Implantable Loop Recorder (ILR)

What is an ILR?

An ILR also known as a LINQ is an implantable medical device that continually monitors your heart rate & rhythm. It represents a breakthrough in the diagnosis of unexplained fainting or blackouts and irregular heart rhythms. The ILR can determine if fainting is related to a heart rhythm problem. The device is inserted just under the skin, during a short outpatient procedure. It is important to remember that your ILR is a diagnostic tool and will not provide any therapy during symptoms.

Why have an Implantable Loop Recorder?

An ILR is a long term monitoring device that is used for patients with infrequent symptomatic episodes. It is also used when short term ambulatory monitoring or other tests haven't been able to explain the cause of presenting symptoms or a diagnosis hasn't been met. The benefit of capturing your heart rate and rhythm (known as an electrocardiogram or ECG) before, during & after enables your Doctor to confirm or rule out if an abnormal heart rhythm is the cause, leading to a correct diagnosis and treatment more quickly.

How does it Work?

An ILR continually records and deletes the ECG seen on a loop. For infrequent symptoms or irregular heart rhythms that haven't yet been explained it allows for automatic and patient activation of symptoms which prompts the ILR to record the ECG. Any recording the ILR makes either via patient activation or automatic shows before, during and after the event and can be reviewed by the doctor. This allows the doctor to rule out if an abnormal heart rhythm has occurred more definitively than other tests.

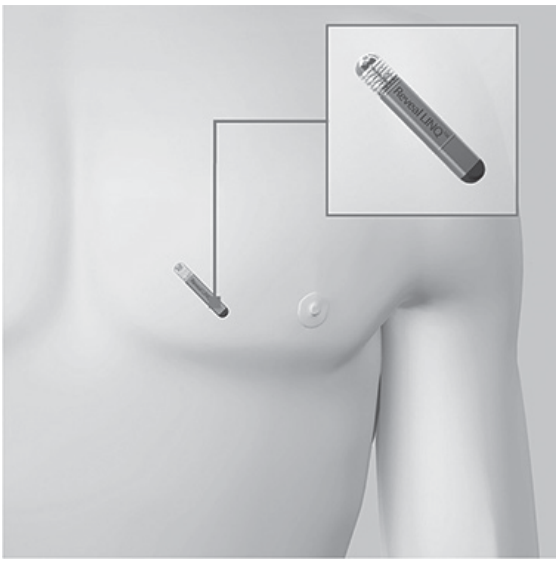
How long will I need it?

The ILR can remain in place for up to 3 years although this depends on the frequency of your symptoms. However, once your Doctor has sufficient information the device can be removed. This will involve another very simple operation and appropriate treatment given.

What does the implant involve?

The insertion of the ILR will be done as a day case. No sedation is required. The recorder is a small device and is inserted beneath the skin in the left upper chest area over the pectoral muscle after local anaesthetic has been used to numb this area of your skin. The procedure takes approximately 10 to 15 minutes. Once the device has been positioned under the skin, the wound will be closed with steri-strips or sealant glue and occasionally a dissolvable stitch. The procedure involves a small risk of bleeding, bruising, a possible reaction to the local anaesthetic or infection to the device site. Your Doctor/ Implanter or Cardiac Physiologist will discuss this with you and will ask you to sign a form to obtain your consent for the procedure.

