

Supplemental Material

Searching for Atrial Fibrillation Post-Stroke: A White Paper of the AF-SCREEN International Collaboration - Online Supplemental Material

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Supplemental Methods

AF-SCREEN membership, expertise and process of reaching consensus on Key Points

The AF-SCREEN collaboration was established in 2016 and now has over 150 members from a variety of professional craft groups, including physicians (cardiologists, general practitioners, internists, neurologists, and electrophysiologists), nurses and allied health professionals, epidemiologists, health economists and patient groups world-wide who have proven expertise and a research interest in the detection of unknown or undertreated atrial fibrillation. Our members come from 35 different countries. The topics and structure of the white paper were devised by the AF-SCREEN steering committee [John Camm (UK), Hugh Calkins (USA), Ben Freedman (Australia), Jeff Healey (Canada), Mårten Rosenqvist (Sweden), Renate B. Schnabel (Germany), Jiguang Wang (China)], and AF-SCREEN

members in 2017. Section work was performed in nine writing groups of co-authors with specific expertise in the field. All of them had contributed in their area with peer-reviewed original papers or reviews that had advanced the field, and were often the seminal papers. Each section brought forth specific key points of practical clinical interest with substantiating evidence.

We used a Delphi process to reach consensus on the contents of the key points.

The steering committee chose the most relevant key points for intensified discussion in the AF-SCREEN community. During the European Society of Cardiology annual conference in Munich 2018 we performed a secret voting process at the AF-SCREEN consensus meeting. During an expert discussion of AF-SCREEN members present at the meeting we refined the key points and, after circulation and further refinement in the manuscript writing group we selected nine key points for anonymous online voting by all AF-SCREEN members.

In the manuscript, we show those central key points with >85% consensus after polling of 114 members who participated. The Key points and votes are shown below. Members were asked if they agreed with the key point or did not agree. Numbers are those who agreed/total votes and percent agreement. All 9 key points selected achieved >85% agreement in the online voting by members.

Key points (agreed/total, % agreement)

1. Atrial fibrillation is a risk factor for thromboembolism and a strong marker for atrial myopathy. In cases of ischemic stroke of uncertain cause, signs of atrial myopathy should be used to inform the intensity or duration of monitoring for AF. Voting: 102/114, 89%
2. Signs of atrial myopathy without detected AF are not currently sufficient to initiate OAC. Voting: 113/114, 99%
3. The diagnosis of AF on post-stroke monitoring requires documentation by an ECG of sufficient quality to allow confirmation by a health professional with expertise in ECG rhythm interpretation. Voting: 112/114, 98%

4. The concept of ESUS has not been proven to identify stroke patients benefitting from OAC. However, there may be ESUS sub-groups (e.g. advanced age, significant atrial enlargement) that could benefit more from NOAC therapy than from aspirin. 105/114, 92%
5. Fulfilling ESUS criteria is neither an indication for NOAC treatment nor for withholding prolonged ECG monitoring. Voting: 109/114, 96%
6. Clinically diagnosed AF after stroke and TIA is associated with significantly increased risk of stroke or systemic embolism, particularly in the presence of additional stroke risk factors. Patients with recent cerebrovascular event and an episode of post-stroke AF are not included in available randomized trials, but expert consensus is that OAC therapy (either well-controlled vitamin K antagonist (VKAs) or NOACs) is generally preferred for new AF detected by ECG monitoring after stroke or TIA. Voting: 112/114, 98%
7. Patients with ischemic stroke should have continuous ECG monitoring post-stroke for at least 72 hours. Voting: 106/114, 93%
8. Cardiac imaging markers, excessive atrial ectopy and blood biomarkers including natriuretic peptides which are suggestive of atrial myopathy, increase the yield of AF, and could be used to guide the selection of patients for more intensive or prolonged post-stroke ECG monitoring. Voting: 108/114, 95%
9. The AF detection rate after cryptogenic stroke is a function of length of monitoring, the definition of duration of AF which constitutes an episode, the interval from the index stroke to the start of monitoring, the type of stroke, and patient characteristics. Voting: 108/114, 95%

Supplemental Tables

Supplemental Table 1. Detection of new AF in post-stroke subjects by external and internal devices screening method.

