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Evaluation of remote monitoring in patients with leadless pacemakers

F. Mendez Zurita, I. Ramirez De Diego, H. Espinosa Viamonte, E. Rodriguez Font, B. Campos Garcia, C. Alonso Martin, J. Guerra Ramos, A. Elamrani Rami, J. Maldonado Chavez, E. Paz Jaen, A. Velasco Nieves, M. Grande Osorio, M. Bote Collazo, X. Vinolas Prat

Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Barcelona, Spain

Introduction: Remote monitoring (RM) of cardiac devices is a technology established in clinical practice. The early activation of RM is associated with greater survival. The RM of leadless pacemakers consists of a non-automatic remote interrogation (RI), however factors such as age, the monitoring center and the type of device delivered can condition the adequate adherence to the system.

Purpose: Describe the results of RM in patients with leadless pacemakers in the clinical practice of a tertiary referral hospital.

Methods: All patients with leadless pacemakers were included. Since October 2017, RM was offered to all new patients and to previously implanted patients who had an elevated threshold. Clinical and demographic characteristics were analyzed. The following variables were evaluated: Activation (first RI), early activation (activation occurring before 90 days from the implant or from the medical order), premature activation (activation before 15 days), and adherence to follow-up (patients with almost one RI after 12 months from activation).

Results: A total of 142 patients have been implanted with a leadless pacemaker, of which 56 patients were offered RM, being accepted in 96% of the cases (54 patients, 88±6 years old, 54% males). A 54% patients received a RM using App based technology. During a mean follow-up of 200 days, 7 deaths occurred (13%). 100% of the patients have performed the activation, being in all cases an early activation, and in 50% (26 patients) it has been premature activation. 32 patients have follow-up longer than 12 months and all are adherent to RM. There are no differences in the percentage of activation or adherence depending on the type of monitor.

Conclusions: The implementation of RM program in old patients with a leadless pacemaker has a high acceptance rate, achieving an early activation in all patients. The adherence to this technology remains high despite the limitation of a non automatic transmission. RM using App based technology is possible in spite of the age.