Medtronic News

Medtronic CareLink(R) Network Remote Monitoring Significantly Reduced Time to Clinical Decision

Late Breaking Clinical Trial at 59th Annual Scientific Session of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) also Showed Shortened Cardiovascular Hospital Stays

MINNEAPOLIS & ATLANTA, Mar 15, 2010 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Medtronic, Inc. (NYSE: MDT) today announced results from the CONNECT trial showing the median time to clinical decision was significantly reduced for cardiac resynchronization therapy-defibrillator (CRT-D) and implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) patients monitored remotely with the Medtronic CareLink(R) Network, compared to standard in-office follow-up. The trial showed the time from a patient's clinical event (arrhythmias, cardiovascular disease progression, and device issues) to the physician's clinical decision was 22 days for those monitored in-office, versus 4.6 days for patients in the remote monitoring group ($p<0.001$).

The CONNECT (Clinical Evaluation of Remote Notification to Reduce Time to Clinical Decision) data also showed a statistically significant decrease in mean length of cardiovascular hospital stays from four days in the in-office arm to 3.3 days in the remote monitoring arm ($p=0.002$). Due to the shorter length of stay, cardiovascular hospitalization costs were reduced by an estimated $1,659 per hospitalization.1 Furthermore, the data showed replacement of routine in-clinic visits with remote monitoring did not significantly increase other health care utilization, such as emergency room visits, cardiovascular hospitalizations, and unscheduled clinic visits.

"The CONNECT data showed remote monitoring with the CareLink Network not only significantly reduced the time to clinical decision, but also may reduce the need for standard in-clinic visits, which may not always be necessary for the patient, and often place added burden on the physician's clinic," said George H. Crossley, M.D., F.A.C.C., Saint Thomas Research Institute and Saint Thomas Heart at Baptist Hospital in Nashville. "At the same time, these data lead us to believe there may be other potential benefits of remote monitoring, including a reduction in mean length of stay for cardiovascular hospitalizations, which may have an economic impact on the patient and the healthcare system."

About The CONNECT Trial

The prospective CONNECT trial randomized 1,997 patients implanted with an ICD with or without CRT capabilities, from 136 sites in the United States to remote monitoring versus standard in-office care. The study evaluated the time from clinical event to clinical decision in response to the event, as well as the associated impact on health care utilization, such as hospitalizations and visits to the emergency department. All patients were followed for 15 months post-implant.

The 1,104 patients monitored remotely were given Medtronic's wireless remote management system, consisting of the Medtronic CareLink Network and Monitor, Concerto(R) CRT-D and Virtuoso(R) ICD with Conexus(R) Wireless Telemetry, and CareAlert(R) Monitoring, for transmitting device information to the physician's office. These devices used wireless telemetry, allowing the automatic transmission of diagnostics to the physician without the need for patient intervention. The 983 patients receiving in-office care were followed at a fixed standard-of-care schedule, without remote monitoring.

About the Medtronic CareLink Network

The Medtronic CareLink Network is the leading remote monitoring service for implantable cardiac device patients, with more than 4,000 clinics and 450,000 patients enrolled in 30 countries. The CareLink Network has

registered more than two million patient data transmissions since the service's inception in 2002.

The CareLink Network provides the most flexible alert system in the industry that offers customizable and color-coded alert notifications for devices with Conexus Wireless Telemetry. Through this network, patient data are transmitted from their implantable device using a portable monitor that is connected to a standard telephone line. Within minutes, the patient's physician and nurses can view the data on a secure Internet Web site. Available information includes arrhythmia episode reports and stored electrograms along with device integrity information, which is comparable to the information provided during an in-clinic device follow-up visit, and provides the physician with a view of how the device and patient's heart are operating.

About Medtronic

Medtronic, Inc. (www.medtronic.com), headquartered in Minneapolis, is the global leader in medical technology - alleviating pain, restoring health, and extending life for millions of people around the world.

Any forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties such as those described in Medtronic's periodic reports on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Actual results may differ materially from anticipated results.

1 Estimated using the Medicare Limited Data Set - Standard Analytic Files from 2002-2007.

SOURCE: Medtronic, Inc.

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