	No. patients	Screening method	Prior examinations	AF definition	Study population	Percent new AF	Type of study
Searching with resting ECG							
<i>Bansil et al 2004¹</i>	121	Admission ECG	None	NA	Ischemic stroke	4.7	Cohort
<i>Jabaudon et al 2004²</i>	149	Serial ECG	None	NA	Ischemic stroke/TIA	6.7	Cohort
<i>Douen et al 2008³</i>	133	Serial ECG	None	NA	Stroke unit admissions, haemorrhages excluded	11.3	Retrospective cohort
<i>Kallmünzer et al 2012⁴</i>	271	Admission ECG	None	>30s	Ischemic stroke	9.6	Cohort
<i>Gumbinger et al 2012⁵</i>	312	Admission ECG	None	NA	Ischemic stroke/TIA	9.9	Cohort
<i>Higgins et al 2013⁶</i>	50	Serial ECG	None	NA	Ischemic stroke/TIA	8.0	RCT
Searching with intermittent ECG recorders							
<i>Doliwa-Sobocinski et al 2012⁷</i>	249	Thumb ECG recorder, 10 secx2/day, for 30 days	Any inpatient diagnosis, including telemetry	>10s	Ischemic stroke	6.0	Cohort
<i>Olsson et al 2016⁸</i>	356	Thumb ECG recorder, 10 sec x 2/day, for 14 days	Any inpatient diagnosis, including telemetry	>10s	Any stroke/TIA	7.6	Retrospective cohort

Supplemental Table 1. Detection of new AF in post-stroke subjects by external and internal devices screening method.

	No. patient s	Screening method	Prior examination s	AF definitio n	Study population	Percent new AF	Type of study
Searching with Holter ECG							
<i>Tonet et al 1981⁹</i>	100	18-54h ECG	NA	NA	Stroke/TIA of suspected embolic origin, subjects with anti-arrhythmic drugs excluded	1.0	Retrospective cohort
<i>Kessler et al 1995¹⁰</i>	93	24h ECG	NA	NA	Ischemic stroke, referred for 24h ECG	0	Retrospective cohort
<i>Schuchert et al, 1999¹¹</i>	82	72h ECG	Resting ECG	≥60s	Ischemic stroke, without carotid lesions or cardiac thrombus	6	Cohort
<i>Jabaudon et al 2004²</i>	139	24h ECG	Serial ECG	NA	Ischemic stroke/TIA	5.0	Cohort
<i>Shafqat et al 2004¹²</i>	210	24h ECG	Resting ECG	NA	Ischemic stroke	2.4	Retrospective cohort
<i>Tagawa et al 2007¹³</i>	97	24h ECG	Serial ECG	NA	Ischemic stroke	26.8	Cohort
<i>Douen et al 2008³</i>	126	Mean days 5.3	Serial ECG	NA	Stroke unit admissions, haemorrhages excluded	2.4	Retrospective cohort
<i>Stahrenberg et al 2010¹⁴</i>	224	7 days	Admission ECG	>30s	Ischemic stroke/TIA	12.5	Cohort
<i>Alhadramy et al 2010¹⁵</i>	413	24 h	NA	≥30s	Ischemic stroke/TIA	2.5	Retrospective cohort
<i>Rizos et al 2010¹⁶</i>	120	24h ECG	Resting ECG, telemetry monitoring	≥30s	Ischemic stroke/TIA	2.5	Cohort

Supplemental Table 1. Detection of new AF in post-stroke subjects by external and internal devices screening method.

