Kardiologe* 01/2019, *Aktuelle Kardiologie* 01/2019 und *CardioNews* 02/2019 publiziert.

Reimbursement for ILR implantation

Setting	Public insurance	Private insurance
Implantation		
In-hospital	(+)	+
Out-of-hospital	-	+
Follow-Up	-	(+)



Gut-strukturierte Synkopen-Diagnostik: Take home

- Führen Sie ein systematisches Vorgehen bei Synkopen-Patienten an Ihrer Institution ein
- Erwägen Sie, eine/n spezialisierte/n 'syncope nurse' auszubilden.
- Als Zuweiser: suchen Sie eine Institution, die diesen Ansatz praktiziert



Gut-strukturierte Synkopen-Diagnostik: Take home (2)

- Obligate Anwendung der '**Initialen Evaluation**' zur Separation von niedrig-, intermediär-, und hoch-Risiko-Patienten (**Risikostratifikation**) – gem. ESC-Guideline
- Rate an **unnötigen Hospitalisierungen niedrig halten !**
- UND: '**common clinical sense**' in jedem Stadium der **Synkopen-Abklärung**



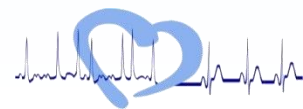
Gut-strukturierte Synkopen-Diagnostik: Take home (3)

- and **never forget:**

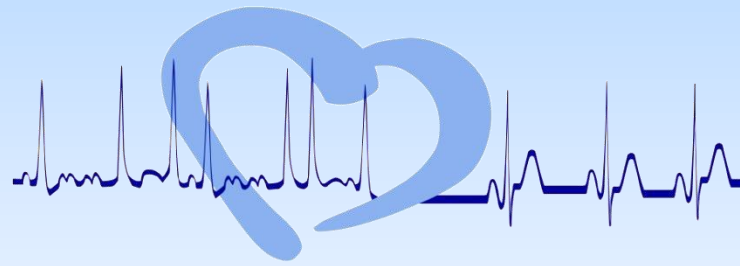
“The secret to being a syncope expert is taking a better history than the referring doctor...”

- ... and do it based on our ESC guidelines !

Paraphrase from Dr. Andrew Krahn

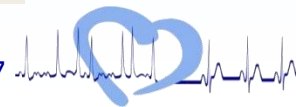
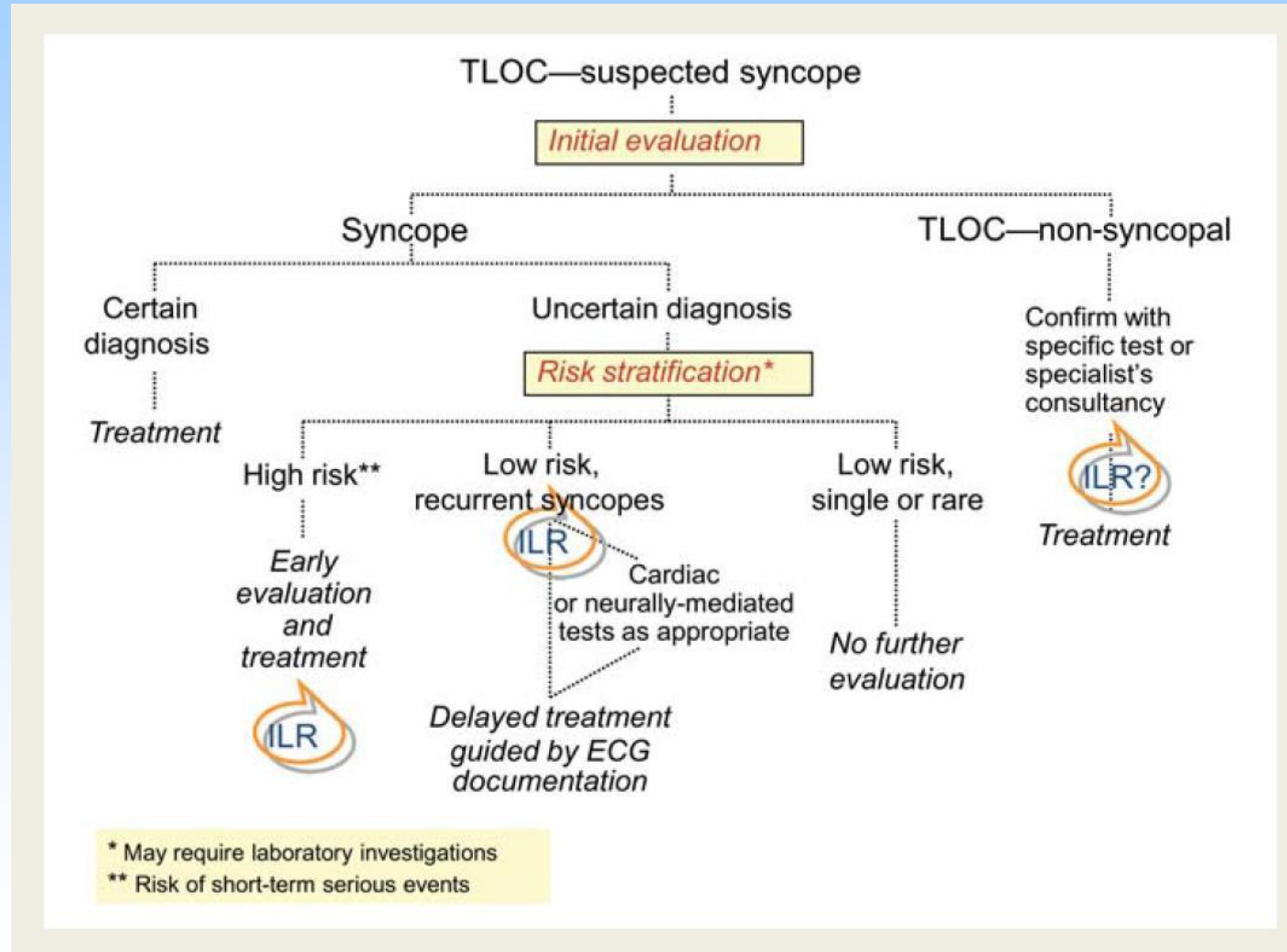


謝謝

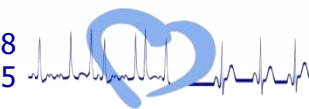
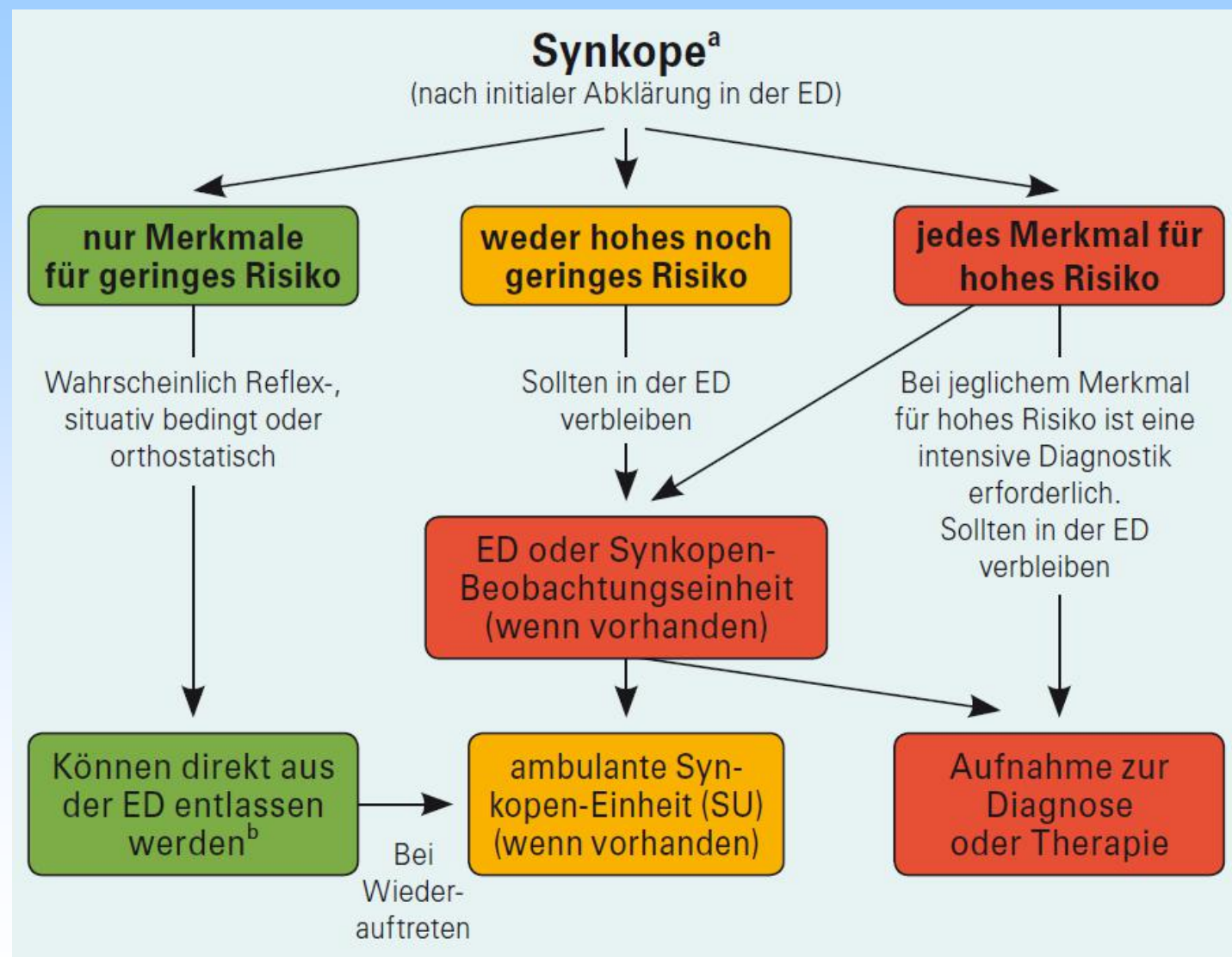


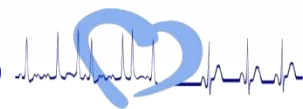
*Vielen Dank für die
Aufmerksamkeit*

ILR in der diagnostischen Abklärung von T-LOC / Synkope



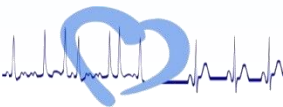
Synkope: Procedere nach „initialer Abklärung“



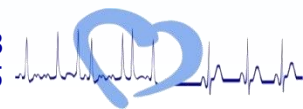
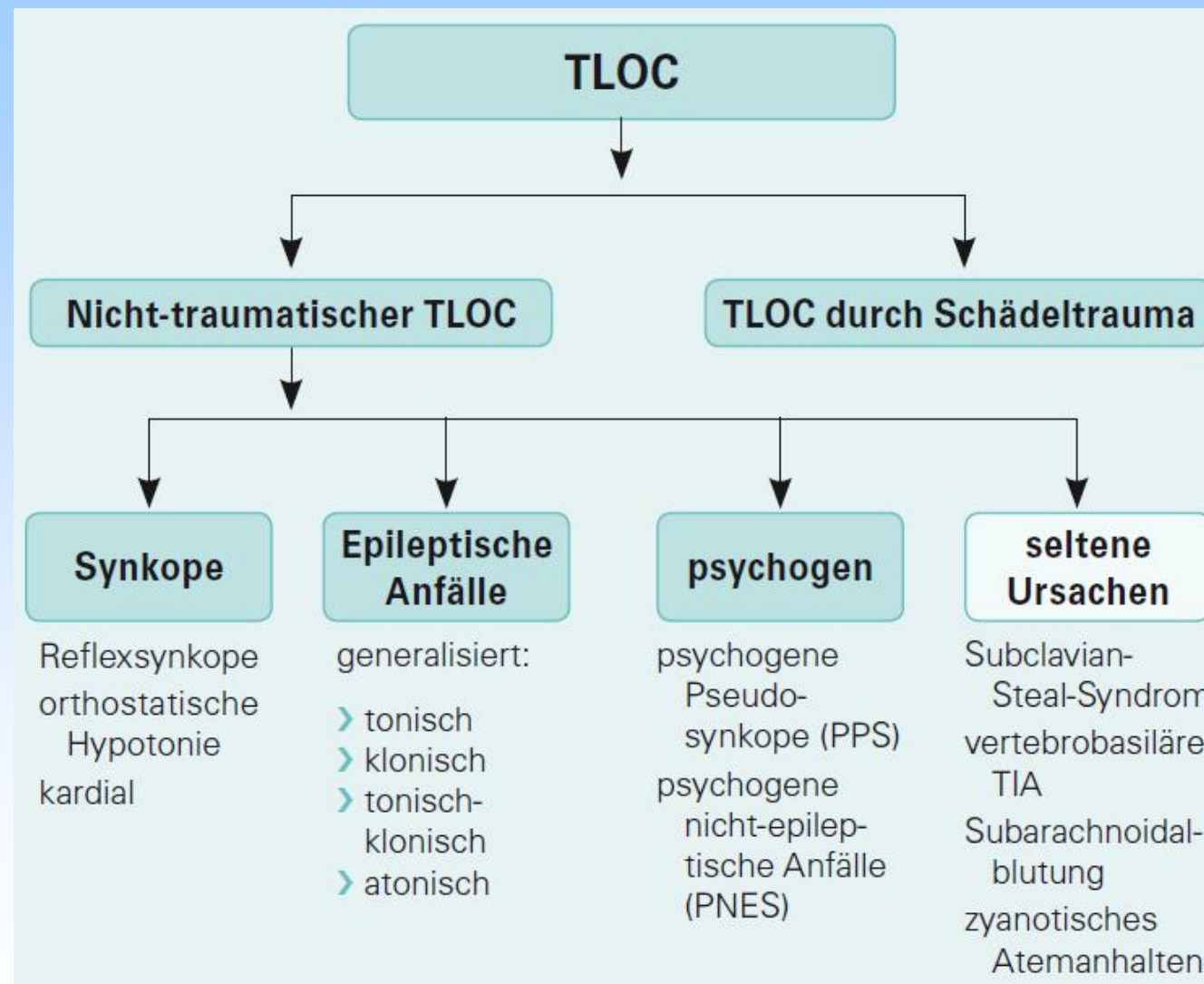


Background

- Currently, syncope management has widely been characterized by lack of standard clinical pathway, and poor adherence to guidelines.
- Inappropriate use of diagnostic tests.
- High rate of misdiagnosed and unexplained syncope cause over-utilization of medical resources and increase costs
- A standardized strategy based on the application of current guidelines and the use of dedicated facilities may yield better results and may reduce the consumption of healthcare resources.



Synkope im Kontext des TLOC



Klassifikation von Synkopen

(nerval vermittelte) Reflexsynkope

Vasovagal:

- › Orthostatische vasovagale Synkope (VVS): im Stehen, seltener im Sitzen
- › Emotionaler Stress: Furcht, Schmerz (somatisch oder viszeral), Eingriff, Phobie

Situativ:

- › Miktion
- › Gastrointestinale Stimulation (Schlucken, Defäkation)
- › Husten, Niesen
- › Nach körperlicher Anstrengung
- › Andere (z. B. Lachen, Spielen eines Blechblasinstruments)

Carotissinus-Syndrom

Nichtklassische Formen (ohne Prodromi und/oder ohne ersichtliche Auslöser und/oder atypische Präsentation)

Synkope durch orthostatische Hypotonie (OH)

medikamenteninduzierte OH (häufigste Ursache der OH):

- › z. B. Vasodilatoren, Diuretika, Phenothiazin, Antidepressiva

Volumenmangel:

- › Blutung, Diarrhoe, Erbrechen, usw.

primäres autonomes Versagen (neurogene OH):

- › reines autonomes Versagen, Multisystematrophie, Parkinson-Krankheit, Lewy-Körper-Demenz

sekundäres autonomes Versagen (neurogene OH):

- › Diabetes, Amyloidose, Rückenmarksverletzung, autoimmune autonome Neuropathie, paraneoplastische autonome Neuropathie, Niereninsuffizienz

Kardiale Synkope

Arrhythmie als primäre Ursache:

Bradykardie:

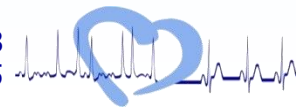
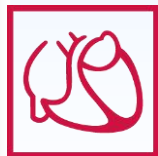
- › Sinusknotenfunktionsstörung (einschl. Bradykardie/Tachykardie-Syndrom)
- › Atrioventrikuläre Leitungsstörung

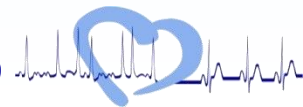
Tachykardie:

- › Supraventrikulär
- › Ventrikulär

Strukturell kardial: Aortenstenose, akuter Myokardinfarkt/Ischämie, hypertrophe Kardiomyopathie, kardiale Neubildungen (Vorhofmyxom, Tumoren, usw.), Perikarderkrankung/Tamponade, angeborene Anomalien der Koronararterien, Dysfunktion einer Herzklappenprothese

Kardiopulmonal und große Gefäße: Lungenembolie, akute Aortendissektion, pulmonale Hypertonie





ILR: Versorgungslücke

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Versorgungslücke bei Patienten mit Rhythmusstörungen und Synkope

Stellungnahme der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Kardiologie – Herz- und Kreislaufforschung e. V.

Herzrhythmusstörungen gehören zu den verbreitetsten Herzerkrankungen mit zunehmender Erkrankungshäufigkeit und Sterblichkeit. Die häufigste anhaltende Rhythmusstörung ist Vorhofflimmern, welches zu Schlaganfällen führen kann. Nach aktuellen Schätzungen leiden in Deutschland fast 1,8 Mio. Menschen (2,2% der Bevölkerung) an Vorhofflimmern. Eine kurze Synkope tritt v. a. im höheren Lebensalter gehäuft auf, die Inzidenz beträgt ca. 6% pro Jahr. Etwa 40% der Menschen erleiden im Leben mindestens eine Synkope. Die zugrunde liegende Herzrhythmusstörung ist in vielen Fällen eine Bradykardie oder eine Asystolie.

Derzeit in der Regelversorgung verfügbare diagnostische Verfahren (EKG, Langzeit-EKG) werden häufig eingesetzt, führen jedoch in den seltensten Fällen zur Stellung der Diagnose und zur Einleitung einer adäquaten Therapie. Das international etablierte diagnostische Verfahren zum Nachweis dieser Herzrhythmusstörungen ist der implantierbare Ereignisrekorder (implantierbarer Loop-Recorder [ILR]), welcher den Herzrhythmus kontinuierlich und langfristig überwacht, die Daten im Bedarfsfall sekundengenau aufzeichnen und telemedizinisch übermitteln kann, damit sie zeitnah für die

klinische Interpretation zur Verfügung stehen.

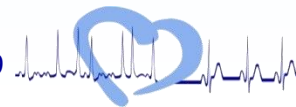
Der klinische Nutzen der Detektion von selten und unregelmäßig auftretenden Herzrhythmusstörungen mit implantierbaren Ereignisrekordern ist durch zahlreiche randomisierte Studien sowie Metaanalysen belegt und wird durch die Leitlinien der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Kardiologie sowie der European Society of Cardiology mit hohem Empfehlungsgrad und hoher Evidenz gestützt [1–3].

In Deutschland besteht bezüglich der Versorgung von ILRs eine von ärztlicher und Patientenseite nicht akzeptable Situation. Bei Hochrisikopatienten im stationären Bereich kann die Abrechnung über eine entsprechende DRG-Ziffer erfolgen. Jedoch wird die Kostenerstattung für eine ILR-Implantation in vielen Fällen vom Medizinischen Dienst der Krankenkassen abgelehnt. Viele Patienten mit intermediärem und niedrigem Risiko könnten nach den gültigen Leitlinien ambulant abgeklärt werden, der technische Fortschritt ermöglicht ambulante Implantation. In Deutschland besteht jedoch, abgesehen von Sonderverträgen für eine Minderheit von Patienten, bei gesetzlich versicherten Patienten keine Möglichkeit der ambulanten Implantation von ILR. Entsprechende Abrechnungsziffern sind im Katalog für ambulante Operationen nicht abgebildet.