compassionate care



How to Use the External Hand Held Patient Activator



1. Record Symptom Button
Patient presses button to record ECG when symptomatic

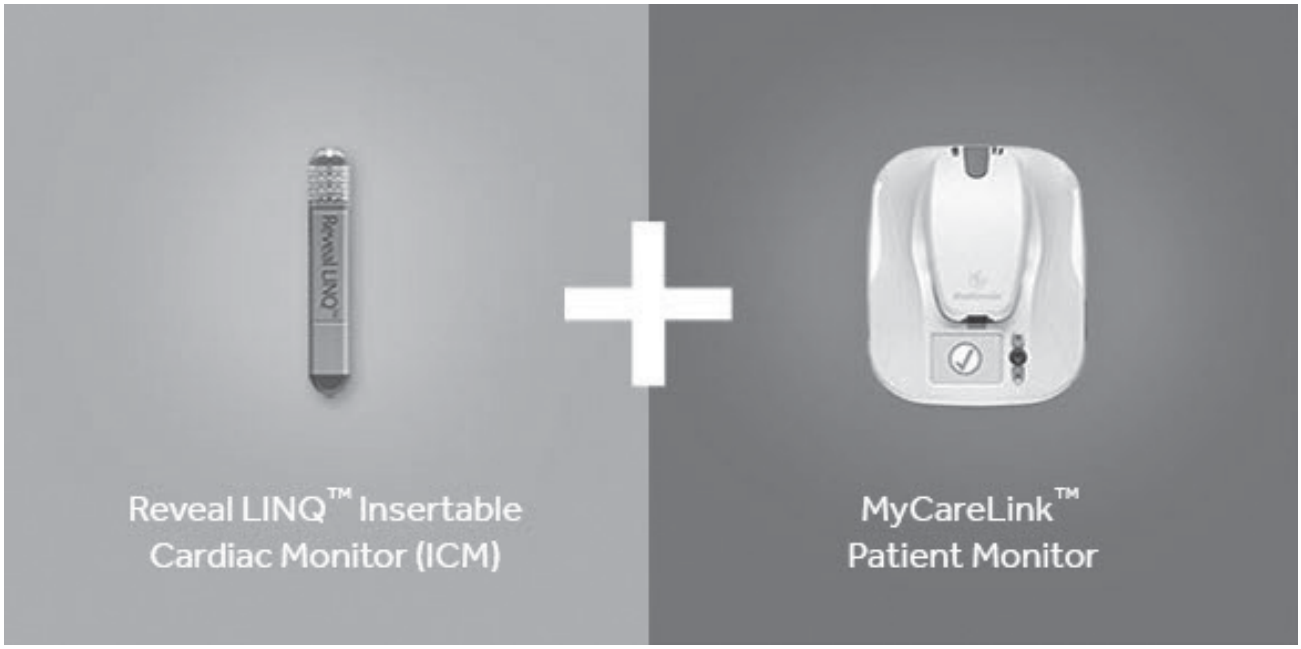
2. Searching
Flashes blue indication the patient should hold the Patient Assistant over the Reveal LINQ

3. Success Light
Illuminates green when the symptom is successfully marked

4. Connection Slot
Allows patient to attach the Patient Assistant to a key chain, lanyard, or other personal item helping ensure you have the activator with you 24/7.

Please document why you used the patient activator as this information can be used after the ECG has been reviewed at the hospital.

How to use CARELINK patient monitor



Your CARELINK monitor is a wireless device that uses mobile phone signal to enable it to communicate remotely with your healthcare worker. Once home please plug in your CARELINK monitor, ideally in your bedroom and follow the visual prompts displayed on the screen.

For any automatic recordings the device records itself it will remotely transmit these to the hospital usually around Midnight - 2am. For patient activated recordings using your patient activator when symptomatic you can transmit the information using your home monitor to our systems in the hospital. This can be done at any time of the day but you must wait a minimum of 10 minutes after activation to send a download to ensure we receive the full recording. Again follow the easy steps displayed on the monitor's screen.

Your ECG (heart rhythm traces) will be viewed and if necessary shown to the Consultant looking after your care.

At times, it may be necessary to attend the Cardiology Department. We will inform you of this either by telephone call or letter to your home address.

What happens before I go home?

Before discharge you will be shown and explained how to use the patient external hand held activator to record a symptomatic event and also how to use the wireless CARELINK monitor to transmit the information to the hospital from the comfort of your home.

You will be given an easy to follow leaflet with information, contact names and numbers. When all the explanations are completed and you feel fit, you will be discharged from the department.

You will be given an ID card which includes your LINQ details and should be carried with you at all times. If you are admitted to another hospital this card should be shown to the healthcare professional looking after you. Please also note that the ILR LINQ is MRI safe and should not prevent you having an MRI scan.

The Cardiac Physiologist will be able answer any questions you may have on the day following the implant of the ILR.

If you have any further queries you can contact Cardiology department, Monday – Friday from 8am – 5pm

Device follow-up schedule

Eight weeks post implant you will have an appointment to send through a transmission to the Cardiology department and we will call you that day to check the wound has healed. Then we will be guided by your symptoms and downloads with an appointment at least every six months if we do not hear from you before then.

These transmissions will be either:

1 – Automatic transmission (usually sent at night while you sleep) and the transmission will send if any information is collected in the automatic device memory. These transmissions are routine for all patients, however we therefore recommend that your home monitor is plugged in at all times.

2 – Manual transmissions, to send information once you have used your patient activator (maximum 2-3 times depending on settings).

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Device Team
Calderdale Cardiology
Calderdale Royal Hospital
Telephone: 01422 224310
or
Huddersfield Cardiology
Huddersfield Royal Infirmary
Telephone: 01484 342388

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਬਿਸੇ ਚੋਜ ਪ੍ਰਾਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਬਿਨਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ یا زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں.

"إذا احتجت الحصول على هذه المعلومة بشكل مغاير أو مترجمة إلى لغة مختلفة فيرجى منك الاتصال بالقسم المذكور أعلاه"