

**“EP Working Group of the Moment”** A joint initiative between the EHRA National Cardiac Societies Committee, the EHRA Young EP Committee and the EHRA e-Communications committee.

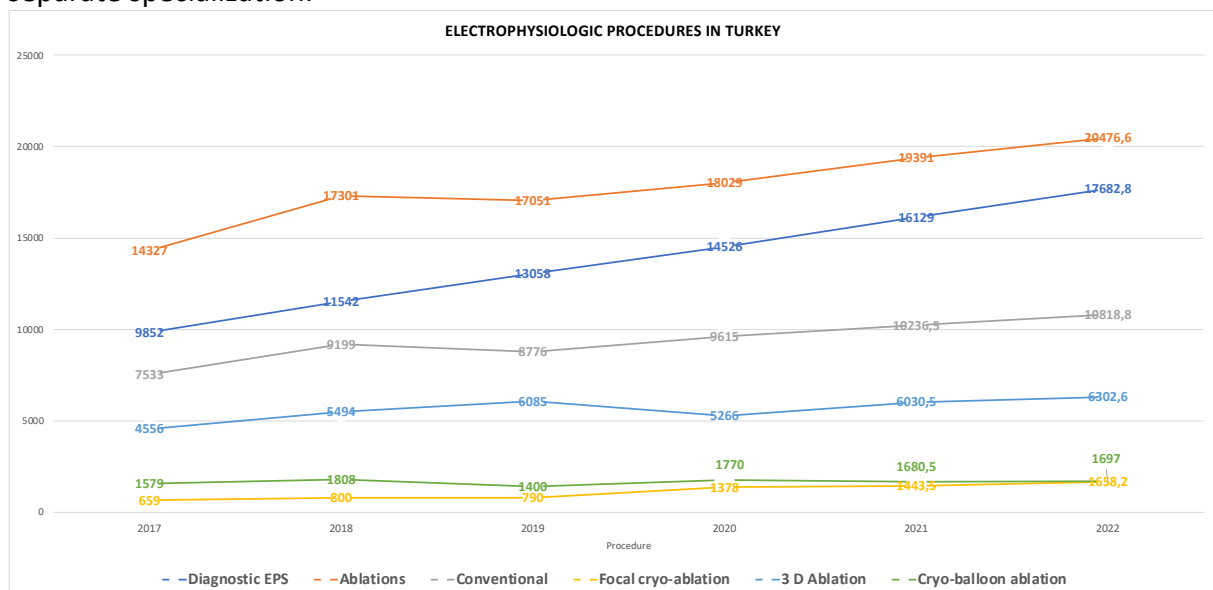


**TURKISH  
SOCIETY OF  
CARDIOLOGY**

Arrhythmia  
Working Group

Turkey, with a population of 84 million, is located on the Anatolian and Thrace peninsula at the intersection of the Asian and European continents. There are approximately 164 thousand physicians in our country, and more than 5000 of them are cardiologist. Health services are provided free of charge in the state hospitals and some of private hospitals through the national social security system. 78% of health expenditures belong to the state and 22% to the private sector. While cardiac implantable electronic devices and conventional ablation procedures are covered by reimbursement system at all public hospitals. Operations using 3D mapping and cryo ablation are only eligible for reimbursement at university hospitals and state-affiliated training and research hospitals. (Table 1: Annual case numbers graph)

Cardiology education is given for 5 years in universities and training and research hospitals after 6 years of medical school. Electrophysiology education, has not yet been accepted as a separate specialization.



Turkish Society of Cardiology (TSC) was established in 1963 and has more than 3600 members (2800 cardiologist and 800 cardiology residents). Arrhythmia working group (WG) is one of the

8 working groups established within the body of TSC and has been carrying out its activities since 2005. There are 800 members in arrhythmia WG. Even if they do not actively perform electrophysiology, our colleagues who are interested in electrophysiology can also become members of the working group. Arrhythmia WG has been organizing the annual national arrhythmia congress since 2006. Despite the pandemic, the participation of 2021 is 635 people.

Arrhythmia WG consists of a chairman and 3 members. These board members are elected every 2 years.

Main goals and carried out/planned activities of the TSC Arrhythmia WG are:

- 1) Standardization of the electrophysiology practice and education with collaboration with the health and education authorities in Turkey.
  - a. Working on a project about accreditation and certification of the active electrophysiologists in Turkey.
  - b. Six main electrophysiology training modules in six different experienced electrophysiology centers were created to increase the theoretical and practical experience of new cardiologist starting electrophysiology practice. At 2022, 10 cardiologists had already started training in the program and 3 of them are women electrophysiologist.
  - c. Since 2019,13 face to face pacemaker and ICD education programs have been held and 10 more are planned in 2022
  - d. In 2020-2021, 23 online meetings were held with the participation of experts in the arrhythmia field in Turkey
  - e. Different courses or workshops are held except annual meeting with national and international experts. Planned courses for 2022 are:
    - i. Transseptal puncture
    - ii. Cardiac anatomy
    - iii. Cardiac Resynchronization therapy
    - iv. Conduction system pacing
    - v. 3d mapping systems
    - vi. Atrial fibrillation ablation
    - vii. Ventricular tachycardia ablation
  - f. Some of the courses are recorded and our members are given the opportunity to watch them on the TSC website. ([www.TKD.org.tr](http://www.TKD.org.tr))
- 2) Our members were encouraged to participate in the EHRA certification exams. Also electrophysiology centers were encouraged to become EHRA accredited centers.
  - a. In 2021, EHRA cardiac implantable electronic device (CIED) and electrophysiology certification exams preparation courses were held online in Turkish in collaboration with EHRA and with the participation of valuable EHRA members Prof. Dr. Jan Steffel and Prof. Dr. Michael Glickson. More than 800 cardiologists and allied health professionals registered for each course.
  - b. Covering the registration fees for the EHRA certification exams of a limited number of WG members' ,who meet the appropriate conditions is planned
  - c. Twelve of the WG members had EHRA EP certificate and 8of them had CIED certificate

- d. EHRA accredited EP centres are
  - i. Kocaeli University Hospital Arrhythmia unit
  - ii. Hacettepe University Department of Cardiology, Electrophysiology Unit
- 3) A session titled “Women in EP” is held in every annual arrhythmia congress of WG for women to take a more active role in electrophysiology.
- 4) At the congresses at least one young EP colleague is included as a speaker or panelist in each session. They are also encouraged to become members of the EHRA young EP platform and play a more active role in it. For this purpose, training programs were held with the support of the national young EP ambassador.
- 5) All the WG members are encouraged to become members of EHRA. Also a limited number of WG members’ ,who meet the appropriate criteria, registration fees are covered by TSC (20 members in 2020), In addition, our members were also encouraged to take part in EHRA commissions. Our members who take an active part in EHRA are:
  - a. Prof. Dr Hikmet Yorgun - EHRA certification committee
  - b. Assoc. Prof. Dr Emin Evren Ozcan - EHRA certification committee
  - c. Dr Evrim Simsek - EHRA Young Ambassador
- 6) Joint sessions with EHRA are planned in every annual congresses. Two sessions will be held with EHRA at our 2022 congress.

In conclusion: As the Arrhythmia working group of Turkish Society of Cardiology our main aim is to develop electrophysiology practice and education in Turkey with the collaboration of EHRA