	No. patients	Screening method	Prior examinations	AF definition	Study population	Percent new AF	Type of study
<i>Dangayach et al 2011</i> ¹⁷	51	48h ECGx2	NA	≥30s	Cryptogenic stroke	29.4	Cohort
<i>Doliwa-Sobocinski et al 2012</i> ⁷	249	24h ECG	Any inpatient diagnosis, including telemetry	>10s	Ischemic stroke	2.0	Cohort
<i>Lazzaro et al 2012</i> ¹⁸	133	24h ECG	Admission ECG	>30s	Ischemic stroke/TIA	6.0	Retrospective cohort
<i>Gumbinger et al 2012</i> ⁵	192	24h ECG	Admission ECG	>30s	Ischemic stroke/TIA	1.0	Cohort
<i>Rizos et al 2012</i> ¹⁹	496	NA	Admission ECG	>30s	Ischemic stroke/TIA	2.8	Cohort
<i>Suissa et al 2013</i> ²⁰	344	24h ECG	Admission ECG	NA	Ischemic stroke	2.3	Cohort
<i>Wohlfahrt et al 2014</i> ²¹	224	7 days	Admission ECG	>30s	Ischemic stroke	12.9 (18.8 after repeat exams for 1 year)	Cohort
<i>Manina et al 2014</i> ²²	114	96h	Admission ECG	Any duration	Cryptogenic stroke/TIA	24.3	Cohort
<i>Thakkar et al 2014</i> ²³	52	24h ECG	Admission ECG	>30s	Ischemic stroke/TIA	5.8	Cohort
<i>Tu et al 2014</i> ²⁴	20	≤28 days, median 22.3 days	Resting ECG + 24h ECG	>30s	Cryptogenic stroke	5.0	Cohort
<i>Sanak et al 2015</i> ²⁵	95	21 days	Resting ECG + 24h ECG	>30s	Cryptogenic stroke <50 years	9.5	Cohort
<i>Wachter et al 2017</i> ²⁶	200	Repeated 10 day ECGs at 0, 3 and 6 months	Admission ECG	≥30s	Ischemic stroke, without ipsilateral carotid stenosis	13.5	RCT

Supplemental Table 1. Detection of new AF in post-stroke subjects by external and internal devices screening method.

	No. patient s	Screening method	Prior examination s	AF definitio n	Study population	Percent new AF	Type of study
Inpatient Telemetry monitoring							
<i>Bansil et al 2004¹</i>	121	48h	Admission ECG	NA	Ischemic stroke	4.7	Cohort
<i>Vivanco Hidalgo et al 2009²⁷</i>	465	55h (SD 36h)	NA	>30s	Ischemic stroke/TIA	7.2	Cohort
<i>Rizos et al 2010¹⁶</i>	136	Duration of hospitalization, median 97h	Resting ECG	≥30s	Ischemic stroke/TIA	21.3	Cohort
<i>Gumbinger et al 2012⁵</i>	281	>72h	Admission ECG	NA	Ischemic stroke/TIA	4.6	Cohort
<i>Kallmünzer et al 2012⁴</i>	271	Median 75.5 hrs, standardized detection algorithm	Admission ECG	>30s	Ischemic stroke	7.3	Cohort
<i>Lazzaro et al 2012¹⁸</i>	133	Duration of hospitalization	Admission ECG	>30s	Ischemic stroke/TIA	0	Cohort
<i>Rizos et al 2012¹⁹</i>	496	Median 89 h, automated detection	Admission ECG	>30s	Ischemic stroke/TIA	7.7	Cohort
<i>Grond et al 2013²⁸</i>	1135	72h	Admission ECG	>30s	Stroke/TIA	4.3	Cohort
<i>Suissa et al 2013²⁰</i>	578	NA, duration of care at ward	Admission ECG	NA	Ischemic stroke	15.1	Cohort
<i>Pagola et al 2018²⁹</i>	146	28 days, wearable textile Holter	Admission ECG+24h CEM	>120s	Cryptogenic stroke	21.9	Cohort
Event recorder /MCOT							
<i>Barthelemy et al 2003³⁰</i>	28	Event recorder- 4 days	24h Holter	30s	Stroke or TIA	14.3	Cohort

Supplemental Table 1. Detection of new AF in post-stroke subjects by external and internal devices screening method.