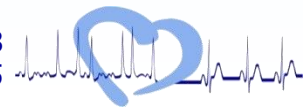
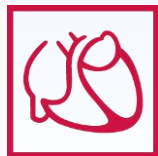
Die Nachsorge von ILR ist nicht Bestandteil des Einheitlichen Bewertungsmaßstabs (EBM), weshalb eine Abfrage der Systeme in der Klinik/Praxis bei gesetzlich versicherten Patienten in Deutschland nicht möglich ist. Nach der Implantation können ILR die Daten bei Auftreten von Rhythmusstörungen auf telemetrischem Wege an den betreuenden Arzt übertragen. Jedoch ist auch für diese Art der Nachbetreuung keine Möglichkeit der Abrechnung im EBM vorgesehen. Seit vielen Jahren wird von den Fachgesellschaften und den Berufsverbänden auf diese untragbare Situation hingewiesen, ohne dass entsprechende Änderungen im Leistungskatalog des EBM erfolgt sind.

Durch die genannten Sachverhalte besteht in Deutschland eine Unterversorgung von Patienten mit Herzrhythmusstörungen und Synkopen. Eine leitliniengerechte Stellung von Diagnosen und Initiierung von z. T. lebenswichtigen Therapien ist daher in vielen Fällen nicht möglich und erhöht die Morbidität/Mortalität der betroffenen Patienten.

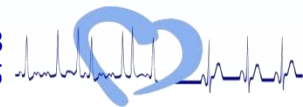
Dieser Beitrag wurde parallel in den Zeitschriften *Der Kardiologe* 01/2019, *Aktuelle Kardiologie* 01/2019 und *CardioNews* 02/2019 publiziert.



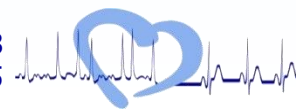
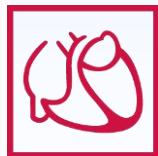
Klassifikation von Synkopen



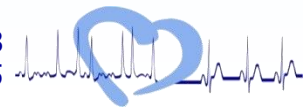
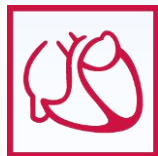
Klassifikation von Synkopen



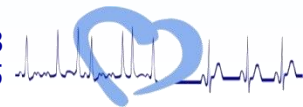
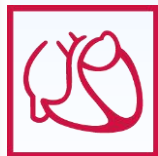
Hoch- u. Niedrigrisiko-Kriterien bei Ersteinschätzung von Pat mit Synkopen



Risikostratifikation von Synkopen



Risikostratifikation von Synkopen

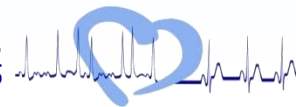
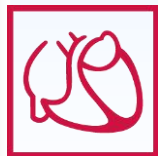


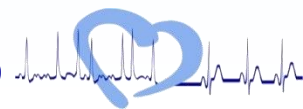
Kritische Würdigung einzelner Aspekte der ESC-Leitlinie und Versorgungs-Realität in D

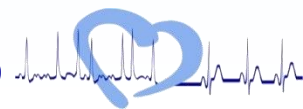
- Wertigkeit der CSM als diagnostische Maßnahme unverändert überbetont (alle Patienten >40 Jahre, Problem sehr begrenzte Spezifität, sehr selten indizierte spezifische Therapiekonsequenz, d. h. SM-Implantation).
- Schrittmacher-Indikations-Algorithmus bei schwerer, wiederholter, Prodromi-freier Synkope und Lebensalter >40 Jahre: Sequenz CSM, KTU, ILR mit SM-Indikation bei induziertem (CSM, nachfolgend KTU) oder spontanem (ILR, nach negativer CSM und KTU) Asystolienachweis diskussionswürdig. Bevorzugte Alternative wäre die initiale ILR-Implantation.
- ICD-Indikation (IIa C) bei Synkope und eingeschränkter linksventrikulärer EF, allerdings oberhalb 35 % (d. h. ohne unstrittige klare ICD-Indikation), ist eine weitreichende Expertenkonsensempfehlung, die von der ESC-Leitlinie „Ventricular Arrhythmias and Prevention of Sudden Cardiac Death“ abweicht. Hier empfiehlt sich eine sorgfältige Abwägung gegenüber einer ILR-Implantation zur weiteren Informationsgewinnung.
- Die ESC-Leitlinie nimmt keine Stellung zu pharmakologischen Provokationstests zur Erkennung eines „verborgenen“ Long-QT-Syndroms (Sotalol-Test) oder eines „verborgenen“ Brugada-Syndroms (Ajmalin-Test) bei (jungen) Patienten mit ungeklärter Synkope, normalem Ruhe-EKG, aber klinischen Verdachtsmomenten (z. B. junger Familienangehöriger mit plötzlichem Herztod) für erhöhtes Risiko eines plötzlichen Herztodes.
- Die Etablierung von interdisziplinären, ambulanten/teilstationären Synkopeneinheiten („syncope units“), angesiedelt in der Nähe von Notaufnahmen, stellt einen sehr hohen Aufwand an Logistik, Infrastruktur, Koordination und Personal dar. Dies ist eine idealisierte Versorgungsvorstellung, die bislang europaweit bis auf wenige Ausnahmen kaum verfügbar ist. Der medizinische und/oder ökonomische Nutzen ist bislang wissenschaftlich nicht ausreichend untersucht. Aktuell bestünde keinerlei angemessene Vergütungsabbildung.
- Die ESC-Leitlinie betont den interdisziplinären Charakter der Synkopenerklärung, insbesondere im Rahmen von Synkopeneinheiten. Bei Fehlen derartiger Einrichtungen sollte die Abklärung von Synkopen unbekannter Ursache nach initialer Evaluation unter kardiologischer Zuständigkeit/Führung erfolgen.

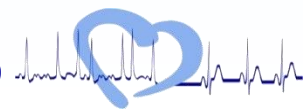
Versorgungsdefizite in Deutschland

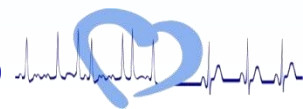
- Unzureichende Verfügbarkeit und fehlende (ambulante) Vergütung der KTU in Deutschland
- Fehlende ambulante und häufig abgelehnte stationäre Vergütung einer leitlinienindizierten ILR-Implantation und fehlende Vergütung der ambulanten Nachsorge

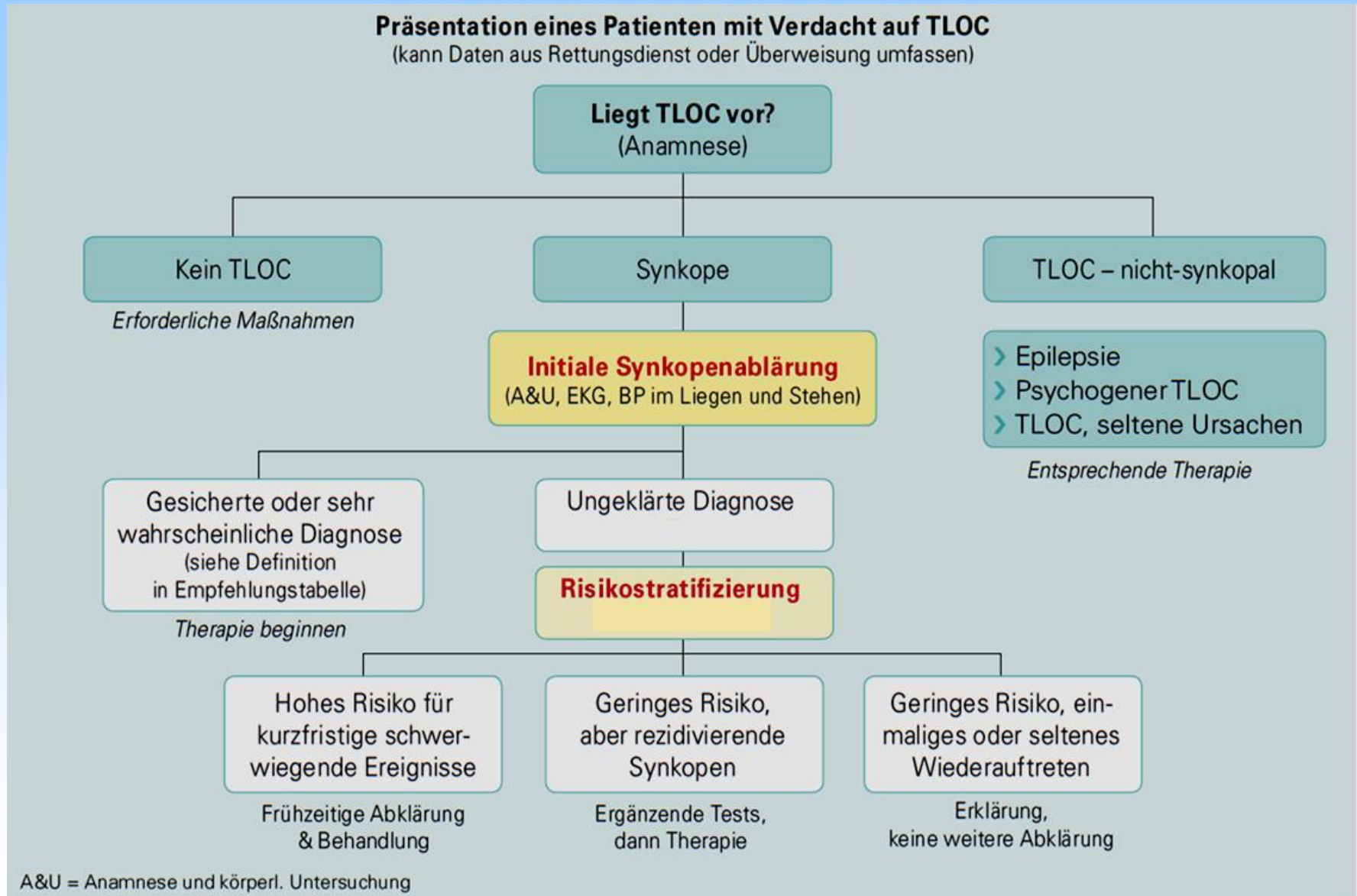


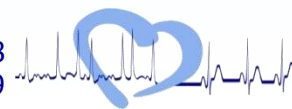
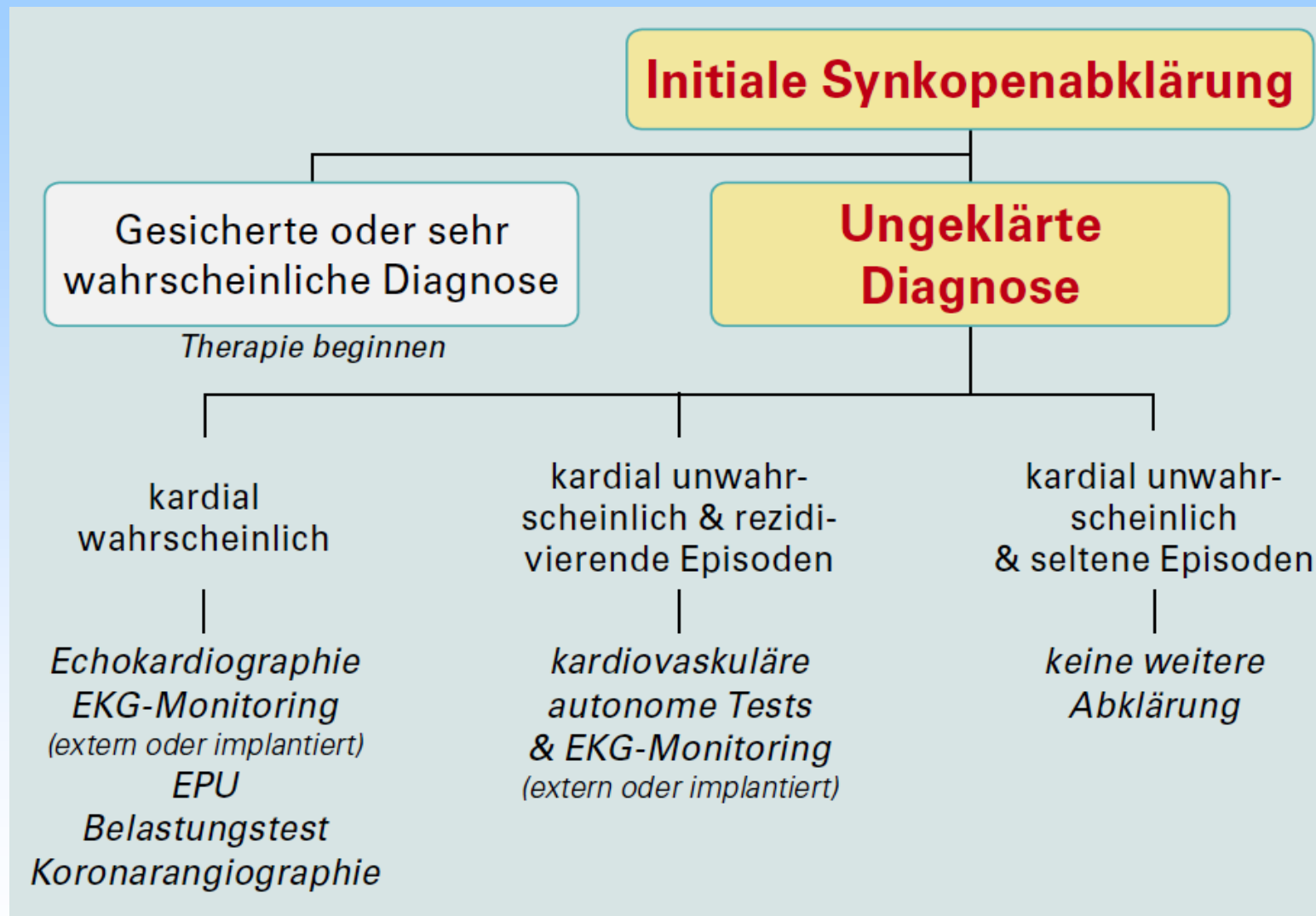






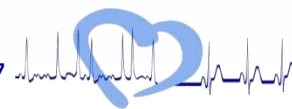
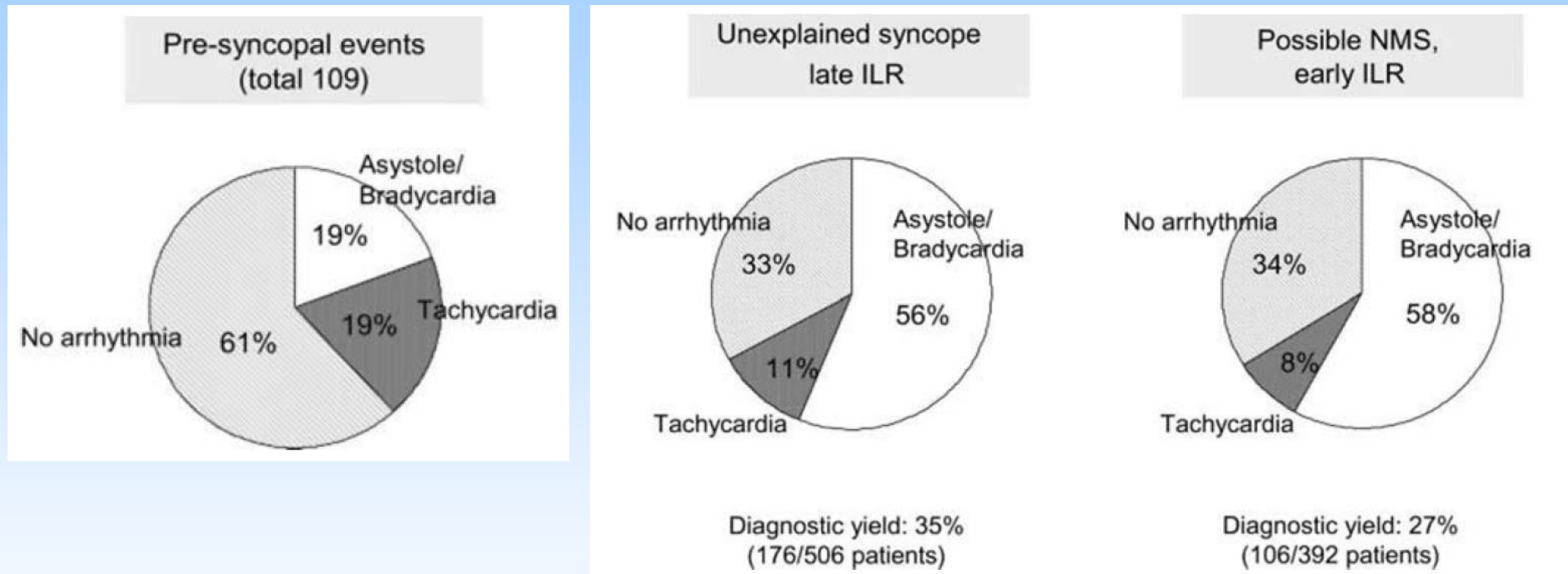






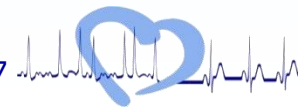


Diagnostische Ausbeute des ILR



ISSUE Klassifikation EKG-dokumentierter spontaner Synkopen

- **Type 1, Asystole.** RR pause ≥ 3 s.
 - (a) *Type 1A, Sinus arrest:*
 - Progressive sinus bradycardia or initial sinus tachycardia followed by progressive sinus bradycardia until sinus arrest.
 - (b) *Type 1B, Sinus bradycardia plus AV block*
 - Progressive sinus bradycardia followed by AV block (and ventricular pause/s) with concomitant decrease in sinus rate
 - Sudden onset AV block (and ventricular pause/s) with concomitant decrease in sinus rate
 - (c) *Type 1C, AV block*
 - Sudden onset AV block (and ventricular pause/s) with concomitant increase in sinus rate
- **Type 2, Bradycardia.** Decrease of heart rate $>30\%$ or <40 bpm for >10 s.
 - (a) *Type 2A.* Decrease of heart rate $>30\%$
 - (b) *Type 2B.* Heart rate <40 bpm for >10 s.
- **Type 3, No or slight rhythm variations.** Variations of heart rate $<30\%$ and heart rate >40 bpm.
 - (a) *Type 3A.* No variation or $<10\%$ variation in heart rate
 - (b) *Type 3B.* Increase in heart rate $>10\%$ but $<30\%$ and <120 bpm; or, decrease $>10\%$ but $<30\%$ and >40 bpm
- **Type 4, Tachycardia.** Increase of heart rate $>30\%$ and heart rate >120 bpm.
 - (a) *Type 4 A.* Progressive sinus tachycardia
 - (b) *Type 4 B.* Atrial fibrillation
 - (c) *Type 4 C.* Supraventricular tachycardia (except sinus)
 - (d) *Type 4 D.* Ventricular tachycardia.



ILR bei Synkope: Indikation u. Interpretation

Indications for ILRs and ELRs in patients with syncope

ILRs

Class I. ILR is indicated:

- In an early phase of evaluation of patients with recurrent syncope of uncertain origin who have:
 - absence of high-risk criteria that require immediate hospitalization or intensive evaluation, i.e. those listed in the *Table 5*; and
 - a likely recurrence within battery longevity of the device (*Level of evidence A*)
- In high-risk patients in whom a comprehensive evaluation (that listed in *Table 5*) did not demonstrate a cause of syncope or lead to specific treatment (*Level of evidence B*)

Class II A. ILR may be indicated:

- To assess the contribution of bradycardia before embarking on cardiac pacing in patients with suspected or certain neurally mediated syncope presenting with frequent or traumatic syncopal episodes (*Level of evidence B*)

Interpretation of ILR and ELR findings in patients with syncope

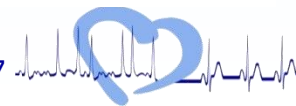
Class I

- ILR and ELR findings are diagnostic when:
 - a correlation between syncope and an arrhythmia (brady- or tachyarrhythmia) is detected (*Level of evidence B*)
 - in the absence of such correlation, periods of Mobitz II or III degree AV block or a ventricular pause >3 s (with possible exceptions for young trained persons, during sleep, medicated patients or rate-controlled atrial fibrillation), or rapid prolonged (i.e. ≥ 160 bpm for >32 bpm) paroxysmal atrial or ventricular tachyarrhythmias are detected (*Level of evidence C*)
- ILR and ELR findings exclude an arrhythmic cause when there is no correlation between syncope and rhythm variation (*Level of evidence B*).

