



Highlights from:

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Winkle et al., Journal of Interventional Cardiac Electrophysiology (JICE), Mar 2013 DOI: 10.1007/s10840-013-9782-x

Physician-controlled costs: The choice of equipment used for atrial fibrillation ablation

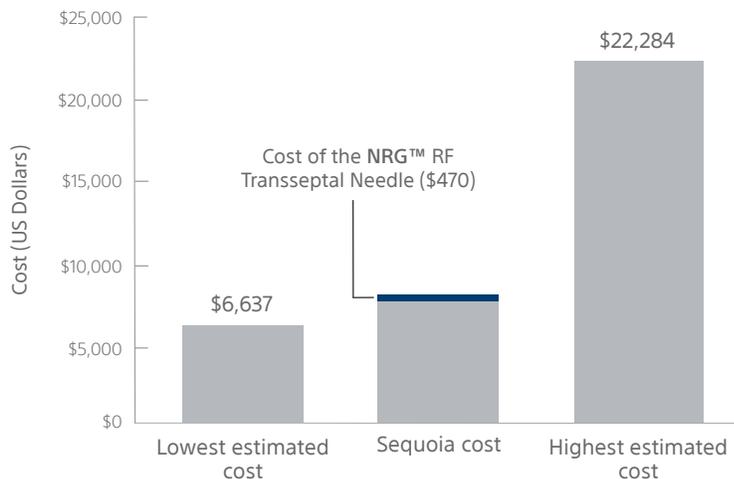
INTRODUCTION

- ▶ This study evaluated the cost-per-procedure used to perform an atrial fibrillation ablation procedure.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- ▶ The lowest estimated cost-per-procedure was \$6,637 and the highest estimated cost-per-procedure was \$22,284.
- ▶ Sequoia Hospital follows a low cost-per-procedure equipment scenario of \$7,968, as they have found little scientific evidence to suggest that most of the higher valued equipment is safer or more efficacious.
- ▶ Sequoia Hospital, however, routinely uses three higher valued devices:
 - The **NRG™** Radiofrequency (RF) Transseptal Needle (Baylis Medical®)
 - Bi-directional irrigated RF ablation catheter
 - Variable diameter circular catheter to verify pulmonary vein isolation
- ▶ The authors routinely use the **NRG™** RF Transseptal Needle, which was shown to be safer with fewer tamponades, and which allows for greater efficacy and faster septal crossing compared to the mechanical transseptal needle.¹

Cost-per-procedure



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¹ Winkle, R.A., et al., The use of a radiofrequency needle improves the safety and efficacy of transseptal puncture for atrial fibrillation ablation. Heart Rhythm, 2011. 9(8): p. 1411-5. DOI: 10.1016/j.hrthm.2011.04.032

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