Cryptogenic Stroke and Underlying Atrial Fibrillation (CRYSTAL AF)

**History:** Up to 30% of ischemic strokes are termed cryptogenic strokes (CS) in that no identifiable cause is found during evaluation. Atrial fibrillation (AF), which is a common cause of stroke, can be missed during evaluation due to its sometimes intermittent and asymptomatic nature.

**Questions to answer:** How does standard cardiac monitoring (Control) compare to insertable cardiac monitor (ICM) for detecting AF after CS?

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>441 patients were randomized to receive either ICM (Reveal® XT) or Control within 90 days of CS</td>
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**Primary Endpoint**

AF detection (> 30 seconds) within 6 months of randomization

**Trial Results**

- 6 months: AF was detected in 8.9% of ICM patients compared with 1.4% of the control patients (p=0.0006).
- 12 months: 12.4% vs. 2.0% (p<0.0001)
- 36 months: 30.0% vs. 3.0% (p<0.0001)

**Take Away:** ICM was superior to standard cardiac monitoring for detection of AF after CS, which has implications for appropriate therapy.