Class III. ILR and ELR findings are not diagnostic and monitoring should be continued in case of:

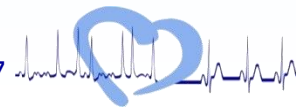
- Pre-syncope without any relevant arrhythmias as those listed above (*Level of evidence C*).
- Asymptomatic arrhythmias (other than those listed above) (*Level of evidence C*).
- Sinus bradycardia (in absence of syncope) (*Level of evidence C*)

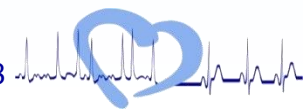
Note: This task force recognizes that, in real world practice, there is occasionally the need to make a therapeutic decision with weaker diagnostic criteria. Physicians should be aware that effectiveness of therapy is not well documented in such cases.



Unmittelbare Hochrisiko-Kriterien nach Synkope, die eine sofortige Hospitalisierung bzw. umfangreiche Abklärung bedingen

- Situations in which there is a clear indication for ICD or pacemaker treatment independently of a definite diagnosis of the cause of syncope according to recent ICD/CRT guidelines
- Severe structural cardiovascular or coronary artery disease (heart failure or low ejection fraction or previous myocardial infarction)
- Clinical or ECG features suggesting an arrhythmic syncope:
 - Syncope during exertion or supine
 - Palpitations at the time of syncope
 - Family history of sudden death
 - Non-sustained ventricular tachycardia
 - Bundle branch block (QRS duration ≥ 0.12 s)
 - Inadequate sinus bradycardia (< 50 bpm) or sinoatrial block in the absence of negatively chronotropic medications except physically-trained person
 - Pre-excited QRS complexes
 - Prolonged or short QT interval
 - Right bundle branch block pattern with ST-elevation in leads V1–V3 (Brugada syndrome)
 - Negative T waves in right precordial leads, epsilon waves, and ventricular late potentials suggestive of arrhythmogenic right ventricular dysplasia
- Important comorbidities (severe anaemia, electrolytic disturbance, etc)





Unbedingt lesen ...

<https://leitlinien.dgk.org/?s=synkope>

Der Kardiologe

Leitlinien

Kardiologie
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12181-019-0319-0>

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Deutsche Gesellschaft für Kardiologie – Herz- und Kreislaufforschung e.V.

 **ESC**
European Society of Cardiology

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Diagnose und Management von Synkopen

Kommentar zu den Leitlinien (2018) der European Society of Cardiology (ESC) zur Diagnostik und Therapie von Synkopen

Systematic clinical Syncope workup

Clinical scores

The Evaluation of Guidelines in Syncope Study (EGSYS) Scores

Clinical Variable	Points
Palpitations	4
Abnormal ECG/heart disease ^{c,d}	3
Effort syncope	3
Syncope in supine position	2
Neurovegetative prodromes ^e	-1
Precipitating and predisposing factors ^f	-1

The Calgary Syncope Symptom Score

Question	Points (if yes)
Is there a history of at least one of bifascicular block, asystole, supraventricular tachycardia, diabetes?	-5
At times have bystanders noted you to be blue during your faint?	-4
Did your syncope start when you were 35 years of age or older?	-3
Do you remember anything about being unconscious?	-2
Do you have lightheaded spells or faint with prolonged sitting or standing?	1
Do you sweat or feel warm before a faint?	2
Do you have lightheaded spells or faint with pain or in medical settings?	3

The patient has vasovagal syncope if the point score is ≥ -2 .

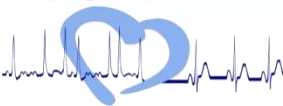


Epidemiologie

Alter: Determinante e. kardialen Synkopenursache

Frequency of the causes of syncope according to age

Age	Source	Reflex (%)	Orthostatic hypotension (%)	Cardiac (%)	Non syncopal T-LOCs (%)	Un-explained (%)
<40 years	Olde Nordkamp	51	2.5	1.1	18	27
40-60 years	Olde Nordkamp	37	6	3	19	34
<65 years	Del Rosso	68.5	0.5	12	-	19
>60/65 years	Del Rosso	52	3	34	-	11
	Ungar	62	8	11	-	14
	Olde Nordkamp	25	8.5	13	12.5	41
>75 years	Ungar	36	30	16	-	9



Systematic clinical Syncope workup

Approach to determining cardiac cause of syncope

① Presence of features that suggest cardiac syncope

- Evaluation of Guidelines in Syncope Study (EGSYS) score of 3 or more^a
- Vasovagal score (VVS) of less than -2^b
- Onset at age >35 years
- Known structural heart disease, atrial fibrillation/flutter, hypertension, or heart failure
- Chest discomfort and dyspnea
- Cyanosis witnessed during unconsciousness
- Abnormal electrocardiogram^c

Features derived from recent guidelines

- Palpitations
- Patient is male
- Patient has had 2 or fewer syncope episodes
- Family history of sudden cardiac death, syncope, or drowning
- Known congenital heart disease
- Abnormal cardiac examination

No

Yes

Assess for orthostatic hypotension and manage as possible cardiac syncope

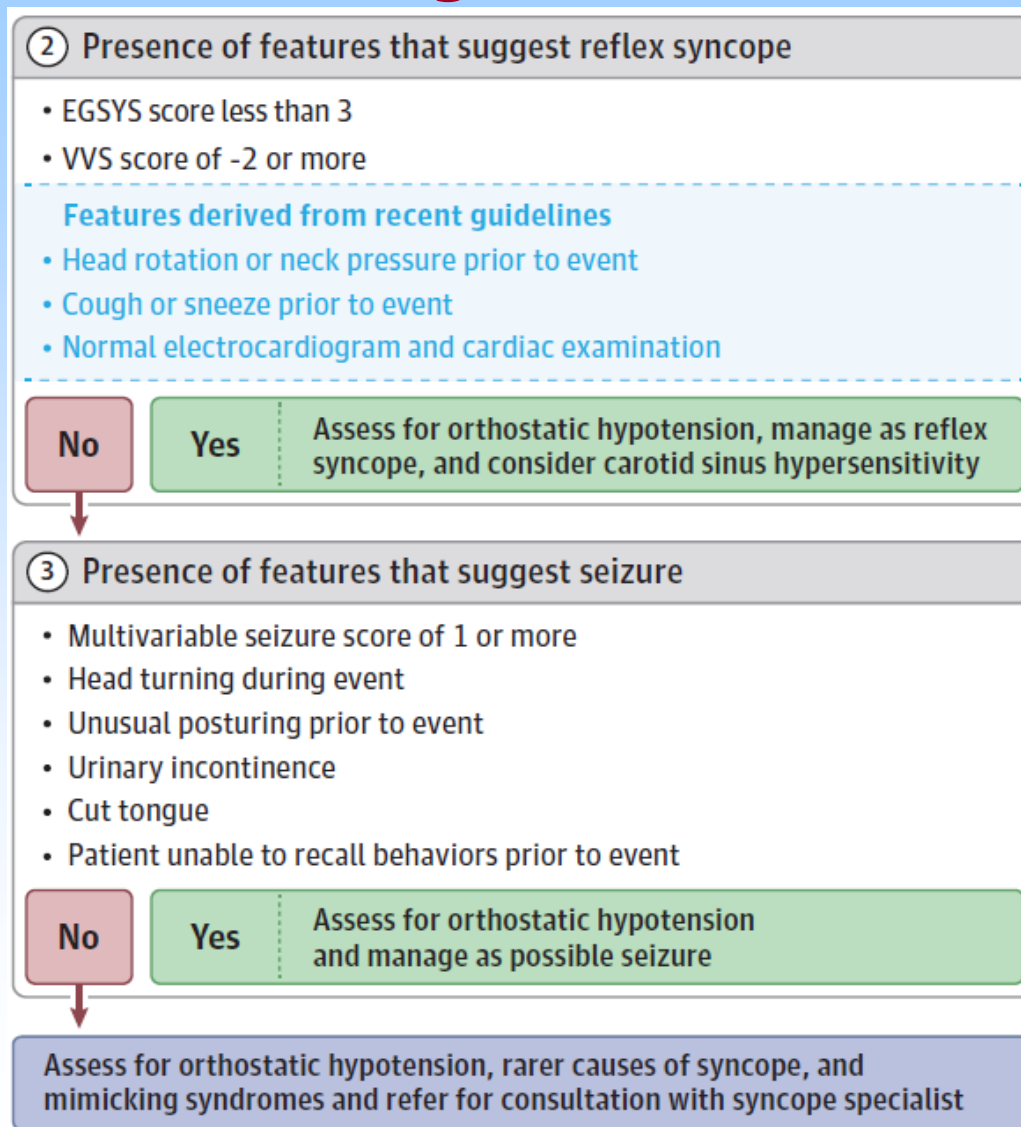
② Presence of features that suggest reflex syncope

This approach integrates the main findings of this review with the recommendations of the European Society of Cardiology and American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association guidelines.

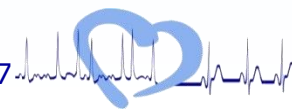


Systematic clinical Syncope workup

Approach to determinig cardiac cause of syncope



This approach integrates the main findings of this review with the recommendations of the European Society of Cardiology and American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association guidelines.





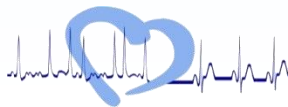
Europace (2015) **17**, 1325–1340
doi:10.1093/europace/euv115

EHRA POSITION PAPER

Syncope Unit: rationale and requirement – the European Heart Rhythm Association position statement endorsed by the Heart Rhythm Society

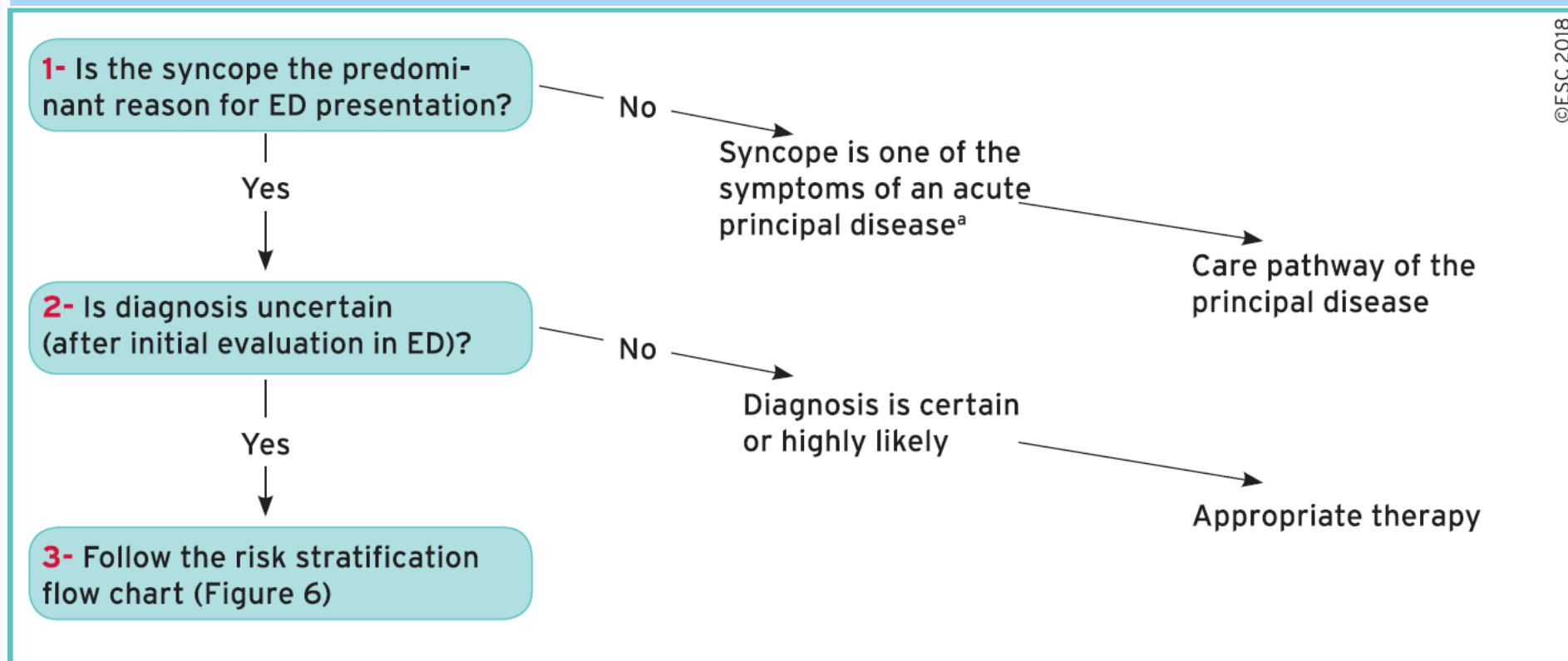
Rose Anne Kenny* (Chairperson, Ireland), **Michele Brignole** (Co-chairperson, Italy), **Gheorghe-Andrei Dan** (Romania), **Jean Claude Deharo** (France), **J. Gert van Dijk** (The Netherlands), **Colin Doherty** (Ireland), **Mohamed Hamdan** (USA), **Angel Moya** (Spain), **Steve W. Parry** (UK), **Richard Sutton** (UK), **Andrea Ungar** (Italy), and **Wouter Wieling** (The Netherlands)

Scope of the document The 2009 ESC guidelines recommend the establishment of formal Syncope Units (SUs)—either virtual or physical site within a hospital or clinic facility—with access to syncope specialists and specialized equipment.³ In response, this position statement by the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) endorsed by the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) offers a pragmatic approach to the *rationale and requirement for an SU*, based on specialist consensus, existing practice and scientific evidence

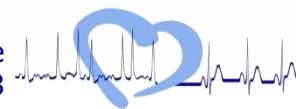


2018 ESC Guidelines on Syncope

Management of syncope in the ED / S.U.



©ESC 2018



Definitions and basic considerations

➤ *How to define a „syncope unit“?*

Definition of a Syncope Unit

An SU is a facility featuring a standardized approach to the diagnosis and management of T-LOC and related symptoms, with dedicated staff and access to appropriate diagnostics and therapies. The SU should also take the lead in educating and training clinicians who encounter syncope. Even if the most appropriate term describing such an organization should be the more general T-LOC Unit (or Faint Unit), this Task Force decided to maintain the term of SU, because it is most frequently used worldwide. This Position Paper is a pragmatic approach to outline the constituents of an SU and assist target groups with the current available necessary information. The authors emphasize that there is, at present, insufficient available evidence whether an SU (examples of a number of models are detailed later in the document) is superior in efficiency or outcomes to a syncope specialist⁴ or newer technologically driven models of syncope management.⁵ We anticipate that the Position Paper will stimulate structured research to determine best practice models for T-LOC evaluation in different settings and cultures.

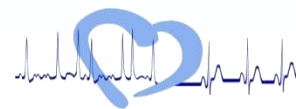
Kenny RA, et al. Europace 2015

Syncope Units

The term “syncope unit” has been used to mean any organized approach to investigation or, more narrowly, here as a geographically contained unit for assessing syncope. The ESC 2009 guidelines¹ recommend the establishment of formal syncope units, either virtual or geographically contained, staffed by a coterie of syncope experts and having easy access to all referring physicians. The ESC recommended that units have *preferential* access to all contemporary cardiac investigations.

Standardized syncope assessment may improve care, but only if driven by easily available care pathways and subspecialist backup.

Sheldon RS, et al. Can J Cardiol, 2011



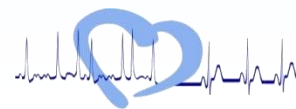
Definitions and basic considerations

➤ *What is a „syncope specialist“?*

Definition of syncope specialist

The syncope specialist is defined as one who has responsibility for the comprehensive management of the patient from risk stratification to diagnosis, therapy, and follow-up, through a standardized protocol.

A syncope specialist is a physician who has sufficient knowledge of historical clues and physical findings to recognize all major forms of TLOC, including mimics, as well as syndromes of orthostatic intolerance.



Benefits and barriers

➤ *Expected benefits of SU*

Expected benefits

- Specialist opinion for patients
- Early accurate and efficient diagnosis
- Timely treatment
- Better application of recommended guidelines
- Less duplication and fragmentation of services
- Single source of communication for all stakeholders
- Shorter length of stay for hospital inpatients
- Reduction of total care costs
- Better systems for monitoring and evaluation of practice at local, national, and international level
- Better quality control at local, national and international level
- Access to harmonized data across different hospitals
- High quality, evidence-based data for research
- Evidence-based innovation in diagnosis, treatments and healthcare model

➤ *Barriers to establishing a SU*

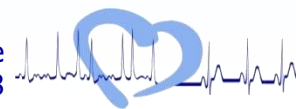
Barriers to establishing an SU

- Lack of awareness of the benefits of an SU due to inadequate research trials comparing SUs to normal practice
- Underestimation of consequences of syncope
- Lack of awareness of benefit of an SU on quality-of-life
- Low numbers of syncope specialists
- Lack of formal syncope training programmes
- Wide age range from paediatric to oldest patients
- Skill sets required in a number of domains such as cardiology, geriatrics, paediatrics, physiology, neurology, and psychiatry
- Syncope not a recognized subspecialty
- Reluctance to introduce innovative proposals
- Necessity to engage multiple stakeholders
- Inadequate reimbursement of syncope core management
- New economic cost models required to evaluate an SU
- Fear of increasing costs by the development of a new structure instead of reducing them

TLOC- / Syncope Unit

Organizational aspects: Key components

- The syncope unit should take the lead in service delivery for syncope, and in education and training of healthcare professionals who encounter syncope.
- The syncope unit should be led by a clinician with specific knowledge of TLOC and additional necessary team members (i.e. clinical nurse specialist) depending on the local model of service delivery.
- The syncope unit should provide minimum core treatments for reflex syncope and OH, and treatments or preferential access for cardiac syncope, falls, psychogenic pseudosyncope, and epilepsy.
- Referrals should be directly from family practitioners, EDs, in-hospital and out-hospital services, or self-referral depending on the risk stratification of referrals. Fast-track access, with a separate waiting list and scheduled follow-up visits, should be recommended.
- Syncope units should employ quality indicators, process indicators, and desirable outcome targets.



TLOC- / Syncope Unit

Organizational aspects: Structure of the Unit

Staffing of an SU is composed of:

1. One or more physicians of any specialty who are **syncope specialists**.
2. A team comprised of professionals who will advance the care of syncope patients.

Equipment:

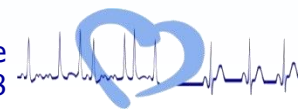
1. Essential Equipment/tests:

- 12-lead ECG and 3-lead ECG monitoring,
- non-invasive beat-to-beat blood pressure monitor,
- tilt-table,
- Holter monitors,
- external loop recorders,
- follow-up of implantable loop recorders (*),
- 24-hour blood pressure monitoring,
- Basic autonomic function tests.

