Implantable cardiac loop recorders for diagnosis and management of syncope in adults

HAYES, Inc.

Record Status
This is a bibliographic record of a published health technology assessment. No evaluation of the quality of this assessment has been made for the HTA database.

Citation

Authors' conclusions
Purpose of Technology: Despite extensive clinical evaluation, the mechanism of syncope (transient loss of consciousness) remains unexplained in a large portion of patients. Implantable cardiac loop recorders (ILRs) are small, battery-operated, electrocardiogram (ECG) monitors, inserted during a minor surgical procedure that evaluates patients with recurrent syncope of unknown origin for underlying arrhythmias. IRLs can record a patient's heart rhythm for up to 36 months. This feature enables detection of infrequent syncopal symptoms, which may only occur once every several months. Relevant Questions: Do IRLs provide a more accurate and timely diagnosis in patients with recurrent, unexplained syncope compared with other diagnostic modalities (e.g., standard ECG, external loop recorder, etc.)? Do IRLs provide information that improves treatment decision making and health outcomes (e.g., reduction in syncope recurrence, falls and fall-related injuries, sudden death)? Are IRLs safe for assessment of patients experiencing syncope? Have definitive patient selection criteria been established for use of an ILR for diagnosis of syncope?

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