



# WHY AM I FAINTING?

Finding answers about  
**unexplained fainting**

**Medtronic**

# PERSONAL STORIES





“For about 15 years, Lloyd’s friends and family thought he was clumsy. Each spring, he seemed to have an unusual accident. Once, he tumbled down the stairs and needed 14 stitches. Another time he fell off a ladder and broke four ribs. Then there was the time when he hit the ground while removing a screen from his truck...”



"After Debbie fainted the first time, she didn't think much about it. As a cardiac nurse, she knew there were many reasons people faint. But the fainting continued, and within a couple of months she was passing out three times a day..."





"After a long day outside on a hot day in May, Kelli became dizzy and fainted. When she came to, she assumed she was dehydrated from spending hours in the sun. She drank an energy drink and thought nothing more of the event. Two weeks later, while driving, Kelli felt the same feeling in her chest that she felt prior to fainting and passed out again..."

# THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT FAINTING

Fainting is a sudden loss of consciousness that occurs when blood pressure drops and not enough oxygen reaches the brain. This loss of consciousness is sometimes called "passing out" or "blacking out." Your healthcare provider may use the medical term syncope (pronounced SIN koe pee) when referring to your fainting. Most often, a fainting episode is brief and consciousness is regained in a few minutes, although there may be a period of confusion.

Syncope is a common problem, fainting accounts for 1-3% of emergency department visits and 6% of hospital admissions.<sup>1</sup>

## **CAUSES OF FAINTING:**

Fainting can be caused by many things. Many patients have a medical condition they may or may not know about that affects the nervous system or heart. You may also have a condition that affects blood flow through your body and causes your blood pressure to drop when you change positions (for example, going from lying down to standing).<sup>2</sup>

## **THE RISKS OF UNEXPLAINED FAINTING**

Some causes of fainting are harmless but other causes can be serious. Cardiac causes, such as abnormal heartbeats, are among the most serious causes of fainting. Fainting could be a warning sign of a potentially serious heart condition. Whether you faint once or repeatedly without any explanation, you should talk to your doctor.

# CARDIAC MONITORING CAN UNLOCK **THE ANSWER**

If your doctor suspects that your fainting is heart related, cardiac monitoring may be necessary. Cardiac monitoring is used to either identify or rule out a heart rhythm disorder and to determine the right course of treatment.

Types of cardiac monitoring vary in terms of how long they can be used and how information is captured. Common types of cardiac monitoring systems include:

- Holter Monitors
- Event Recorders
- Insertable Cardiac Monitoring Systems





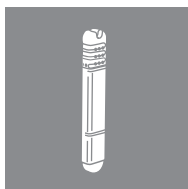
## HOLTER MONITOR

A portable external monitor that includes wires with patches that attach to the skin. It continuously measures and records the heart's activity for **1-2 days**.



## EVENT RECORDER

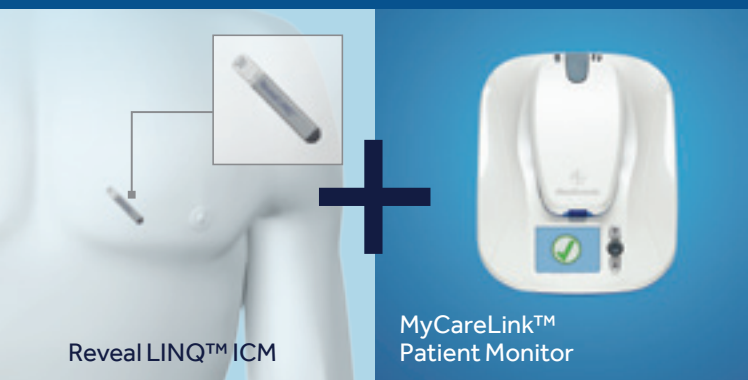
A recorder worn on the body for **up to 30 days**. It typically requires activation by pushing a button to record the heart's activity.



## INSERTABLE CARDIAC MONITOR

An insertable monitor placed just under the skin that automatically detects and records abnormal heart rhythms for **up to 3 years**.

# THE REVEAL LINQ™ SYSTEM



Reveal LINQ™ ICM

MyCareLink™  
Patient Monitor

## UP TO 3 YEARS OF CARDIAC MONITORING

The Reveal LINQ™ System includes a small insertable cardiac monitor (or ICM) that continuously monitors your heart, records irregular heart rhythms and provides data to your doctor through 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.



Heart data is recorded with the Reveal LINQ™ ICM.



You go to bed near your MyCareLink™ Monitor.



Your data is shared with the MyCareLink™ Monitor.



Your doctor can access your data.



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.*

# GET MORE INFORMATION



Please talk to your doctor if you are interested in finding out more about Reveal LINQ™ System.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Morag R, Brenner B. Syncope. *Medscape*. Updated April 16, 2014. <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/811669-overview#a5>. Accessed 9/16/15.
- <sup>2</sup> Cleveland Clinic Website. <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/services/heart/disorders/syncope>. Accessed November 11, 2015.

## Brief Statement

See the device manual for detailed information regarding the implant procedure, indications, contraindications, warnings, precautions, and potential adverse events.

For any medical information, please contact your physician.





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