	No. patient s	Screening method	Prior examination s	AF definitio n	Study population	Percent new AF	Type of study
<i>Jabaudon et al 2004²</i>	88	7 days	Serial ECG, 24h ECG	NA	Ischemic stroke/TIA	5.7	Cohort
<i>Wallman et al 2007³¹</i>	127	Event recorder-7 days at 0, 3, and 6 months	24h ECG	30s	Ischemic stroke, w/wo frequent APB	14.2 in all patients [†]	Cohort
<i>Tayal et al 2008³²</i>	56	MCOT-21 days	Negative stroke etiology work-up	Any Duration	Cryptogenic stroke/TIA	Any AF: 23.2 AF>30s 5	Retrospective cohort
<i>Elijovich et al 2009³³</i>	20	Event recorder-30 days	Negative inpatient telemetry	NA	Cryptogenic stroke/TIA	20.0	Retrospective cohort
<i>Gaillard et al 2010³⁴</i>	98	Transtelephonic-30 days	Negative 24h Holter	32s	Non-cardioembolic	9.2	Cohort
<i>Bhatt et al 2011³⁵</i>	62	MCOT-28 days	24h cardiac telemetry	30s	Cryptogenic stroke/ TIA	24.2	Registry
<i>Flint et al 2012³⁶</i>	239	30 days	Negative stroke etiology work-up	5s or 30s	Cryptogenic stroke	11.0	Cohort
<i>Simova et al 2013³⁷</i>	36	MCOT, median 22 days	NA	≥30s	Cryptogenic stroke/TIA	8.3 (27 if <30s)	Cohort
<i>Higgins et al 2013⁶</i>	50	7 days	Serial ECG	>20s (or 6 beats-20s)	Ischemic stroke or TIA	8.0 (34 episodes <20s)	RCT
<i>Kamel et al 2013³⁸</i>	20	MCOT-21 days	24h telemetry	30s	Cryptogenic stroke	0	RCT
<i>Miller et al 2013³⁹</i>	156	MCOT-30 days	ECG (in 95%)	30s	Cryptogenic stroke or TIA	17.3	Retrospective cohort

Supplemental Table 1. Detection of new AF in post-stroke subjects by external and internal devices screening method.

	No. patients	Screening method	Prior examinations	AF definition	Study population	Percent new AF	Type of study
<i>Gladstone et al 2014</i> ⁴⁰	280	30 days	Negative 24h Holter	30s	Cryptogenic stroke	16.1	RCT
<i>Sebasigari et al 2017</i> ⁴¹	196	30 days	NA	30s	ESUS	11.7	Retrospective cohort
<i>Sejr et al 2019</i> ⁴²	1412	48h ELR/Holter	Admission ECG	≥30s	Ischemic stroke/TIA	4.0/2.7	Cohort
Implantable devices							
<i>Cotter et al 2013</i> ⁴³	51	For AF detection: Mean 48 (0–154) days For those with NO AF detected: Mean 229 days	24h ECG	2 min	Cryptogenic stroke	25.5	Cohort
<i>Ritter et al 2013</i> ⁴⁴	60	Minimum 12 months	72h monitoring and 24h ECG	2 min	Cryptogenic stroke	16.7	Cohort
<i>Etgen et al 2013</i> ⁴⁵	22	12 months	24h monitoring and 24h ECG	6 min	Cryptogenic stroke	27.3	Cohort
<i>Rojo-Martinez et al 2013</i> ⁴⁶	101	281±212 days	24h monitoring	2 min	Cryptogenic stroke	33.7	Cohort
<i>Mercé et al 2013</i> ⁴⁷	14	NA	Serial ECG, Holter monitoring (length NA)	NA	Cryptogenic stroke	35.7	Cohort
<i>Sanna et al 2014</i> ⁴⁸	221	6 months	24h ECG	30s	Cryptogenic stroke, 24hECG negative	8.9	RCT

Supplemental Table 1. Detection of new AF in post-stroke subjects by external and internal devices screening method.

	No. patient s	Screening method	Prior examination s	AF definitio n	Study population	Percent new AF	Type of study
<i>Christensen et al 2014</i> ⁴⁹	83	569±310 days	12-24h telemetry monitoring	2 min	Cryptogenic stroke	16.1	Cohort
<i>Ziegler et al 2017</i> ⁵⁰	1247	2 years	NA	2 min	Cryptogenic stroke	21.5	Cohort
<i>Carrasco et al 2017</i> ⁵¹	100	Min 8 months	NA	NA	Cryptogenic stroke	31.0	Cohort
<i>Makimoto et al 2017</i> ⁵²	146	Median 387 (IQR 283-552) days	Resting ECG, 24h monitoring	>30s	ESUS	22.6	Cohort
<i>Seow et al 2018</i> ⁵³	71	12 months	24h ECG, CEM	24h NA	Cryptogenic stroke	15.2	Cohort
<i>Bettin et al 2018</i> ⁵⁴	173	Mean 10.7 (SD 11.4) months	NA	>30s	Cryptogenic stroke	19.1	Cohort

[†]26% in group with frequent atrial premature beats.