2. Established procedures for:

- Echocardiography
- Electrophysiological studies
- Stress test
- Neuroimaging tests

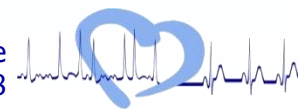
3. Specialists' consultancies (cardiology, neurology, internal medicine, geriatric medicine, psychology)



TLOC- / Syncope Unit

Equipment: Tests and assessments in a SU

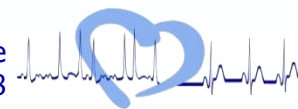
Initial assessment	
History and physical evaluation including 3-min orthostatic BP measurement ^a 12-lead standard ECG	
Subsequent tests and assessments (only when indicated)	
Blood tests	Electrolytes, haemoglobin, troponin, B-type natriuretic peptide, glucose, D-dimer, haemogas analysis/oxygen saturation
Provocative tests	CSM, tilt testing
Monitoring	External loop recording, implantable loop recording, ambulatory 1–7 days ECG monitoring, 24–48-hour BP monitoring
Autonomic function tests	Standing test, Valsalva manoeuvre, deep-breathing test, cold pressor test, and/or established procedures for access to other autonomic function tests
Cardiac evaluation	Established procedures for access to echocardiogram, stress test, electrophysiological study, coronary angiography
Neurological evaluation	Established procedures for access to neurological tests (computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging, EEG, video-EEG)
Geriatric evaluation	Established procedures for access to fall risk assessment (cognitive, gait and balance, visual, environmental) and for gait and balance retraining
Psychological or psychiatric evaluation	Established procedures for access to psychological or psychiatric consultancy (mental health problem or psychogenic syncope)



TLOC- / Syncope Unit

Organizational aspects: Role of physicians and staff

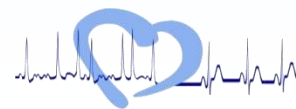
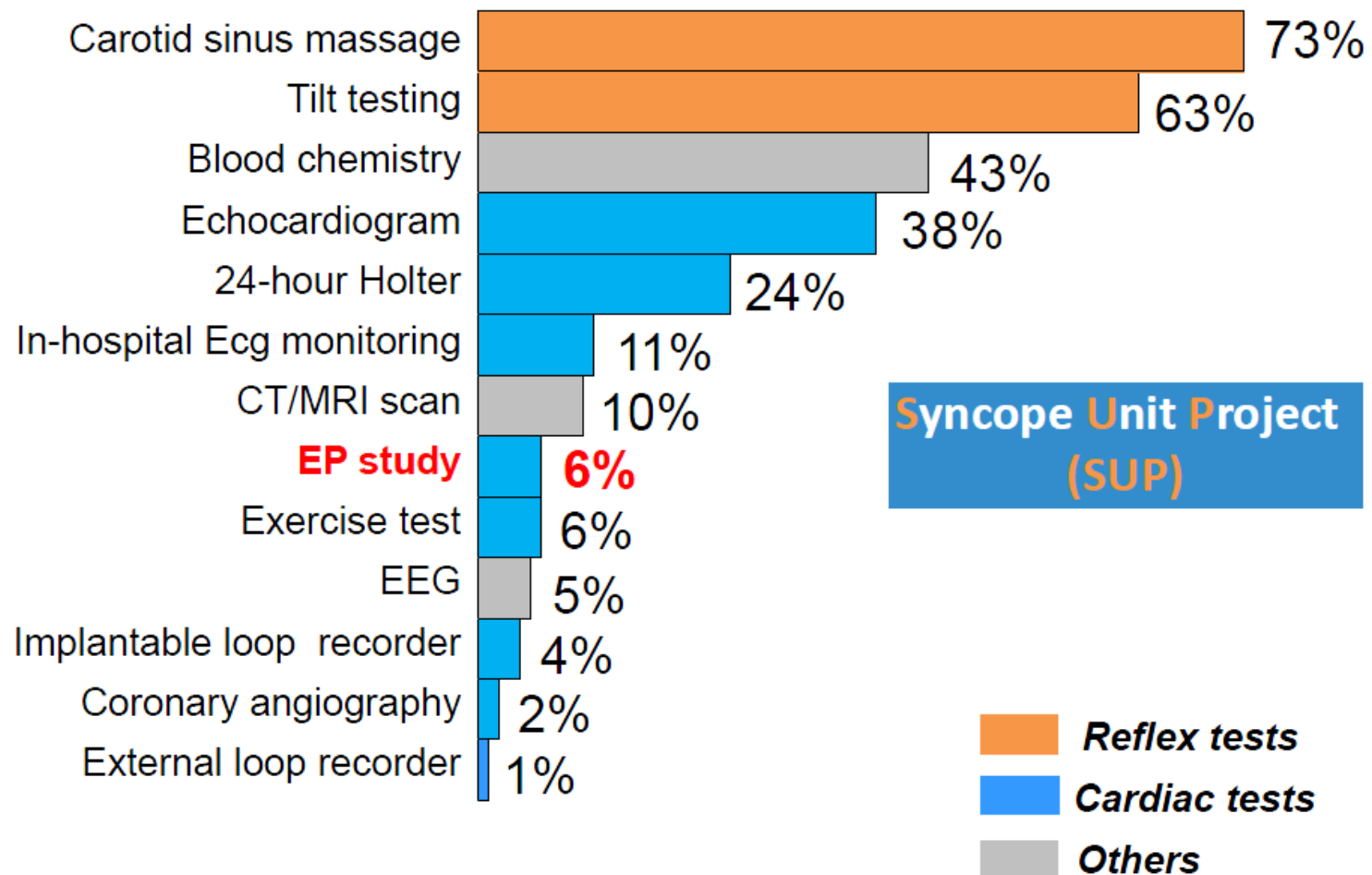
Procedure or test	SU Physician	SU Staff	Non-SU personnel
History taking	x		
Structured history taking (e.g., application of software technologies)		x	
12-lead ECG		x	
Blood tests		x	
Echocardiogram and imaging			x
Carotid sinus massage	x		
Active standing test		x	
Tilt table test	(x)	x	
Basic autonomic function test		x	
ECG monitoring (Holter, ELR): administration and interpretation	x	x	
Implantable loop recorder	x	(x)	
Remote monitoring		x	
Others: stress test, electrophysiological study, angiograms			x
Neurological tests (CT, MRI, EEG, video-EEG)			x
Pacemaker and ICD implantation, catheter ablation			x
Patient's education, biofeedback training, and instructions	x	x	
Final report and clinic note	x		



ANS-testing @ Syncope-Unit:



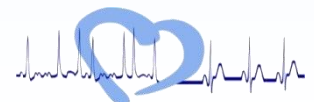
Tests in 700 patients (after initial evaluation)



ANS-testing @ Syncope-Unit:

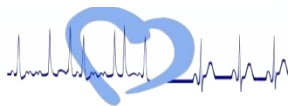
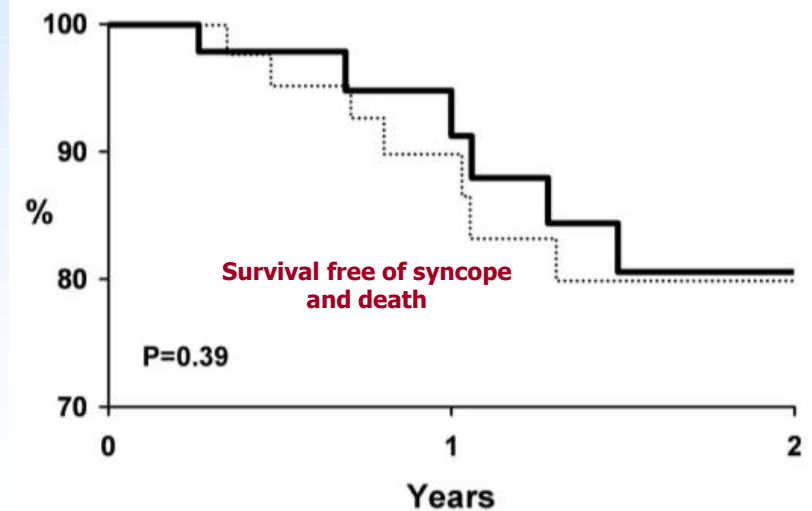
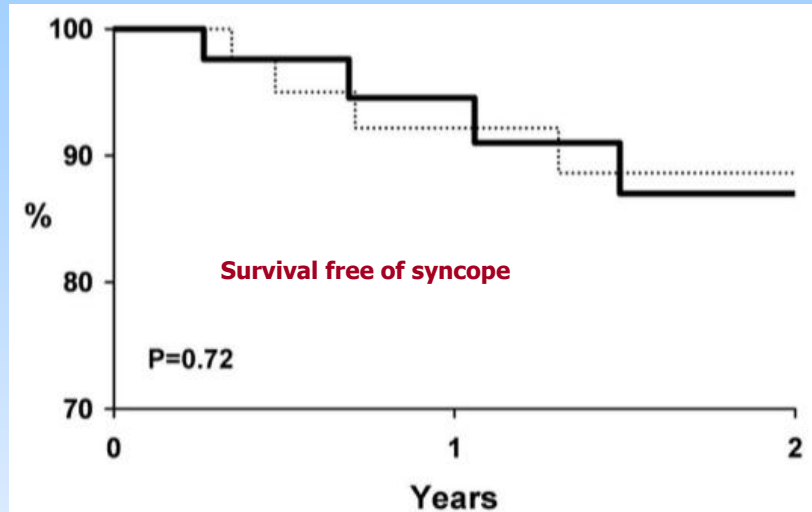
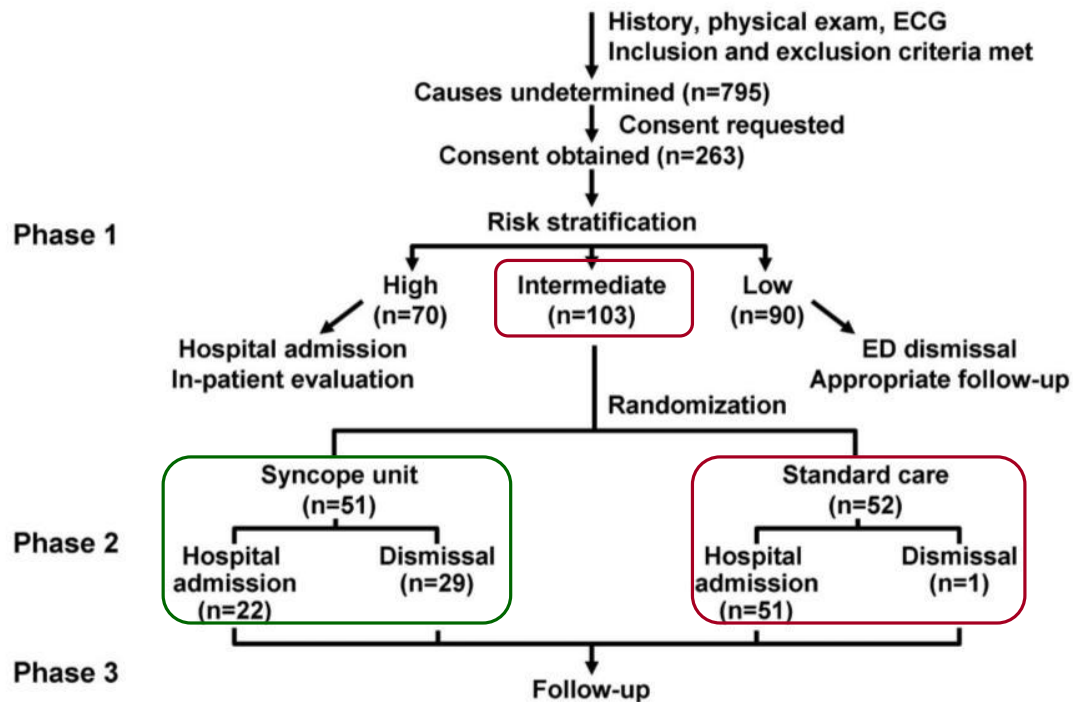
Faint-and-Fall Unit / University of Utah

Tests and Consultations	Standardized n=154 (%)	Conventional n=100 (%)	P value
Orthostatic BP measurement	152 (99%)	24 (24%)	0.001
Carotid sinus massage	40 (26%)	0 (0%)	0.001
Electrocardiogram	152 (99%)	85 (85%)	0.001
Echocardiogram	141 (92%)	62 (62%)	0.001
Tilt testing	67 (44%)	7 (7%)	0.001
Holter monitor	25 (16%)	21 (21%)	0.40
External loop recorder	17 (11%)	20 (20%)	0.07
Implantable loop recorder	11 (7%)	3 (3%)	0.25
Stress test	15 (10%)	11 (11%)	0.83
Electrophysiological study	6 (4%)	3 (3%)	1.0
Coronary angiography	4 (3%)	5 (5%)	0.32
Brain CT/MRI scan	4 (3%)	22 (22%)	0.001
Neurological consultation	5 (3%)	20 (20%)	0.001



SEED-Study: Diagnostic yield and hospital admission @ ED-based S.U.

ED Evaluation for Syncope (3,502 Patients During Study Period)



Diagnostic improvement and cost lowering of a pediatric syncope unit

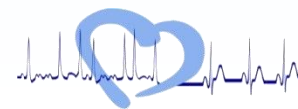
Characteristics of the study population

	2012-2013 (n = 578)	2014-2015 (n = 831)	2016-2017 (n = 869)	P value
Patient characteristics				
Female (%)	300 (51.9)	478 (57.5)	455 (52.4)	.047
Age, y (mean \pm SD)	14.8 \pm 6.7	13.5 \pm 5.8	11.5 \pm 4.7	<.0001
Admission and hospitalization				
Time from ED to cardiac evaluation (h)*	10 (0-60)	6 (0-40)	4 (0-21)	<.0001
ED stay (d)*	2 (0.5-10)	2 (0.5-6)	2 (0.5-6)	.241
Hospitalization rate (%)	110 (19)	25 (3)	16 (1.9)	<.006
Hospitalization days	10.3 \pm 3.2	3.9 \pm 1.1	3.9 \pm 1.4	<.0001
Discharge (%)	49.1	66.3	84.5	<.0001
Tests performed				
Day hospital (%)	48.2	31.3	13.3	<.0001
Censored (%)	2.3	1.3	0.3	<.0001
Neurologic consultation (%)	0.4	0.6	1.1	<.0001
No. of diagnostic tests [†]	3 (0-5)	2 (0-5)	2 (0-5)	<.0001
Tilt test (%)	27.7	12.5	6.3	<.0001
Stress test (%)	25.1	22.4	10.7	<.0001
Electrocardiogram Holter monitoring (%)	42	43	24.1	<.0001
Cardiac imaging (Echo/CMR/CT) (%)	36.2	21.3	8.7	<.0001
EPS/TAP (%)	4.8	1.7	1.2	<.0001

CMR, cardiac magnetic resonance imaging; CT, computed tomography; Echo, echocardiography; EPS, electrophysiological study; TAP, transesophageal atrial pacing.

*Median (IQR).

[†]Median (minimum and maximum values).

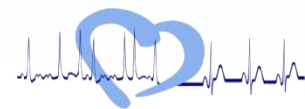


Diagnostic improvement and cost lowering of a pediatric syncope unit

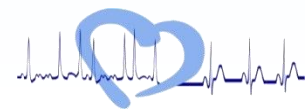
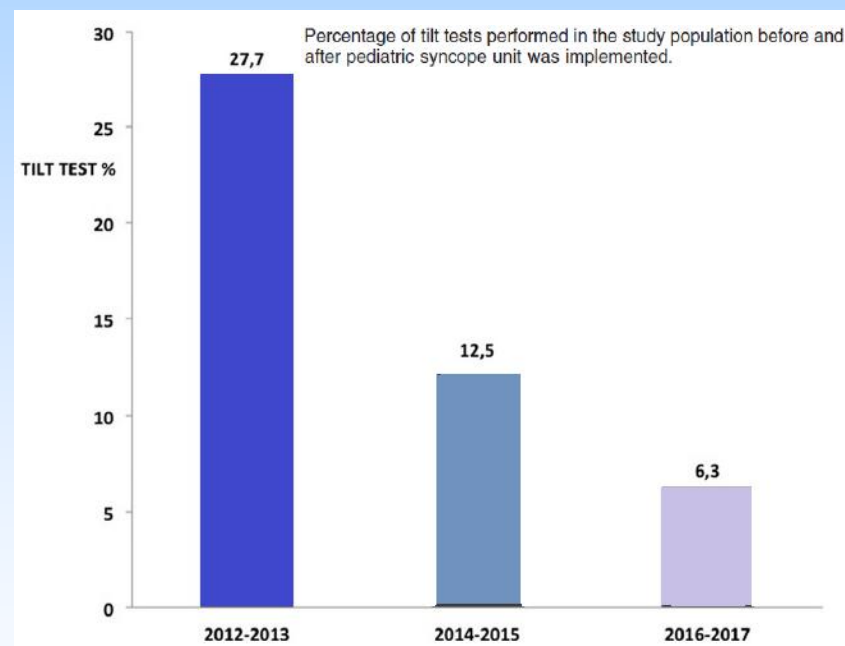
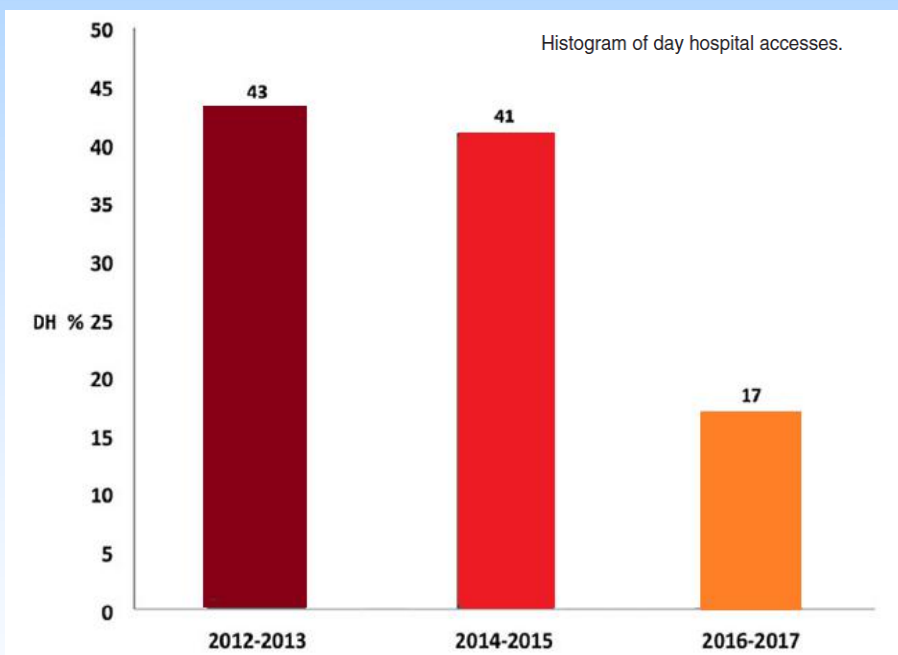
Results of cardiac diagnostic tests before and after pediatric syncope unit was implemented

Diagnostic features	Before pediatric syncope unit 2012-2013 (%)	After pediatric syncope unit 2014-2017 (%)	P value
Positive tilt test	43	57	<.001
Electrocardiogram Holter monitoring abnormalities	41	59	.041
Exercise stress test: ventricular or supraventricular arrhythmias	4	14	.001
EP Test: ventricular arrhythmias	13	41	.024
Cardiac imaging (echo/MRI/CT): cardiac diseases	2	5	.045
24-Hour blood pressure monitoring: hypotension	45	49	.288

EP, electrophysiology.

