

The most important challenges facing arrhythmia services

- sent by delegates



Medtronic
FOUNDATION

Collaboration

- Need patient organizations to defend the interests of patients
- Difficult to have agreement of common objectives among all stakeholders
- No cooperation between industry and patient associations



Medtronic
FOUNDATION

Public Awareness and Education

- Patients & public lack awareness of arrhythmias: causes, symptoms, therapies, risks
- There is more focus in general cardiology (i.e. blood pressure) than arrhythmias
- Need awareness campaigns in schools, sport centres
- Public confuses arrhythmias with other cardiovascular diseases



Medtronic
FOUNDATION

Public Awareness and Education

- Lack of understanding of inherited arrhythmia syndromes
- Lack of screening
- Need external defibrillators in public places, and for the public to be trained in basic life support and defibrillator use



Medtronic
FOUNDATION

Media

- Need to improve media professionals' awareness and understanding of arrhythmias
- Need to prepare specific people to talk to the media



Medtronic
FOUNDATION

Healthcare Professionals

- General practitioners do not know about: diagnosis and treatment options for arrhythmias, and about heart failure
- Not enough heart rhythm specialists, or nurse practitioners
- Need to raise awareness about atrial fibrillation and related risks, and treatments



Medtronic
FOUNDATION

Healthcare Professionals

- Need to promote standards of care in device implantation & follow-up
- It's difficult getting information to general practitioners
- Need to identify patients with arrhythmias / do more screening
- Patients are not referred to appropriate specialists



Medtronic
FOUNDATION

Government

- Need good arguments for the National Health System to change
- Government decides to reduce pacing/ICD device – not reflecting needs of patients
- Need to influence government to extend access and reimbursement



Medtronic
FOUNDATION

Patient Support

- Need to promote better quality of life for patients with heart rhythm problems
- Patients need more support groups, and particularly more ICD groups



Medtronic
FOUNDATION

Resources

- Long waiting times and limited geographic availability of specialized care
- General lack of resources
- Regional budgets are restricted
- Patient associations are under-funded



Medtronic
FOUNDATION