*Serial monitoring with 24h ECG was used. Data given is for total.

Abbreviations: atrial fibrillation, AF; continuous ECG monitoring, CEM embolic stroke of undetermined source, ESUS; external loop recording, ELR; interquartile range, IQR randomized clinical trial, RCT; mobile cardiac outpatient telemetry, MCOT; not applicable, NA; standard deviation, SD; transient ischemic attack, TIA. NA indicates not available.

Supplemental Table 2. Odds ratios and hazard ratios for patient characteristics predictive of post-stroke AF detection from individual studies

Patient characteristics	Cross-sectional studies Adjusted OR (95%CI)	Prospective studies Adjusted HR (95%CI)
Female sex	1.06 (1.01-1.09) ⁵⁵	1.05 (1.01-1.09) ⁵⁶ 1.01 (0.95-1.07) ⁵⁷
History of hypertension	1.50 (1.45-1.55) ⁵⁵	1.24 (1.18-1.30) ⁵⁶ 1.22 (1.13-1.33) ⁵⁷
Obesity		1.05 (1.00-1.11) ⁵⁶
Prevalent heart failure	3.31 (3.16-3.48) ⁵⁵	2.05 (1.97-2.13) ⁵⁶ 2.56 (2.41-2.72) ⁵⁶
Myocardial infarction/coronary artery disease	1.11 (1.06-1.17) ⁵⁵ 3.14 (1.35-7.28) ²¹	1.22 (1.15-1.28) ⁵⁶ 1.10 (1.04-1.17) ⁵⁷
<u>Valvular disease:</u>		1.44 (1.37-1.51) ⁵⁶
<i>Mitral stenosis</i>	3.71 (2.84-5.87) ⁵⁵	
<i>Other valvular disease</i>	2.03 (1.86-2.22) ⁵⁵	
Vascular disease		0.90 (0.85-0.94) ⁵⁶
Systemic embolism		1.20 (1.11-1.29) ⁵⁶
Pacemaker or ICD implantation		1.56 (1.48-1.64) ⁵⁶
Diabetes	0.90 (0.86-0.93) ⁵⁵	0.89 (0.85-0.92) ⁵⁶ 0.93 (0.87-0.99) ⁵⁷
Thyroid disease	1.14 (1.06-1.24) ⁵⁵	0.97 (0.93-1.00) ⁵⁶
Impaired renal function	1.07 (0.97-1.18) ⁵⁵	1.12 (1.07-1.17) ⁵⁶
Liver disease	1.21 (1.00-1.48) ⁵⁵	1.05 (0.97-1.15) ⁵⁶
Anemia		1.10 (1.06-1.15) ⁵⁶
Lung disease/COPD	1.03 (0.95-1.11) ⁵⁵	1.14 (1.09-1.18) ⁵⁶
Recent (3-5 years) cancer diagnosis		0.92 (0.89-0.96) ⁵⁶
Current smoking, or recently quit	0.68 (0.64-0.72) ⁵⁵	0.92 (0.86-0.98) ⁵⁶
Alcohol index/ alcohol related diagnoses	1.30 (1.15-1.46) ⁵⁵	0.96 (0.89-1.03) ⁵⁶
<i>Stroke characteristics</i>		
Stroke/TIA/ Systemic embolism	1.30 (1.25-1.35) ⁵⁵	
Haemorrhagic stroke	0.71 (0.62-0.83) ⁵⁵	
Presence of any bleeding	1.24 (1.18-1.30) ⁵⁵	
Symptoms >24h	5.17 (1.76-15.49) ²¹	

Abbreviations: confidence interval, CI; hazard ratio, HR; odds ratio, OR; insertable cardiac monitors, ICD; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, COPD.