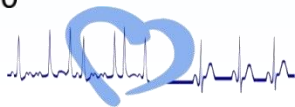
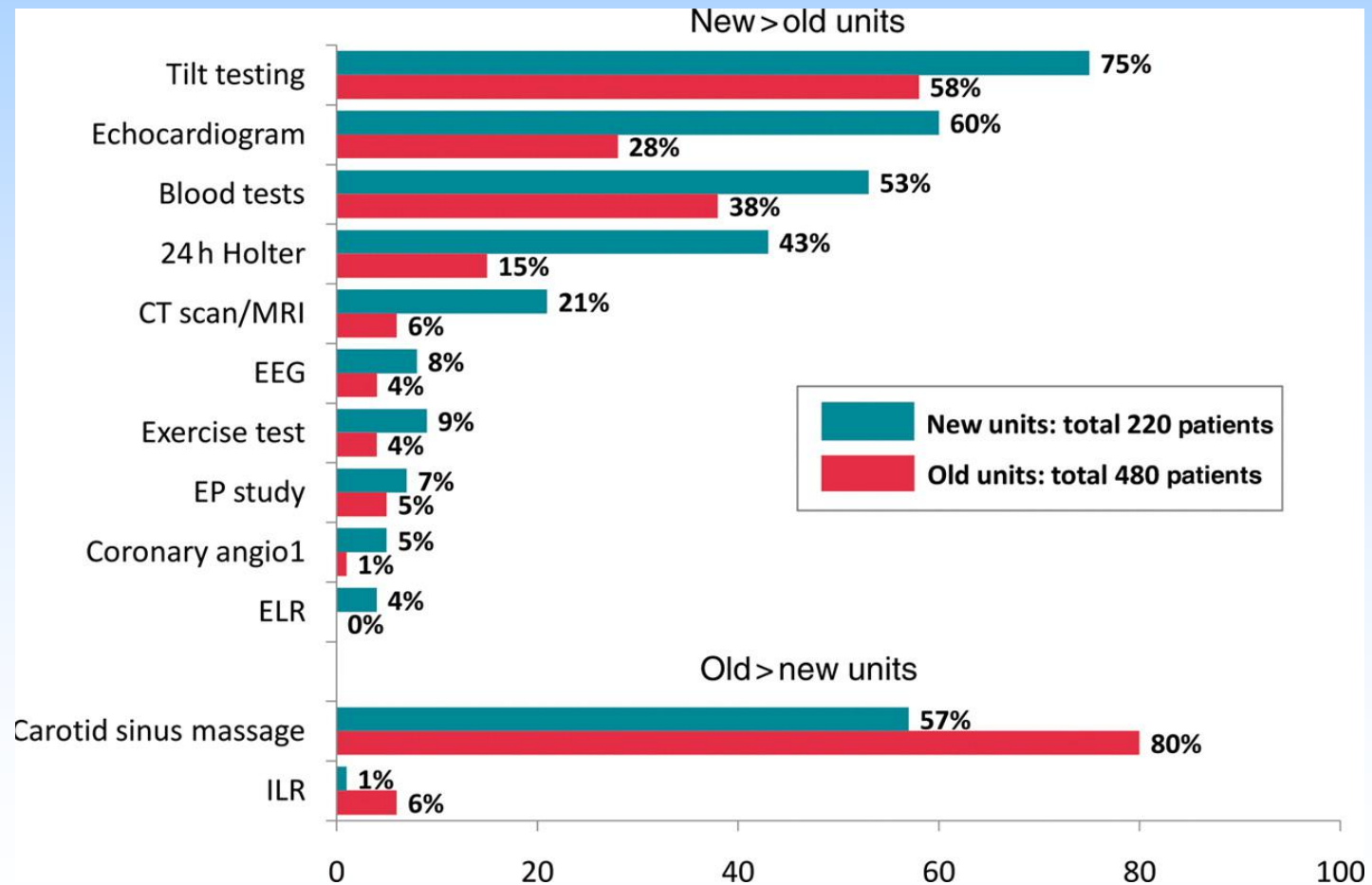


Diagnostic improvement and cost lowering of a pediatric syncope unit



Syncope Unit: *potentials for rationale use of diagnostic tools*

Tests performed (% of total patients) in the new and in the old syncope units.



Summary (1): organizational aspects

- Establishing of – preferably multidisciplinary – TLOC- / Syncope units (S.U.) is useful according to the ESC Guidelines and therefore recommended (no Level of Evidence given)
- In some countries S.U. have thus been systematically introduced.
- There is some evidence that S.U. may reduce unnecessary diagnostic tests; however, cost-effectiveness analysis are warranted.
- Establishing a 'physical' S.U. implies an enormous logistic and financial effort, which can only be realized if syncope workup is adequately reimbursed – (at present not the case in Germany).



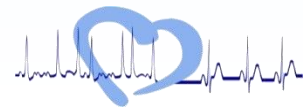
Summary (2): Situation in Germany

- In Germany S.U. are rare.
- However, an ESC-guideline based 'Initial syncope evaluation' and appropriate risk stratification should be a standardized approach in any GP-, internistic, and (obligatory) cardiologic private practice as well as E.R., cardiology / heart rhythm dept., or S.U.
- For this purpose, introducing an 'institutionalized' diagnostic pathway is more than useful and thus recommended, in particular to assure a 'high-quality' standardized approach to syncope history taking!
- Introducing a specialized syncope nurse may be considered.
- Alternatively to a *physical* S.U., a virtual S.U. may be introduced, preferably under guidance of cardiologists, adherent to a predefined structural approach, and strictly based on current ESC guidelines.



Well-structured Syncope workup: Take home

- Adopt at your institution a systematic approach to syncope patients
- Consider introducing a specialized syncope nurse.
- As referring physician: search for an institution that offers such approach



Well-structured Syncope workup: Take home (2)

- Use **'initial syncope evaluation'** to separate low-risk from intermediate- and high-risk patients (risk stratification) – according to guideline
- Keep the **rate of unnecessary hospitalizations low !**
- **AND: do not forget common clinical sense at every stage of syncope work-up**



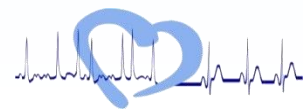
Well-structured Syncope workup: Take home (3)

- And **never forget:**

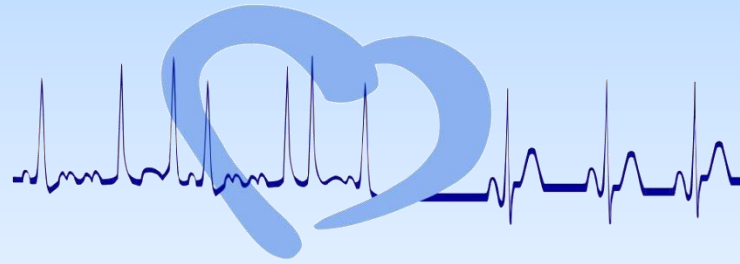
“The secret to being a syncope expert is taking a better history than the referring doctor...”

Paraphrase from Dr. Andrew Krahn

- ... and do it based on our ECS guidelines !



謝謝



*Thank you for your
attention*

ISSUE-3 Daten

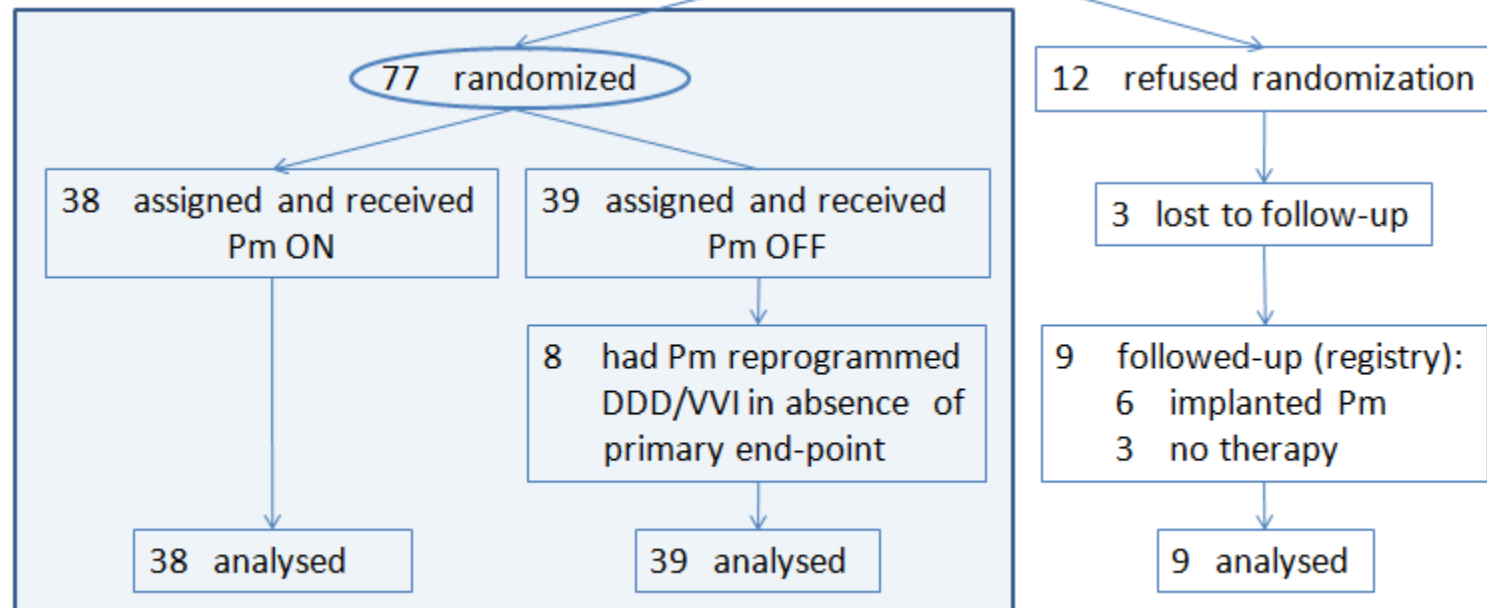


Screening phase

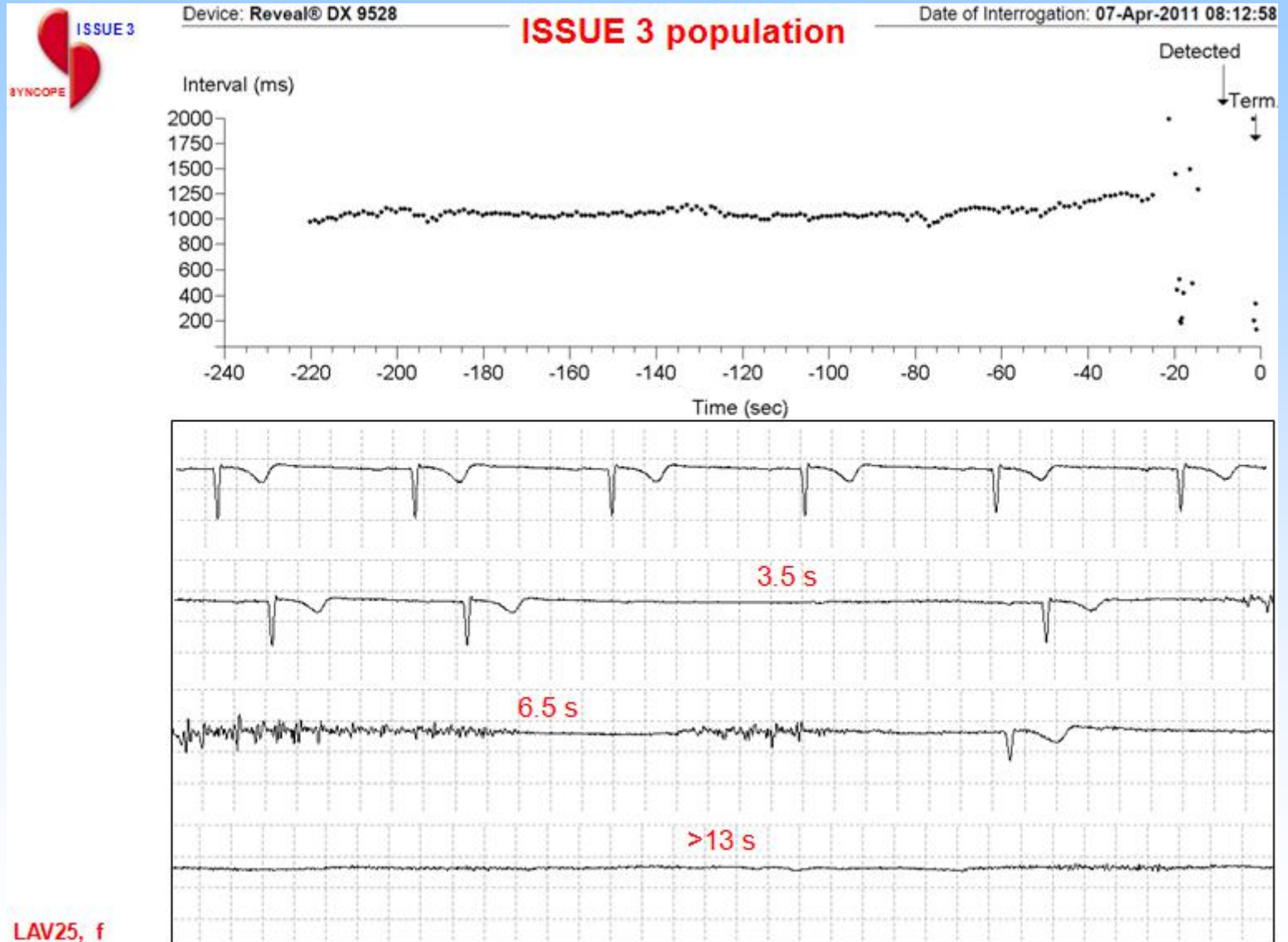
511 met inclusion criteria and received an ILR

Study phase

89 had ECG documentation of:
- syncopal recurrence with asystole of 12 ± 10 s (#72)
or
- non-syncopal asystole of 10 ± 6 s (#17)



ISSUE-3 Daten



ISSUE-3 Daten



Patient characteristics (I)

Characteristics	Pm ON n=38	Pm OFF n=39	Registry n=12
Age, mean	63	63	63
Men	53%	41%	58%
<u>Syncope events:</u>			
- Total events, <u>median</u>	7	8	7
- Events last 2 years, <u>median</u>	4	5	4
- Events last 2 years without <u>prodrome, median</u>	3	3	1
- Age at first syncope, mean	48	45	41
- Interval between first and last episode, median	8	8	17
- <u>History of presyncope</u>	50%	56%	75%
- <u>Hospitalization for syncope</u>	63%	64%	58%
- Injuries related to fainting:			
- Major (fractures, concussion)	5%	10%	17%
- Minor (bruises, contusion, hematoma)	39%	46%	50%
- Typical vasovagal/situational presentation	47%	41%	58%
- <u>Atypical presentation (uncertain)</u>	53%	59%	42%

ISSUE-3 Daten



Patient characteristics (II)

Characteristics	Pm ON n=38	Pm OFF n=39	Registry n=12.
-----------------	---------------	----------------	-------------------

ILR documentation (eligibility criteria):

- Syncope and <u>asystole</u> ≥ 3 s	79%	82%	77%
- Non-syncopal pause ≥ 6 s	21%	18%	17%
- Mean length of <u>asystole</u> , s	10	12	12

<u>Tilt testing</u> : performed	87%	82%	83%
- Positive of those performed	42%	72%	50%

Medical history

- <u>Structural heart disease</u>	13%	10%	0%
- <u>Hypertension</u>	50%	49%	33%
- <u>Diabetes</u>	11%	10%	8%

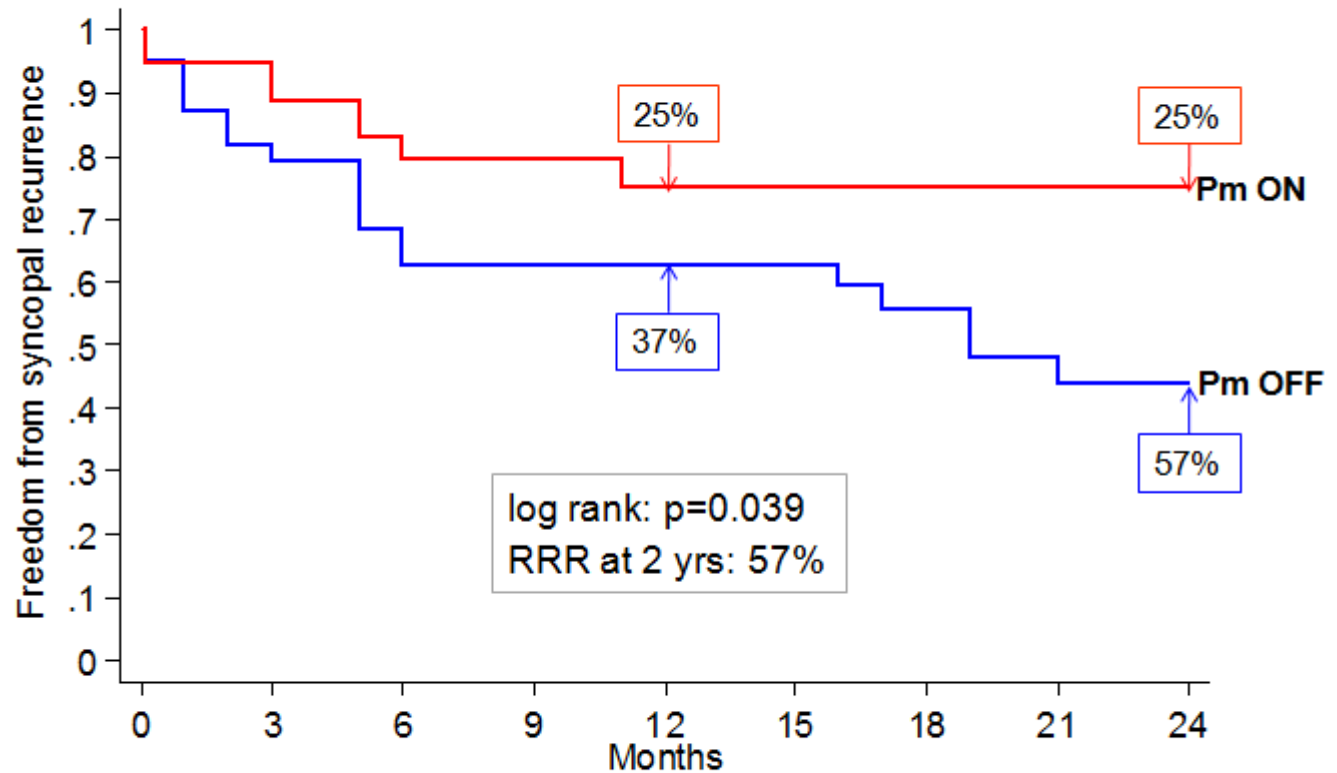
Concomitant medications

- <u>Anti-hypertensive</u>	47%	31%	25%
- <u>Psychiatric</u>	11%	5%	0%
- <u>Any other drugs</u>	26%	25%	25%

ISSUE-3 Daten



First syncope recurrence (intention-to-treat)



Number at risk

Pm OFF	39	31	25	21	21	18	15	12	8
Pm ON	38	32	27	22	16	14	13	13	11

Der „ISSUE-3“-Patient

Features:

- Mittleres Alter bei Präsentation: >60 years
- Anamnese rezidiv. Synkopen, beginnend mittl.oder fortgeschr. Alter
- Schwere klinische Präsentation (z.B. Verletzungen), mit Notwendigkeit der Behandlung (hohes Risiko und/oder hohe Synkopenfrequenz)
- Atypische Präsentation ohne Prodromalsymptome
- Häufige Verletzungen ohne Vorwarnungen
- ILR-Dokumenation langer Asystolien (i.Mittel 11 sek.)

