Abstract: Impact of implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) on quality of life: croatian experience

Authors:
A Ljubas¹, M Lovric Bencic¹, D Fabijanovic¹, ¹University Hospital Centre Zagreb, Cardiovascular disease - Zagreb - Croatia,

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Introduction: Implantation of cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) is the method of choice in the treatment of malignant life-threatening arrhythmia. Indications for ICD implantation are primary and secondary prevention of sudden cardiac death.

Aim: To investigate the impact of ICD on general health concepts – physical and mental.

Subjects and methods: The study included 60 subjects who underwent ICD implantation, from 2005 to 2012. Their age ranged from 18 to 70 years, 33 (55%) were males and 27 (45%) females. The study used the questionnaire SF -36. In statistical analysis Wilcoxon signed-rank test was used.

Results: In 44 patients (73%), up to the moment of completion of the questionnaire, ICD was activated at least once. Statistically significant differences in the total sample of subjects from the time before to after ICD implantation were observed in two domains: physical functioning (p=0.021) and limitations in life roles due to emotional problems (p<0.001). There were no statistically significant differences regarding age (p=0.993) and gender of the subjects (p=0.995).

Conclusion: In the investigation of the quality of life a statistically significant impact of ICD implantation on physical activity and emotional and mental components of patients’ health was found. The results obtained in this study can be used in providing education and support to the patients and their families.