Supplemental Table 3. Potential harms from monitoring for atrial fibrillation post-stroke and potential counteractions

Reason for impact	Counteraction
False positive findings	Continuous quality control and adaption of the screening program
False negative findings	Continuous quality control and adaption of the screening program, sufficient intensity of screening
Falsely high estimates of the risks of screen-detected AF	Accumulating evidence suggests high enough risk of (paroxysmal) AF to warrant treatment. Further data need to be generated, esp. for low AF burden on continuous prolonged recordings.
False estimates of treatment benefit	Risk-benefit ratios of AF treatment are high and are likely transferrable to post stroke patients. Further data need to be generated.
Diversion of limited health care resources	Continuous health economic re-evaluation of the value of a screening program

AF stands for atrial fibrillation.

Supplemental Table 4. Excerpts of guideline recommendations on post-stroke atrial fibrillation monitoring and assigned level of evidence.

Recommendations	Guideline	Ref.
In patients with TIA or ischemic stroke, screening for atrial fibrillation is recommended by short-term ECG recording followed by continuous ECG monitoring for at least 72 hours. (Class I Level B)	ESC ⁵⁸	21,28,40,49
In stroke patients, additional ECG monitoring by long-term noninvasive ECG monitors or implanted loop recorders should be considered to document silent atrial fibrillation.(Class IIa Level B)		
General supportive care and treatment of acute complications:	AHA/Stroke ⁵⁹	18,60,61,62
Cardiac monitoring is recommended to screen for atrial fibrillation and other potentially serious cardiac arrhythmias that would necessitate emergency cardiac interventions. Cardiac monitoring should be performed for at least the first 24 hours (Class I; Level of Evidence B). (Revised from the previous guideline ⁶⁰)		
Baseline electrocardiogram assessment is recommended in patients presenting with acute ischemic stroke but should not delay initiation of intravenous rtPA (Class I; Level of Evidence B). (Revised from the previous guideline ⁶⁰)		
Continuous cardiac monitoring is indicated for at least the first 24 hours after stroke. ⁶⁰⁻⁶³ Recent studies have suggested Holter monitoring is more effective in identifying atrial fibrillation or other serious arrhythmias after stroke. ¹ Outpatient event monitoring may be indicated in patients with cryptogenic stroke and suspected paroxysmal arrhythmias, especially in those patients with short hospitalizations in which monitoring was brief. The utility of prophylactic administration of medications to prevent cardiac arrhythmias among patients with stroke is not known.		
It is recommended that all acute stroke and TIA patients should have a 12-lead electrocardiography (ECG). In addition, continuous ECG recording is recommended for ischemic stroke and TIA patients (Class I, Level A)	ESO ⁶⁴	64
It is recommended that for stroke and TIA patients seen after the acute phase, 24-hour Holter ECG monitoring should be performed when arrhythmias are suspected and no other causes of stroke are found (Class I, Level A)		
People with ischemic stroke or TIA who would be eligible for secondary prevention treatment for atrial fibrillation (anticoagulation or left atrial appendage device closure) should undergo a period of prolonged (at least 12 hours) cardiac monitoring.	National clinical guideline for stroke (UK) ⁶⁵	
B People with ischemic stroke or TIA who would be eligible for secondary prevention treatment for atrial fibrillation and in whom no other cause of stroke has been found should be considered for more prolonged ECG monitoring (24 hours or longer), particularly if they have a pattern of cerebral ischemia on brain imaging suggestive of cardioembolism.		
Ongoing randomized trials comparing NOACs with aspirin in ESUS patients are in progress. Prior to data from these trials, physicians might, in the meantime, consider the use of anticoagulation in parallel with continued cardiac evaluation (e.g., prolonged rhythm monitoring) after discussion and consideration of patient preference.	Antithrombotic Therapy for Atrial Fibrillation: CHEST Guideline and Expert Panel Report. (2018) ⁶⁶	

Supplemental Table 4. Excerpts of guideline recommendations on post-stroke atrial fibrillation monitoring and assigned level of evidence.