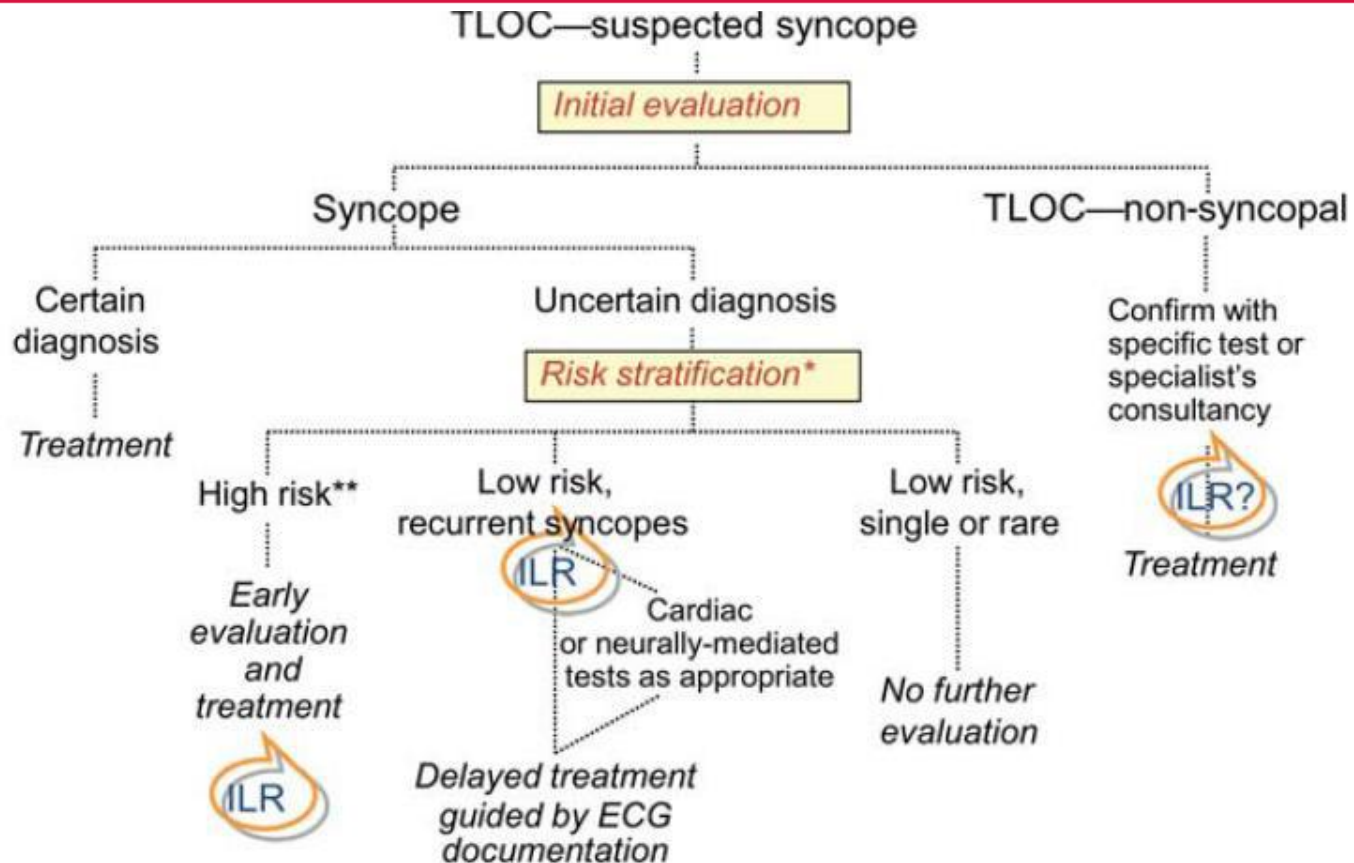
Wahrscheinliche Prävalenz:

9% von Pat mit reflektorischer Synkope in einer “Syncope Unit”

EHRA POSITION PAPER

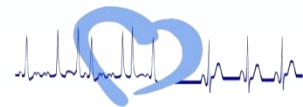
Indications for the use of diagnostic implantable and external ECG loop recorders

Europace (2009) **11**, 671–687
doi:10.1093/europace/eup097

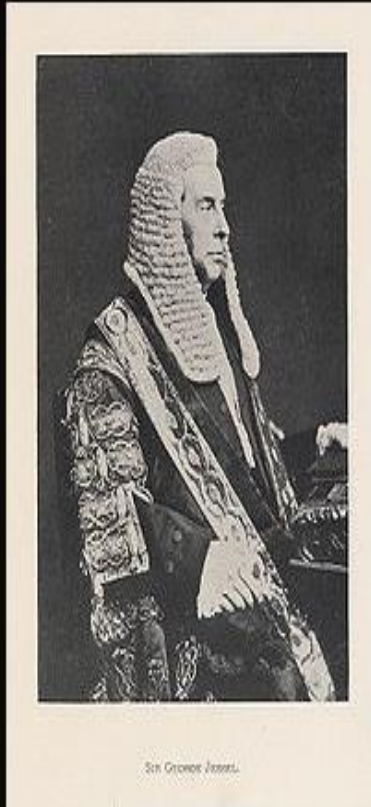


* May require laboratory investigations

** Risk of short-term serious events



THANK YOU !

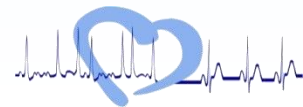


The human brain starts working the moment you are born and never stops until you stand up to speak in public.

(George Jessel)

1824 - 1883

Judge, Master of the Rolls





ESC – updated syncope guidelines 2018

Forms of Syncope in which ANS plays a pathogenic role

Reflex (neurally mediated) syncope

Vasovagal:

- orthostatic VVS: standing, less common sitting
- emotional: fear, pain (somatic or visceral), instrumentation, blood phobia

Situational:

- micturition
- gastrointestinal stimulation (swallow, defaecation)
- cough, sneeze
- post-exercise
- others (e.g. laughing, brass instrument playing)

Carotid sinus syndrome

Non-classical forms (without prodromes and/or without apparent triggers and/or atypical presentation)

Syncope due to OH

Note that hypotension may be exacerbated by venous pooling during exercise (exercise-induced), after meals (postprandial hypotension), and after prolonged bed rest

(deconditioning).

Drug-induced OH (most common cause of OH):

- e.g. vasodilators, diuretics, phenothiazine, antidepressants

Volume depletion:

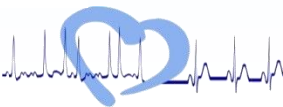
- haemorrhage, diarrhoea, vomiting, etc.

Primary autonomic failure (neurogenic OH):

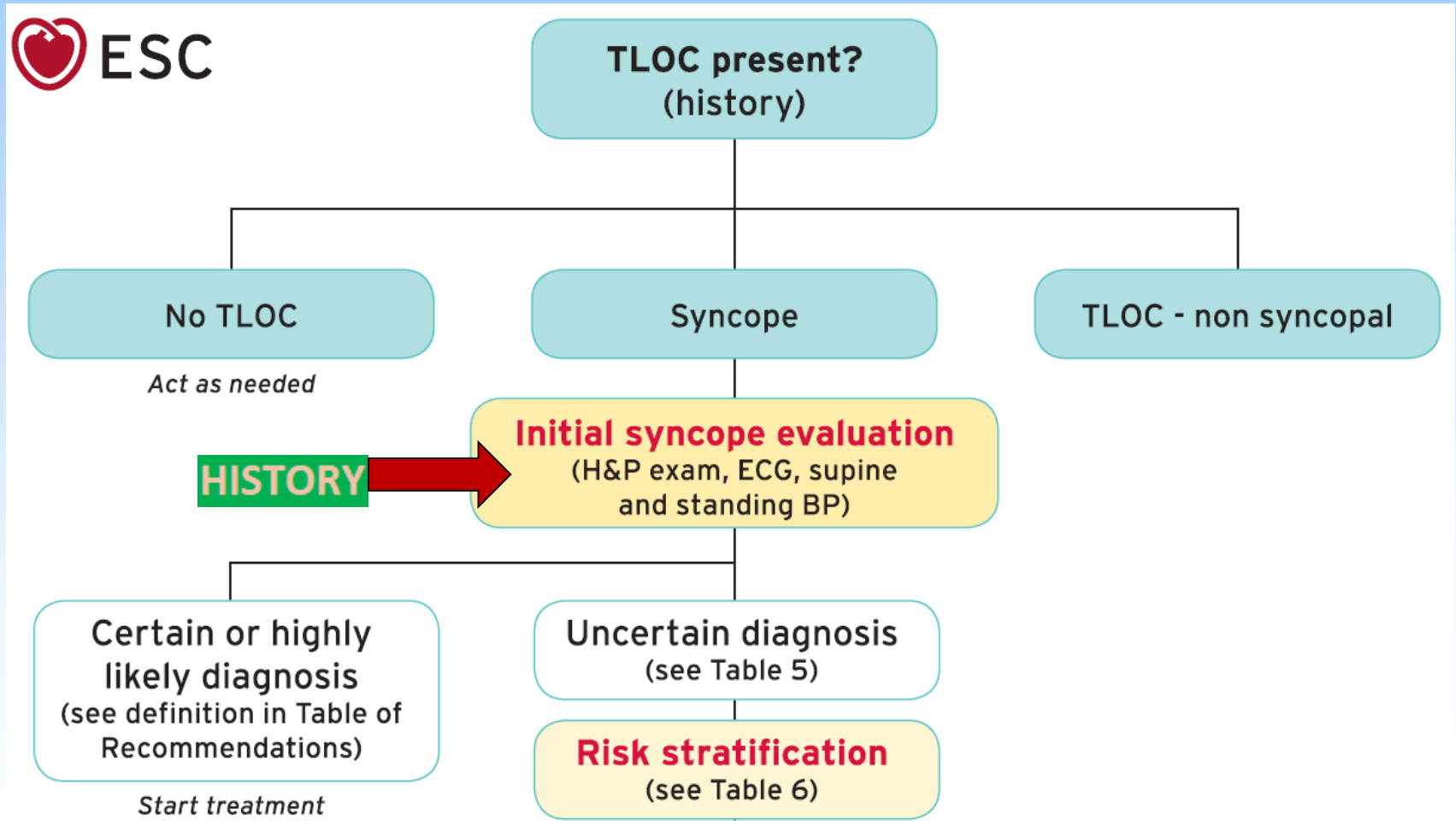
- pure autonomic failure, multiple system atrophy, Parkinson's disease, dementia with Lewy bodies

Secondary autonomic failure (neurogenic OH):

- diabetes, amyloidosis, spinal cord injuries, auto-immune autonomic neuropathy, paraneoplastic autonomic neuropathy, kidney failure



What is the most important „autonomic test“ ??



How to approach the patient with syncope ?

Talk to the patient !!

History, history, history

- Paraphrase from Dr. Andrew Krahn:

“The secret to being a syncope expert is taking a better history than the referring doctor...”

A structured history and physical exam has a diagnostic yield of >50%



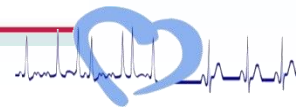
Calgary Syncope Symptom Score (CSSS)

Individual items of the Calgary Score

Question	Points (if yes)
1. Is there a history of at least one of bifascicular block, asystole, supraventricular tachycardia, diabetes?	-5
2. At times have bystanders noted you to be blue during your faint?	-4
3. Did your syncope start when you were 35 years of age or older?	-3
4. Do you remember anything about being unconscious?	-2
5. Do you have lightheaded spells or faint with prolonged sitting or standing?	1
6. Do you sweat or feel warm before a faint?	2
7. Do you have lightheaded spells or faint with pain or in medical settings?	3
	+ _____
	Total point score

The patient has vasovagal syncope if the total point score is ≥ -2 .

Patients with known cardiomyopathy and myocardial infarction are excluded from analysis.





ESC – updated syncope guidelines 2018

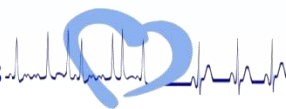
Clinical features suggesting an ANS-related diagnosis on initial evaluation

Reflex syncope

- Long history of recurrent syncope, in particular occurring before the age of 40 years
- After unpleasant sight, sound, smell, or pain
- Prolonged standing
- During meal
- Being in crowded and/or hot places
- Autonomic activation before syncope: pallor, sweating, and/or nausea/vomiting
- With head rotation or pressure on carotid sinus (as in tumours, shaving, tight collars)
- Absence of heart disease

Syncope due to OH

- While or after standing
- Prolonged standing
- Standing after exertion
- Post-prandial hypotension
- Temporal relationship with start or changes of dosage of vasodepressive drugs or diuretics leading to hypotension
- Presence of autonomic neuropathy or parkinsonism

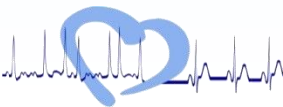



ESC – updated syncope guidelines 2018

Criteria for ANS involvement from history taking

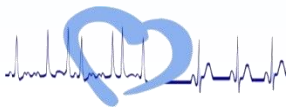
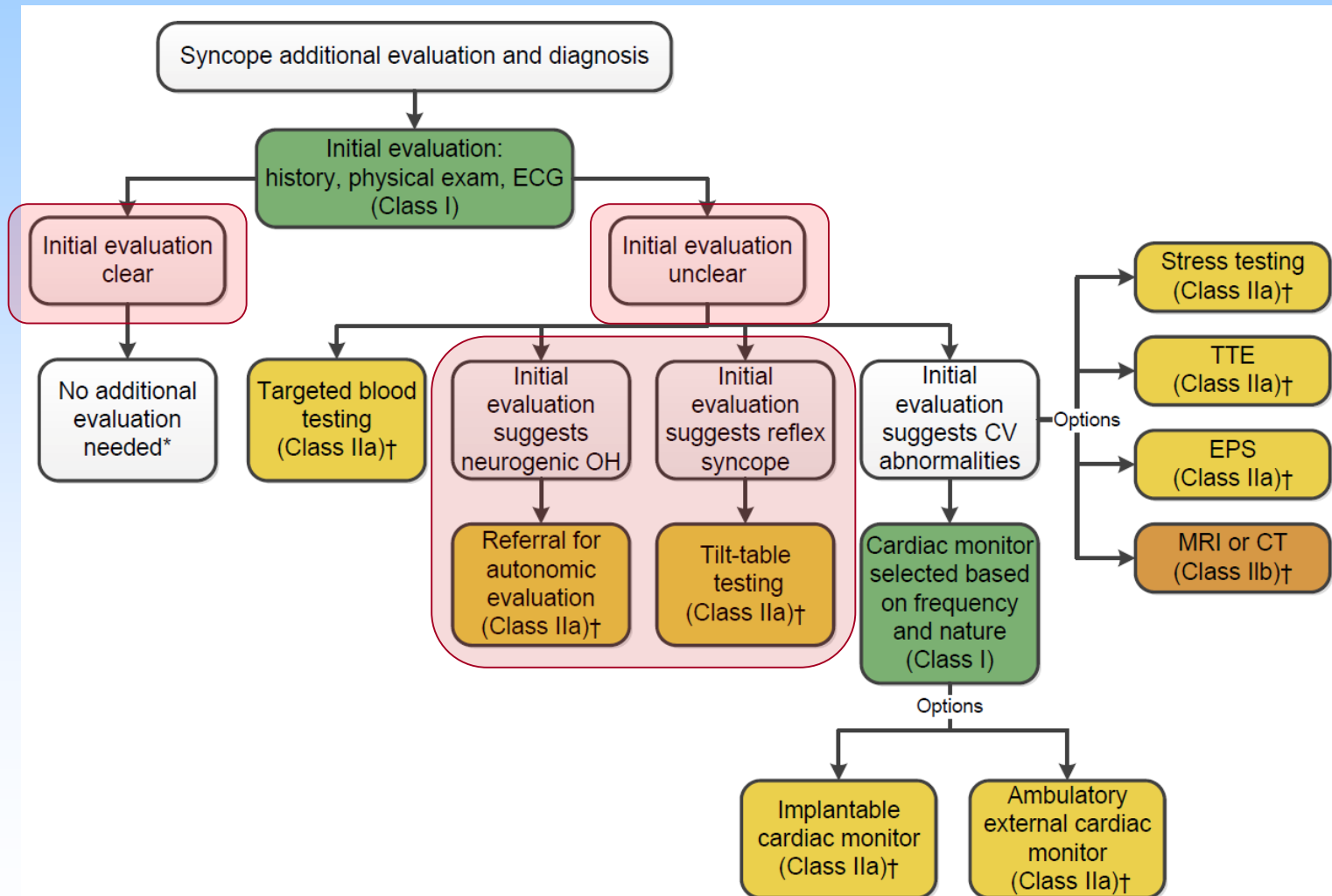
Diagnostic criteria with initial evaluation

Recommendations	Class ^a	Level ^b
Reflex syncope and OH		
VVS is highly probable if syncope is precipitated by pain, fear, or standing, and is associated with typical progressive prodrome (pallor, sweating, and/or nausea). ^{8,13–17}	I	C
Situational reflex syncope is highly probable if syncope occurs during or immediately after specific triggers, listed in <i>Table 3</i> . ^{8,13–17}	I	C
Syncope due to OH is confirmed when syncope occurs while standing and there is concomitant significant OH. ^{18–24}	I	C
In the absence of the above criteria, reflex syncope and OH should be considered likely when the features that suggest reflex syncope or OH are present and the features that suggest cardiac syncope are absent (see <i>Table 5</i>).	IIa	C



2017 ACC/AHA/HRS Syncope Guidelines

Flowchart after „initial evaluation“



ESC - 2018: Specific autonomic tests

ORTHOSTATIC CHALLENGE

- ACTIVE STANDING
- HEAD-UP TILT TABLE TESTING (HUT)
- Carotid sinus massage (supine / during HUT)

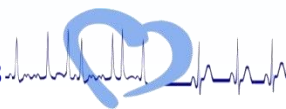




ESC - 2018: Specific autonomic tests

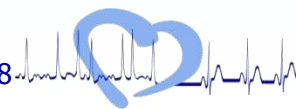
ACTIVE STANDING

		History of syncope and orthostatic complaints	
		Highly suggestive of OH: syncope and pre-syncope are present during standing, absent while lying, and less severe or absent while sitting; a predilection for the morning; sitting or lying down must help; complaints may get worse immediately after exercise, after meals or in high temperatures; no "autonomic activation"	Possibly due to OH: not all of the features highly suggestive of OH are present
Supine and standing BP measurement	Symptomatic abnormal BP fall	Syncope is due to OH (Class I)	Syncope is likely due to OH (Class IIa)
	Asymptomatic abnormal BP fall	Syncope is likely due to OH (Class IIa)	Syncope may be due to OH (Class IIb)
	No abnormal BP drop	Unproven	Unproven




