

Presentation of the Slovenian Working Group on Arrhythmias and Cardiac Pacing of the Slovenian Society of Cardiology



**Working Group on Arrhythmias
and Cardiac Pacing**



Organization

Working Group (WG) on Arrhythmias and cardiac pacing is a subspecialty group dedicated to treatment of arrhythmias within a national cardiac society – Slovenian Society of Cardiology

The Working Group consists of:

- President Andrej Pernat (2018 – current)
- President – elect: Rafael Skale
- Nucleus members: 15 experts representing EP centres and largest device implanting centres
- WG on arrhythmias and cardiac pacing members: mainly cardiologists specialised in rhythmology and some cardiac surgeons who are specialised in cardiac device implantation.

Slovenian Society of Cardiology has 170 members. Currently, 24 WG members have an active EHRA membership.

Members of the WG on Arrhythmias and Cardiac Pacing meet two times a year.

Main goals:

- To assure the quality standards of patient care in interventional electrophysiology procedures in Slovenian centers
- To provide coordination and standardization of training programmes for fellows in the field of interventional electrophysiology and cardiac pacing
- To establish standards for accreditation and certification for EP centres and specialists working in the field of interventional electrophysiology and cardiac device implantation
- Training of general cardiologists in the area of arrhythmology
- Support of young EP fellows in the initial phase of their training and career
- To develop national plans and strategies for treatment of arrhythmias at the national level (in collaboration with national legislative bodies and health insurance)
- To promote education and research via organisation of national rhythmology meeting and educational workshops

Status of electrophysiology in Slovenia

Electrophysiology and cardiac device implantation programmes in Slovenia cover a population of approximately 2 million.

Currently there are **three centres performing both catheter ablation and device implantation procedures**, and additional **8 centres performing only cardiac device implantation**.

- **1 EHRA recognized training centre** (University Medical Centre Ljubljana)

Procedure volumes in 2021

Type of procedure	Cases/million population/year Slovenia*	Median no. Of cases/million population/year ESC member countries+
Catheter ablations	450	372
Pacemaker implantations	733	652
ICD implantations	103	105
CRT implantations	73	64

*Data from the WG national registry 2021; + data from ESC CV disease statistics 2021

Certification

There is no special national certification in electrophysiology or cardiac pacing in Slovenia.

EHRA certification is endorsed by the WG on arrhythmias and cardiac pacing as part of the training.

Currently, **5 EHRA certified electrophysiologists** (3 Cardiac Device Specialists, 2 Electrophysiology Specialists), **and 1 allied professional**.

In effort to standardize training programmes in electrophysiology, WG in agreement with national Young EP community, and national Cardiology Society agreed to propose EHRA certification as part of the training programme for all young electrophysiologists from 2023.

Young EP community

Young electrophysiologists in Slovenia are represented within EHRA by 4 EHRA Young EP members.

Young EP Ambassador is Martin Rauber.

Educational and scientific activities

The WG is involved and contributes to education for general practitioners, internal medicine specialists, cardiologists and electrophysiologists.

Among others WG organizes or co-organizes:

- Rhythmology dedicated ***joint sessions during national cardiac society meeting***. Members of WG chair the sessions and contribute presentations.
- ***National rhythmology meeting*** (Slovenian arrhythmias)
- Biennial ***Ljubljana workshop on clinical arrhythmology and invasive cardiac electrophysiology***. Event attracting audience of 100 – 120, with local, and international experts. In recent years workshop was followed with educational postgraduate courses : ***ECG course***, or ***Fundamentals of pacing*** course
- Biennial **Arrhythmias and pacing** meeting including physicians, and nurses programmes. Audience around 150.
- Practical workshops with live cases presentations dedicated to specific topics, such as **Fluoroless ablation of arrhythmias workshop**

Educational collaboration with EHRA

- Slovenian Working Group on Arrhythmias and Pacing hosted a session during EHRA 2021 Congress – (Controversies in management of ventricular tachycardia)
- EHRA joint session during national Cardiology Society congress 2021 (Catheter ablation of AF)
- EHRA endorsed educational events:
 - Fluoroless ablation of arrhythmias 2019
 - Invasive atrial fibrillation treatment workshop 2021