Recommendations	Guideline	Ref.
New evidence and topic expert feedback highlighted that ICMs, including loop recorders, are a cost-effective diagnostic tool for the prevention of recurrent stroke in patients with cryptogenic stroke. The guideline does not make recommendations for the use of ICMs.	Surveillance report 2014–AF: management (2014) NICE guideline CG180 ⁶⁷	
Screening for atrial fibrillation in patients with ESUS: For patients with ESUS, longer term ECG monitoring (external or implantable) should be used. (GRADE quality of evidence: Moderate; GRADE strength of recommendation: Strong.)	National Heart Foundation of Australia and the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand	68
The detection of unrecognized paroxysmal AF in patients with presumed embolic stroke presenting in sinus rhythm with no history of atrial fibrillation may be important to reduce the risk of recurrent stroke. Twenty-four-hour Holter monitoring has been commonly used and is readily available, but a substantial proportion of patients with paroxysmal AF are not detected using this approach. ^{69,70} External rhythm recording devices can be worn for up to 30 days, but data from implanted devices show that a substantial proportion of AF occurs beyond the first 30 days following an event. Implantable loop recorders can provide up to 3 years of continuous monitoring. Whilst there is some question about the relevance of AF detected many months after the stroke to the etiology of the original event, late-detected AF does remain a significant risk factor for subsequent stroke.	Stroke Foundation Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management. Melbourne, Australia, 2017.	71
Patients with suspected transient ischemic attack or ischemic stroke should have a 12-lead ECG to assess cardiac rhythm and identify AF or flutter or evidence of structural heart disease (e.g. myocardial infarction, left ventricular hypertrophy) [Evidence Level B].	Canadian stroke best practice recommendations: Secondary prevention of stroke, sixth edition practice guidelines, update 2017.	72
For patients being investigated for an acute embolic ischemic stroke or transient ischemic attack, ECG monitoring at least 24 hours is recommended as part of the initial stroke work-up to detect paroxysmal AF in patients who would be potential candidates for anticoagulant therapy [Evidence Level A].		
For patients being investigated for an acute embolic ischemic stroke or TIA of undetermined source whose initial short-term ECG monitoring does not reveal atrial fibrillation but a cardioembolic mechanism is suspected, prolonged ECG monitoring for at least two weeks is recommended to improve detection of paroxysmal AF in selected patients are not already receiving anticoagulant therapy but would be potential anticoagulant candidates [Evidence Level A].		
ICM implantation is reasonable to optimize detection of silent AF, in patients with cryptogenic stroke in whom external ambulatory monitoring is inconclusive.	2019 AHA/ACC/HRS Focused Update of the 2014 AHA/ACC/HRS Guideline for the Management of Patients With Atrial Fibrillation ⁷³	

Abbreviations: embolic stroke of undetermined source, ESUS; implantable cardiac monitor, ICM; recombinant tissue plasminogen activator, rtPA; transient ischemic attack, TIA.

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Appendix

List of the all contributing authors

Surname	Given name	Degree	Affiliation(s)
Schnabel	Renate B.	MD, MSc.	University Heart Centre, Hamburg, Germany; German Cardiovascular Research Center (DZHK), Partner Site Hamburg/Kiel/Lübeck
Haeusler	Karl Georg	MD	Department of Neurology, Universitätsklinikum Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany; Charité Berlin, Centrum für Schlaganfallforschung Berlin (CSB), Neurologischen Klinik der Charité, Berlin, Germany
Healey	Jeff	MD, MSc	Arrhythmia Services, Hamilton Health Sciences; Population Health Research Institute, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada
Freedman	Ben	MBBS, PhD	Heart Research Institute, Charles Perkins Centre, and Concord Hospital Cardiology, University of Sydney, Australia
Boriani	Giuseppe	MD	Department of Biomedical, Metabolic and Neural Sciences, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena University Hospital, Modena, Italy
Brachmann	Johannes	MD	Klinikum Coburg, Coburg, Germany
Brandes	Axel	MD, DMSc	Odense University Hospital, Odense, Denmark
Bustamante	Alejandro	MD	Neurovascular Research Laboratory, Institut de Recerca, Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron (VHIR), Barcelona, Spain
Casadei	Barbara	MD, Dphil	Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, British Heart Foundation Centre for Research Excellence, NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, University of Oxford, Oxford, United Kingdom
Crijns	H.J.G.M	MD	Department of cardiology, Maastricht University Medical Center, Maastricht, Netherlands
Doehner	Wolfram	MD	Department of Cardiology (Virchow Klinikum), German Centre for Cardiovascular Research (DZHK), partner site Berlin, and BIH Center for Regenerative Therapies (BCRT), Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany.
Engström	Gunnar	MD, PhD	Lund University, Dept. of Clinical Sciences, Malmö, Sweden
Fauchier	Laurent	MD	Université François Rabelais, Tours, France