ESC - 2018: Specific autonomic tests
ACTIVE STANDING

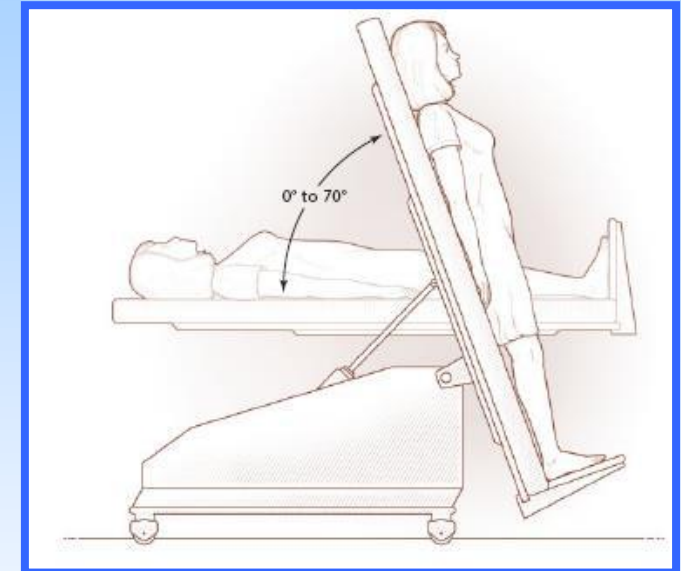
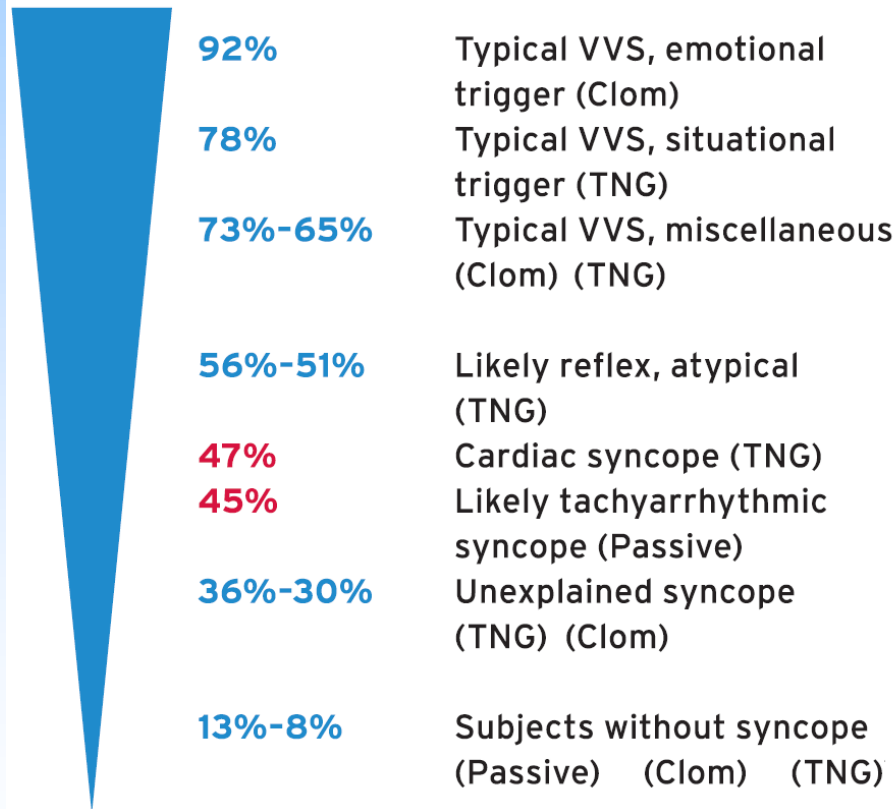
Recommendations	Class ^a	Level ^b
Indications		
Intermittent determination by sphygmomanometer of BP and HR while supine and during active standing for 3 min are indicated at initial syncope evaluation. ^{20,103,104}	I	C
Continuous beat-to-beat non-invasive BP and HR measurement may be preferred when short-lived BP variations are suspected, such as in initial OH. ^{20,103,104}	IIb	C
Diagnostic criteria		
Syncope due to OH is confirmed when there is a fall in systolic BP from baseline value ≥ 20 mmHg or diastolic BP ≥ 10 mmHg, or a decrease in systolic BP to < 90 mmHg that reproduces spontaneous symptoms. ^{6,20,103,104}	I	C
Syncope due to OH should be considered likely when there is an asymptomatic fall in systolic BP from baseline value ≥ 20 mmHg or diastolic BP ≥ 10 mmHg, or a decrease in systolic BP to < 90 mmHg, and symptoms (from history) are consistent with OH. ^{6,20,103,104}	IIa	C
Syncope due to OH should be considered likely when there is a symptomatic fall in systolic BP from baseline value ≥ 20 mmHg or diastolic BP ≥ 10 mmHg, or a decrease in systolic BP to < 90 mmHg, and not all of the features (from history) are suggestive of OH. ^{6,20,103,104}	IIa	C
POTS should be considered likely when there is an orthostatic HR increase (> 30 b.p.m. or to > 120 b.p.m. within 10 min of active standing) in the absence of OH that reproduces spontaneous symptoms. ^{6,20,103,104}	IIa	C
Syncope due to OH may be considered possible when there is an asymptomatic fall in systolic BP from baseline value ≥ 20 mmHg or diastolic BP ≥ 10 mmHg, or a decrease in systolic BP to < 90 mmHg, and symptoms (from history) are less consistent with OH. ^{6,20,103,104}	IIb	C



ESC - 2018: Specific autonomic tests

Tilt Table Testing

Tilt testing: positivity rate

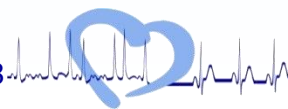




ESC - 2018: Specific autonomic tests

Tilt Table Testing

Recommendations	Class ^a	Level ^b
Indications		
Tilt testing should be considered in patients with suspected reflex syncope, OH, POTS, or PPS. ^{23,24,105–109,111–117}	IIa	B
Tilt testing may be considered to educate patients to recognize symptoms and learn physical manoeuvres. ^{119–121}	IIb	B
Diagnostic criteria		
Reflex syncope, OH, POTS, or PPS should be considered likely if tilt testing reproduces symptoms along with the characteristic circulatory pattern of these conditions. ^{23,24,105–109,111–117}	IIa	B

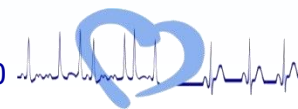


2017 ACC/AHA/HRS Syncope Guidelines

Tilt Table Testing

Recommendations for Tilt-Table Testing

COR	LOE	RECOMMENDATIONS
Ia	B-R	If the diagnosis is unclear after initial evaluation, tilt-table testing can be useful for patients with suspected VVS (208-213).
Ia	B-NR	Tilt-table testing can be useful for patients with syncope and suspected delayed OH when initial evaluation is not diagnostic (218,219).
Ia	B-NR	Tilt-table testing is reasonable to distinguish convulsive syncope from epilepsy in selected patients (222-225).
Ia	B-NR	Tilt-table testing is reasonable to establish a diagnosis of pseudosyncope (227-229).
III: No Benefit	B-R	Tilt-table testing is not recommended to predict a response to medical treatments for VVS (230,231).

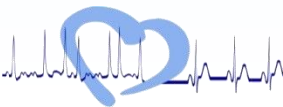




ESC - 2018: Specific autonomic tests

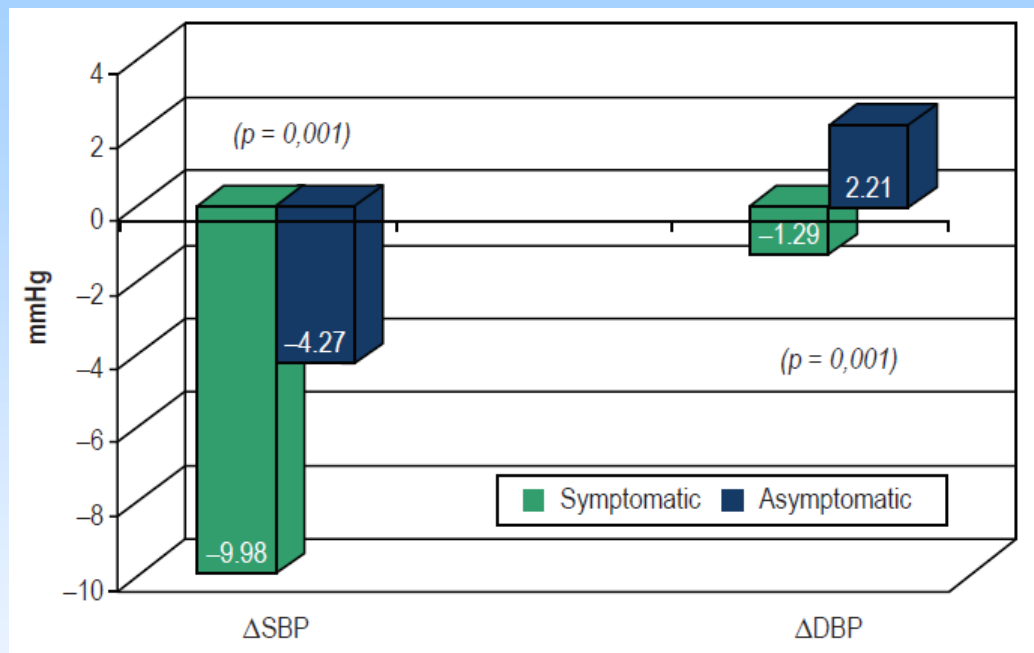
Carotid sinus massage

Recommendations	Class ^a	Level ^b
Indications		
CSM is indicated in patients >40 years of age with syncope of unknown origin compatible with a reflex mechanism. ⁹²⁻⁹⁴	I	B
Diagnostic criteria		
CSS is confirmed if CSM causes bradycardia (asystole) and/or hypotension that reproduce spontaneous symptoms, and patients have clinical features compatible with a reflex mechanism of syncope. ^{89,90,92,93,98-102}	I	B
Additional advice and clinical perspectives		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● History of syncope and its reproduction by CSM defines CSS; positive CSM without a history of syncope defines carotid sinus hypersensitivity.^{89,90,92,93} Carotid sinus hypersensitivity in patients with unexplained syncope may be a non-specific finding because it is present in $\leq 40\%$ of older populations and should be used with caution for diagnosis of the mechanism of syncope. ● CSM should be performed with the patient in the supine and upright positions, and with continuous beat-to-beat BP monitoring. This may be more readily performed in the tilt laboratory.⁹⁰ ● Although neurological complications are very rare,^{90,95-97} the risk of provocation of TIA with the massage suggests that CSM should be undertaken with caution in patients with previous TIA, stroke, or known carotid stenosis >70%. 		



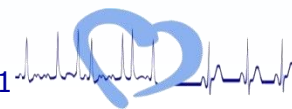
Carotid sinus massage

A matter of debate !



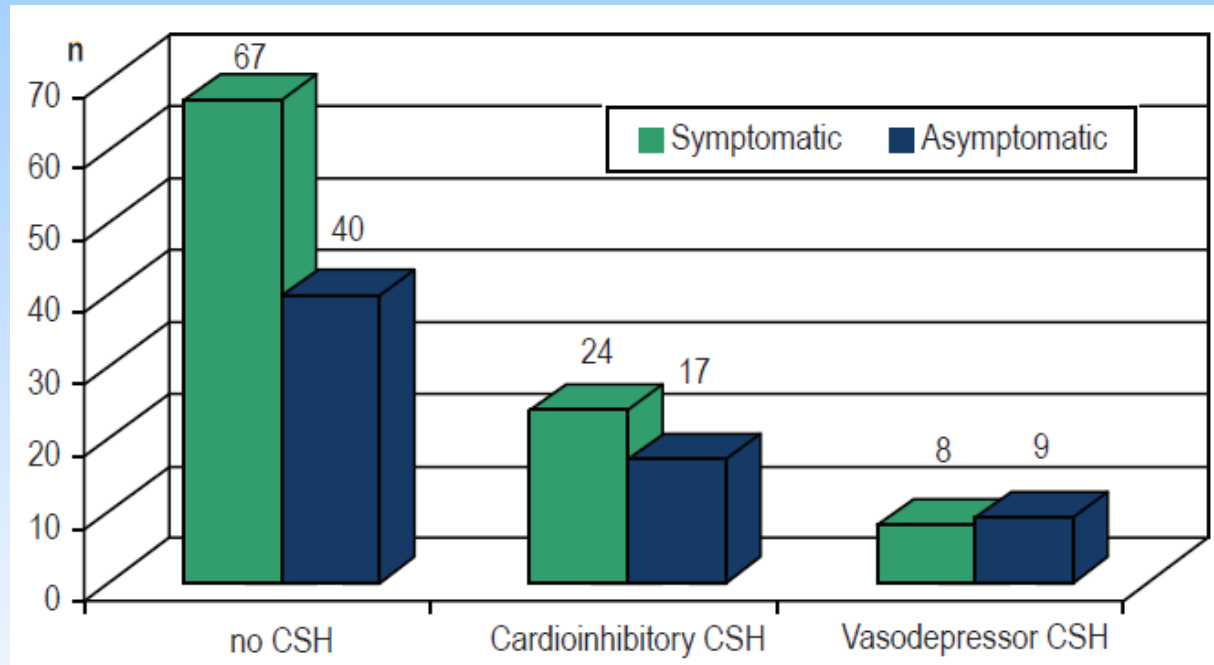
Proportions of patients with systolic blood pressure (SBP) ≤ 85 mmHg in the series of carotid sinus massage (CSM).

	Minimum SBP ≤ 85 mmHg during CSM				
	Right CSM 1 n (%)	Right CSM 2 n (%)	Left CSM 1 n (%)	Left CSM 2 n (%)	Total n (%)
Asymptomatic	24 (36.3)	24 (36.3)	20 (30.3)	16 (30.3)	66 (100)
Symptomatic	33 (33.3)	34 (34.3)	26 (26.2)	29 (29.2)	99 (100)



Carotid sinus massage

A matter of debate !



No differences in the response to CSM were demonstrated between patients with and without syncope or presyncope. Carotid sinus hypersensitivity may be an unspecific condition in the evaluation of syncope.

Differently from the results observed in the search of OH, similar responses were obtained during CSM in symptomatic and asymptomatic groups. This finding perhaps reinforces the hypotheses that CSH is not a diagnostic marker of a clinical syndrome.

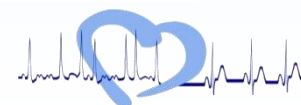
Thus, a positive test for CSH may not necessarily determine the cause of fainting, leaving the clinician with the difficult decision whether to accept the test as a confirmation of the cause of syncope, which sometimes might induce an incorrect diagnosis.



ANS-testing @ Syncope-Unit: U.S.

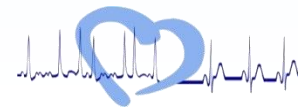
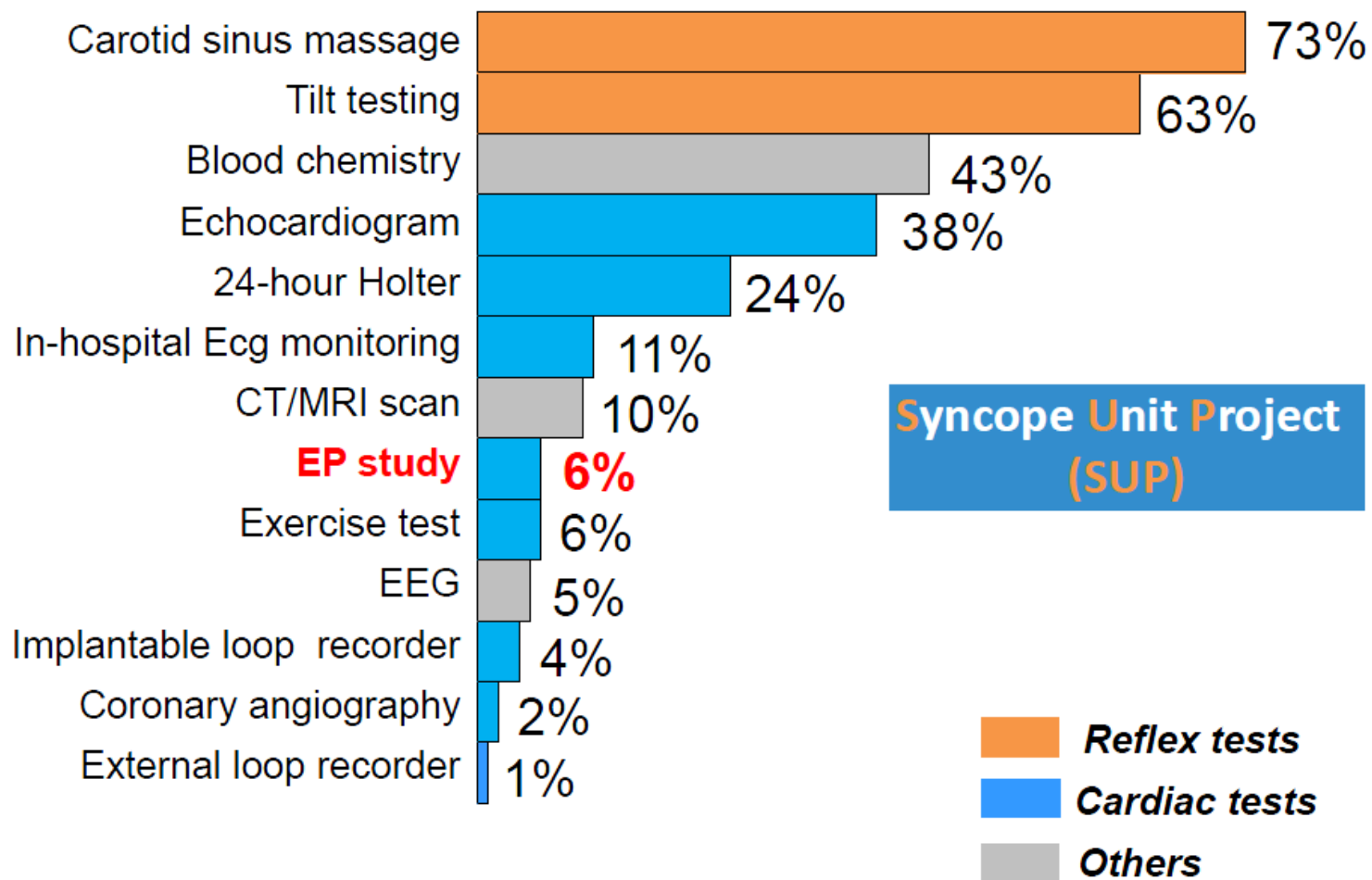
Faint-and-Fall Unit / University of Utah

Tests and Consultations	Standardized n=154 (%)	Conventional n=100 (%)	P value
Orthostatic BP measurement	152 (99%)	24 (24%)	0.001
Carotid sinus massage	40 (26%)	0 (0%)	0.001
Electrocardiogram	152 (99%)	85 (85%)	0.001
Echocardiogram	141 (92%)	62 (62%)	0.001
Tilt testing	67 (44%)	7 (7%)	0.001
Holter monitor	25 (16%)	21 (21%)	0.40
External loop recorder	17 (11%)	20 (20%)	0.07
Implantable loop recorder	11 (7%)	3 (3%)	0.25
Stress test	15 (10%)	11 (11%)	0.83
Electrophysiological study	6 (4%)	3 (3%)	1.0
Coronary angiography	4 (3%)	5 (5%)	0.32
Brain CT/MRI scan	4 (3%)	22 (22%)	0.001
Neurological consultation	5 (3%)	20 (20%)	0.001



ANS-testing @ Syncope-Unit: Italy/E.U.

