IS THERE A LINK BETWEEN ATRIAL FIBRILLATION AND MY STROKE?

Finding answers about cryptogenic stroke

Medtronic
A stroke happens when a blood vessel in the brain is suddenly blocked or bursts, resulting in damage to the brain tissue. The majority of all strokes are ischemic, which means they occur as a result of an obstruction, such as a blood clot, within the blood vessel. This blockage prevents or greatly reduces the delivery of oxygen and essential nutrients to the brain.

In some cases, despite testing during the hospital stay, the cause of a stroke cannot be determined. This is what is known as a “cryptogenic” stroke or a stroke of unknown cause. It’s estimated that 25-30% of ischemic strokes are cryptogenic or unexplained.¹

Having a stroke means you are at greater risk for having another (recurrent) stroke. At least 1 in 4 Americans who have a stroke will have another stroke within their lifetime.² Determining the cause of your stroke will help your physician take steps to minimize the risk of having another one.
Atrial fibrillation (also referred to as AF or AFib) is a common condition in which the upper chambers of the heart, or atria, fibrillate. This means that they beat very fast and irregularly so the heart can’t pump blood effectively to the rest of the body. AFib increases the risk of stroke more than 5 times, but often goes undetected since it can happen infrequently or without symptoms. When someone has AFib, the blood is not moving through the heart the way it should, and blood clots can form within the left atria. A blood clot can then travel out of the heart to the brain causing a stroke.

If the cause of your stroke is unknown, it’s very important to determine if you have AFib. If AFib is found, your doctor may change your medications or suggest other treatments in order to reduce your risk of having another stroke.
If the cause of your stroke is unknown (cryptogenic), cardiac monitoring may be necessary to help determine if AFib is the problem. You may be asked to wear a portable heart monitor for several days to try to identify AFib but, in some cases, a longer-term option may be needed. A recent study showed that for many cryptogenic stroke patients, it could take more than 80 days for AFib to appear because the episodes happen infrequently, often without symptoms.4

With continuous, long-term monitoring, your doctor can get information about your heart to help make a diagnosis and find the right answer for you.

**The Reveal LINQ System**

The Reveal LINQ™ system includes a small insertable cardiac monitor (or ICM) and a bedside transmitter called the MyCareLink™ patient monitor.

**Discreet:** The Reveal LINQ ICM is not visible in most patients.

**Easy:** The MyCareLink monitor uses a cellular signal and a power outlet.

**MRI Compatible:** The Reveal LINQ ICM is safe for use in an MRI setting.*
HOW THE REVEAL LINQ SYSTEM WORKS

Once your Reveal LINQ™ ICM is inserted, all you need to do is leave the MyCareLink™ monitor plugged in, powered on, and in a location that receives an adequate cellular signal.

The system will take care of the rest!

The process for sending information is easy and worry-free.

1. Heart data is recorded with the Reveal LINQ ICM.
2. You go to bed near your MyCareLink monitor.
3. Your data is shared with the MyCareLink monitor.
4. Your doctor can access your data.
5. Your doctor will contact you if necessary.
All surgical procedures carry risks, but those associated with the Reveal LINQ™ system are rare. Since the ICM is inserted just under the skin, there is a small risk of infection and/or sensitivity.

Talk to your doctor about any risks particular to your health and situation.

WHY THE REVEAL LINQ SYSTEM?
There are many benefits to the Reveal LINQ system:
- Insertion procedure is minimally invasive, easy, and brief.
- Long-term monitoring works continuously.
- Ability to capture irregular heartbeats that are infrequent or unpredictable helps with diagnosis.
- Use of Reveal LINQ system doesn’t require a change in daily activities.
- Reveal LINQ ICM is safe for use in an MRI setting.

WHAT IF AFIB IS FOUND?
If your heart data reveals that you have experienced episodes of AFib, your doctor will recommend the most appropriate treatment to help prevent another stroke from occurring. This may include anticoagulation or “blood thinning” therapy to prevent clots from forming. If your doctor determines that AFib did not cause your stroke, he or she can focus on other potential causes.
GET MORE INFORMATION

Medtronic is dedicated to providing you with the most up-to-date information about the Reveal LINQ system.

Learn more about long-term heart monitoring, read patient stories and find answers about the Reveal LINQ™ system at: MonitorYourHeart.com/LINQ

Patient service specialists are available by phone from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (CST), Monday through Friday.

1-800-551-5544

Please talk to your doctor if you are interested in finding out more about the Reveal LINQ system.
Additional Device Information

Reveal LINQ™ Insertable Cardiac Monitor
The Reveal LINQ insertable cardiac monitor is an implantable patient-activated and automatically-activated monitoring system that records subcutaneous ECG and is indicated in the following cases:
- Patients with clinical syndromes or situations at increased risk of cardiac arrhythmias
- Patients who experience transient symptoms such as dizziness, palpitation, syncope, and chest pain, that may suggest a cardiac arrhythmia

The device has not been tested specifically for pediatric use.

Possible risks associated with the implant of the Reveal LINQ insertable cardiac monitor include, but are not limited to, infection at the surgical site, device migration, erosion of the device through the skin and/or sensitivity to the device material.

Treatment with a Reveal LINQ insertable cardiac monitor is prescribed by your physician. This treatment is not for everyone. Please talk to your doctor to see if it is right for you. Your physician should discuss all potential benefits and risks with you. Although many patients benefit from the use of this treatment, results may vary. For further information, please call the Medtronic toll-free number at 1-800-551-5544 (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, Central Time) or see the Medtronic website at www.medtronic.com.

Patient Assistant
The Patient Assistant is intended for unsupervised patient use away from a hospital or clinic. The Patient Assistant activates the data management feature in the Reveal™ insertable cardiac monitor to initiate recording of cardiac event data in the implanted device memory.

Operation of the Patient Assistant near sources of electromagnetic interference, such as cellular phones, computer monitors, etc., may adversely affect the performance of this device.

Medtronic MyCareLink™ Patient Monitor
The Medtronic MyCareLink patient monitor is a prescription product indicated for use in the transfer of patient data from some Medtronic implantable cardiac devices based on physician instructions and as described in the product manual. The MyCareLink patient monitor transmissions to the CareLink™ network are subject to cellular service availability. The MyCareLink patient monitor must be on and in range of the device in order to wirelessly receive data from your implanted device. This product is not a substitute for appropriate medical attention in the event of an emergency and should only be used as directed by a physician.

The Medtronic CareLink service is prescribed by your physician. This service is not for everyone. Please talk to your doctor to see if it is right for you. Your physician should discuss all potential benefits and risks with you. Although many patients benefit from the use of this service, results may vary. For further information, please call CareLink Patient Services at 1-800-929-4043 (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday–Friday, Central time) or see the Medtronic website at medtronic.com.

References


* Reveal LINQ™ ICM has been demonstrated to pose no known hazards in a specified MR environment with specified conditions of use. Please see Reveal LINQ clinician manual for more details.