Surname	Given name	Degree	Affiliation(s)
Friberg	Leif	MD	Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
Gladstone	David J	MD, PhD	University of Toronto Department of Medicine, and Hurvitz Brain Sciences Program and Regional Stroke Centre, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and Sunnybrook Research Institute, Toronto, Canada
Glutzer	Taya	MD	Hackensack University Medical Centre, Hackensack, USA
Goto	Shinya	MD	Tokai University School of Medicine, Metabolic Disease Research Center, Kanagawa, Japan
Hankey	Graeme J.	MD	1. Professor of Neurology, Medical School, The University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia; 2. Neurologist, Department of Neurology, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth, Australia
Harbison	Joseph	MD	Trinity College, Medical Gerontology, Dublin, Ireland
Hobbs	Richard	MD	Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford, UK
Johnson	Linda	MD, PhD	Lund University, Dept. of Clinical Sciences, Malmö, Sweden
Kamel	Hooman	MD	Weil-Cornell Medical College, New York, USA
Kirchhof	Paulus	MD	Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences, University of Birmingham, UK; SWBH and UHB NHS trusts, Birmingham, UK; AFNET, Muenster, Germany
Korompoki	Eleni	MD, PhD	Imperial College London, Division of Brain Science, Fulham Palace Road, W6 8RF London, UK
Krieger	Derk W.	MD, PhD	MBRU Dubai Healthcare City, Head of Neurosciences, Mediclinic City Hospital, Dubai, UAE
Lip	Gregory YH	MD	Liverpool Centre for Cardiovascular Science, University of Liverpool and Liverpool Heart & Chest Hospital, Liverpool, United Kingdom

Surname	Given name	Degree	Affiliation(s)
Løchen	Maja-Lisa	MD	University Hospital of North Norway, Department of Cardiology, Tromsø, Norway
Mairesse	Georges H.	MD	Cliniques du Sud Luxembourg, Arlon, Belgium
Montaner Villalonga	Joan	MD	Neurovascular Research Laboratory, Institut de Recerca, Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron (VHIR), Barcelona, Spain
Neubeck	Lis	PhD	Edinburgh Napier University, Edinburgh, UK
Ntaios	George	MD, MSc	Department of Internal Medicine, University of Thessaly, Larissa, Greece
Piccini	Jonathan P.	MD, MHS	Duke University Medical Center; Duke Clinical Research Institute
Potpara	Tatjana S.	MD, PhD	Internal Medicine/Cardiology, School of Medicine, University of Belgrade, Serbia
Quinn	Terry	MD	University of Glasgow, Institute of Cardiovascular & Medical Sciences, Glasgow, UK
Reiffel	James A.	MD	Columbia University
Ribeiro	Antonio Luiz Pinho	MD, PhD	Professor, Internal Medicine Department, School of Medicine, UFMG; Research and Innovation Coordinator, Hospital das Clínicas, UFMG
Rienstra	Michiel	MD, PhD	Department of Cardiology, University Medical Center Groningen
Rosenqvist	Mårten	MD, PhD	Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
Sakis	Themistoclakis	MD	Unit of Electrophysiology and Cardiac Pacing, Ospedale dell'Angelo Venice-Mestre, Venice, Italy
Sinner	Moritz	MD, MPH	Department of Medicine I, University Hospital Munich, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany; German Centre for Cardiovascular Research (DZHK), partner site: Munich Heart Alliance, Munich, Germany
van Gelder	Isabelle	MD, PhD	University of Groningen, University Medical Center Groningen, Groningen, the Netherlands
Wachter	Rolf	MD	University Hospital Leipzig, Germany; German Cardiovascular Research Center (DZHK), Partner Site Göttingen
Wijeratne	Tissa	MD	Director & Chair, The University of Melbourne & Western Health, Department of Neurology & Stroke Medicine, AIMSS, Sunshine Hospital St Albans, Australia

Surname	Given name	Degree	Affiliation(s)
Yan	Bernard	DMedSci	Royal Melbourne Hospital, Comprehensive Stroke Centre, Melbourne, Australia