Tests in 700 patients (after initial evaluation)




ESC - 2018: Specific autonomic tests

Basic Autonomic Function Tests

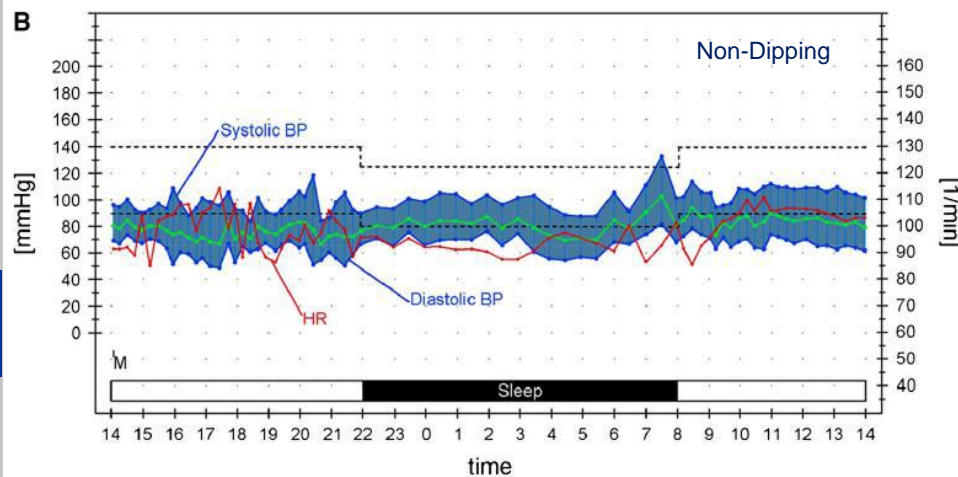
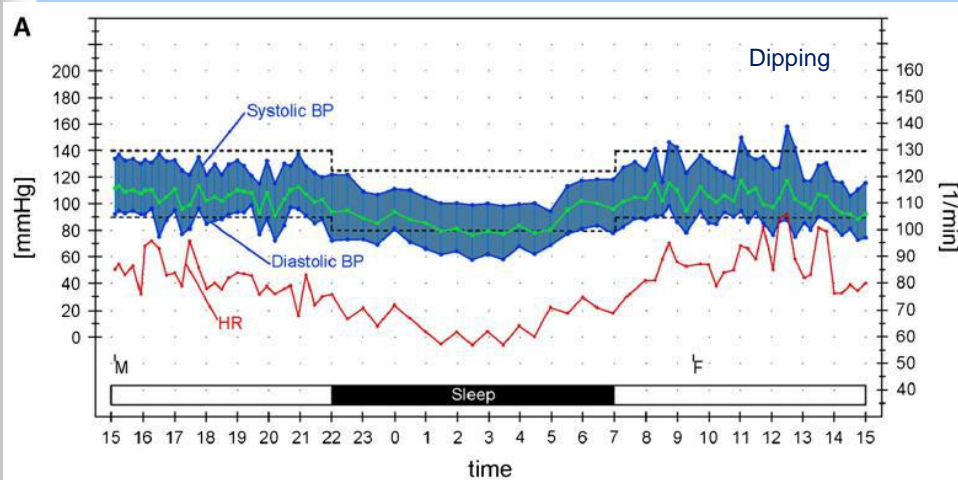
Recommendations	Class ^a	Level ^b
Valsalva manoeuvre		
Valsalva manoeuvre should be considered for the assessment of autonomic function in patients with suspected neurogenic OH. ^{138–143}	IIa	B
Valsalva manoeuvre may be considered for confirming the hypotensive tendency induced by some forms of situational syncope, e.g. coughing, brass instrument playing, singing, and weightlifting. ¹⁴⁴	IIb	C
Deep-breathing test		
Deep-breathing tests should be considered for the assessment of autonomic function in patients with suspected neurogenic OH. ^{142,143,146,147}	IIa	B
Other autonomic function tests		
Other autonomic function tests (30:15 ratio, cold pressure test, sustained hand grip test, and mental arithmetic test) may be considered for the assessment of autonomic function in patients with suspected neurogenic OH. ^{13,142,143,147}	IIb	C
ABPM		
ABPM is recommended to detect nocturnal hypertension in patients with autonomic failure. ^{140,148–151}	I	B
ABPM should be considered to detect and monitor the degree of OH and supine hypertension in daily life in patients with autonomic failure. ^{152,153}	IIa	C
ABPM and HBPM may be considered to detect whether BP is abnormally low during episodes suggestive of orthostatic intolerance.	IIb	C



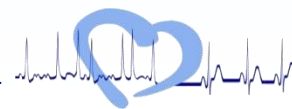
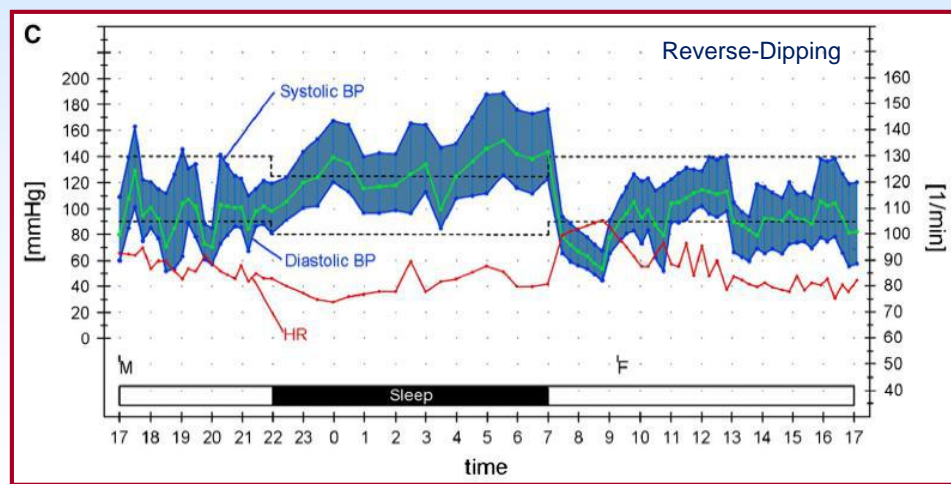


ESC - 2018: Specific autonomic tests

ABPM



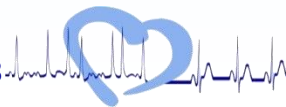
Detecting nocturnal hypertension in Parkinson's disease and multiple system atrophy: proposal of a decision-support algorithm



ESC - 2018: Electrocardiographic monitoring

Is ILR also an 'Autonomic Test' ?

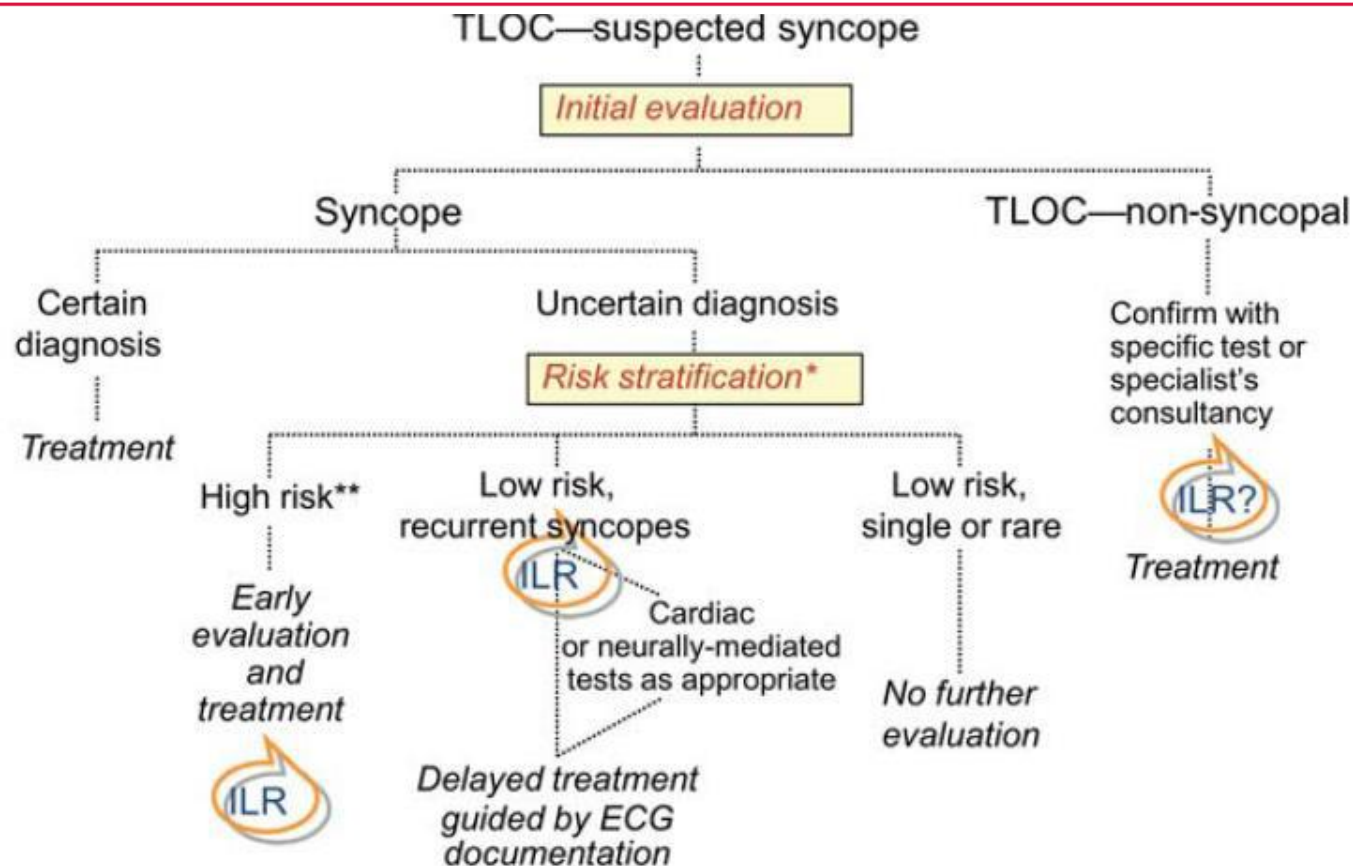
Recommendations	Class ^a	Level ^b
Indications		
ILR is indicated in an early phase of evaluation in patients with recurrent syncope of uncertain origin, absence of high-risk criteria (listed in Table 6), and a high likelihood of recurrence within the battery life of the device. ^{175,176,181–184,202} , <i>Supplementary Data Table 5</i>	I	A
ILR should be considered in patients with suspected or certain reflex syncope presenting with frequent or severe syncopal episodes. ^{184–186}	IIa	B
ILR may be considered in patients with unexplained falls. ^{191–194} , <i>Supplementary Data Table 8</i>	IIb	B
Diagnostic criteria		
Arrhythmic syncope is confirmed when a correlation between syncope and an arrhythmia (bradyarrhythmia or tachyarrhythmia) is detected. ^{172,184–186,188,200}	I	B
In the absence of syncope, arrhythmic syncope should be considered likely when periods of Mobitz II second- or third-degree AV block or a ventricular pause >3 s (with the possible exception of young trained persons, during sleep or rate-controlled atrial fibrillation), or rapid prolonged paroxysmal SVT or VT are detected. ^{185,188,197–199}	IIa	C



EHRA POSITION PAPER

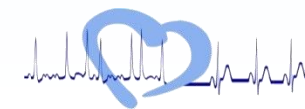
Indications for the use of diagnostic implantable and external ECG loop recorders

Europace (2009) **11**, 671–687
doi:10.1093/europace/eup097



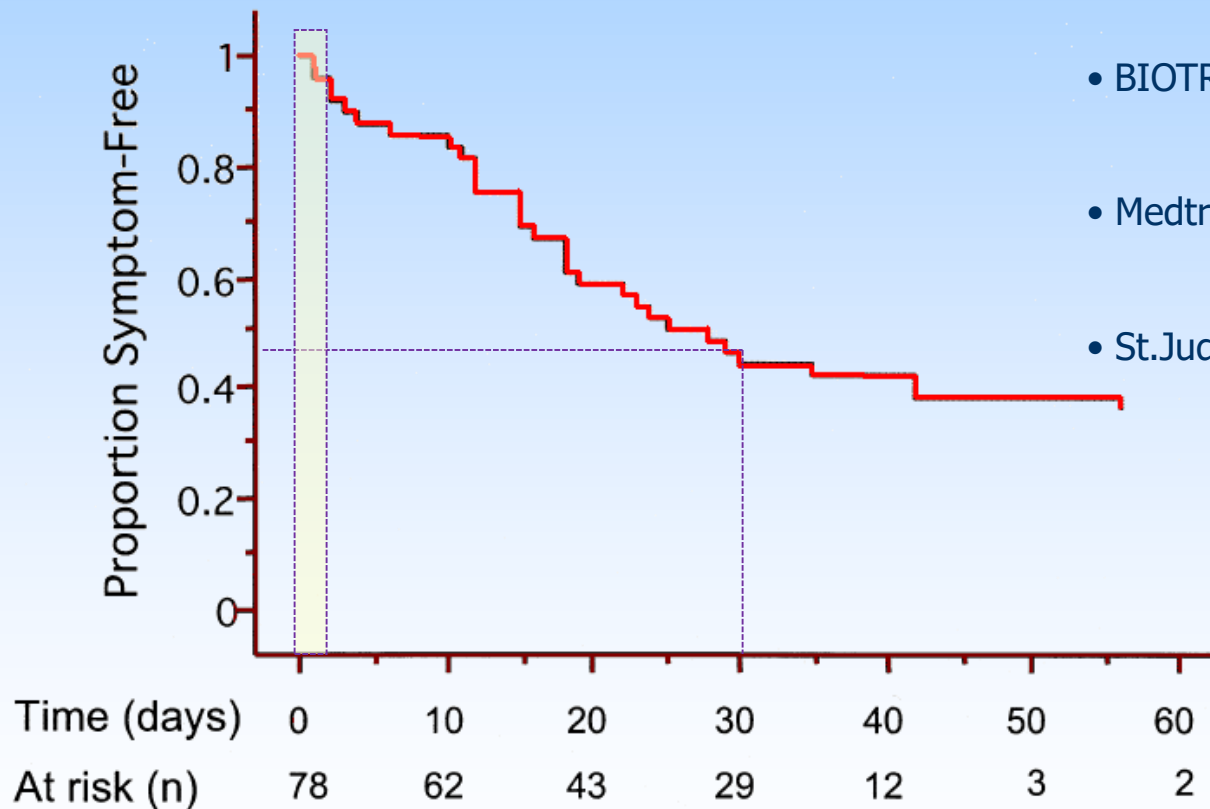
* May require laboratory investigations

** Risk of short-term serious events



Advantage of Loop recording over Holter monitoring

Time to Symptom-Arrhythmia-Correlation



Time to symptom-rhythm correlation in loop recorder patients.

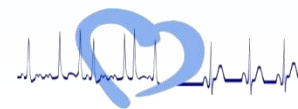
- BIOTRONIK BioMonitor



- Medtronic REVEAL™ XT



- St.Jude Medical CONFIRM™



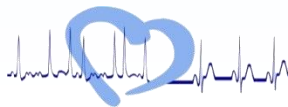
2017 ACC/AHA/HRS Syncope Guidelines

Autonomic evaluation

- The term “Autonomic evaluation” in these GL is only defined in the setting of neurogenic disease / disorders
- Interestingly, specific tests such as carotid sinus massage (CSM), or others, are only marginally discussed in the management section - and CSM is not mentioned in the diagnostic workup section of the GL

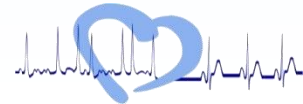
Recommendation for Autonomic Evaluation

COR	LOE	RECOMMENDATION
Ia	C-LD	Referral for autonomic evaluation can be useful to improve diagnostic and prognostic accuracy in selected patients with syncope and known or suspected neurodegenerative disease (219,236-239).



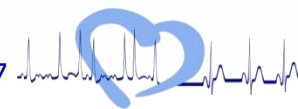
Summary: ANS-testing *What stands in clinical practice ?*

- A detailed and well-structured **history taking** identifies most of syncope cases in which the **ANS plays a pathogenetic role**
- The **active standing** test – obligatory part of initial evaluation in the ESC GL – identifies neurogenic hypotension, other forms of orthostatic intolerance, and POTS.
- Head-up **Tilt Testing** has been downgraded in both – ESC and ACC/AHA/HRS GL – to class IIa.
- Clinical significance of **Carotid Sinus Massage** seems to be divergent; although labeled with a class-I indication, its use – and interpretation – seem to differ among countries and institutions.
- Although not a 'pure' autonomic test, **ILR event monitoring** has emerged as a cornerstone to assess significant (brady-)arrhythmia in ANS-disorders causing syncope



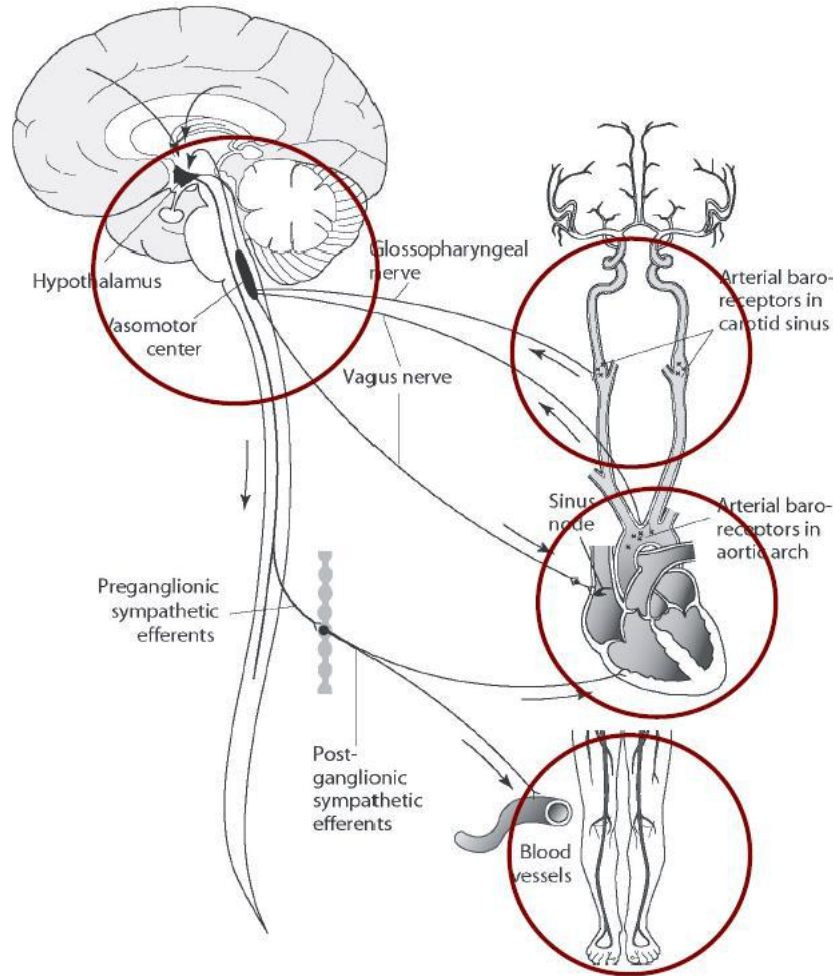
Vor-, Nachteile u. Indikation diverser Methoden der Arrhythmie-Aufzeichnung (b. Palpitationen)

	Event recorders	ELR	ILR
Advantages	Low cost; easy to use	Retrospective and prospective ECG records; possibility to record asymptomatic arrhythmias automatically	Retrospective and prospective ECG records; quite good ECG records; monitoring capability up to 36 months; possibility to record asymptomatic arrhythmias automatically
Drawbacks	Short-lasting arrhythmias are not recorded; arrhythmic triggers are not revealed; poor ECG records	Monitoring cannot be carried out for more than 3–4 weeks; continual maintenance is required; devices are uncomfortable; quite poor ECG recordings	Invasiveness; risk of local complications at the implantation site; higher cost
Indications	Compliant patients; infrequent and fairly long-lasting palpitations unaccompanied by haemodynamic impairment that is likely to hinder use of the device.	Weekly short-lasting palpitations associated to haemodynamic impairment, in very compliant patients	Monthly palpitations associated with haemodynamic impairment; when all other investigations result inconclusive



Why do we faint ?

Reflex syncope
(vasovagal)



Baroreceptor
dysfunction
(CSS)

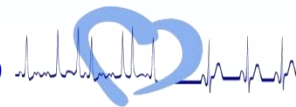
Cardiac arrhythmias

Structural heart and
great vessels disease

Autonomic failure
(Orthostatic hypotension)



Ricci F, De Caterina R, Fedorowski A. JACC 2015; 66(7): 846-60.



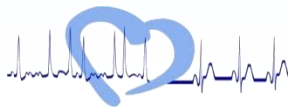
How to adapt the ESC-Guidelines to the national, German situation?

Scientific aspects

- role of autonomic function testing:
screening tests or confirmation tests?
accuracy of the tests?
- role of ILR:
position in the diagnostic cascade
- flexibility in the diagnostic approaches?

Organizational aspects

- implementation of the diagnostic approach
into daily practice
- role of dedicated syncope units



Ökonomische Implikationen

Diagnostische Prozedur	Geschätzte Kosten
Anamnese & Befund	\$160
EKG	\$168
Echokardiographie	\$592
Kipptisch-Untersuchung	\$391
Karotissinus-Massage	\$50
EP Untersuchung	\$3,663
Neurologische Unters.	\$125
HNO-ärztl. Abklärung	\$100
Gesamte Kosten	\$5,249
“Trauma related visit” für 1 Aufenthalt wg. Synkopen-bedingtem Trauma	Geschätzte Kosten
UNTERARMFRAKTUR – „facility cost“	\$111
„Physician costs“	\$260
SCHÜRFWUNDEN Gesicht – „facility cost“	\$111
„Physician costs“	\$147
Gesamt: Trauma-bedingte Kosten	\$631
Gesamtkosten 1 synkop. Episode	\$ 5,880