

'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

The Rhythmology Working Group of the Austrian Society of Cardiology

Dagmar Burkart-Küttner, Martin Manninger, Daniel Scherr, Lukas Fiedler

The Austrian Rhythmology Working Group is part of the Austrian Society of Cardiology and was founded in 2012 by fusion of two former working groups:

The Invasive Rhythmology and Noninvasive Rhythmology Working group.

Organization:

The Austrian Rhythmology Working Group is part of the Austrian Society of Cardiology and consists of the following members:

- Chair of the Austrian Rhythmology WG (2019-2021): Lukas Fiedler
- Co-Chair of the Austrian Rhythmology WG (2019-2021): Dagmar Burkart-Küttner



- Nucleus-Members of the Austrian Rhythmology WG: 17 Senior-Experts specialised in rhythmology
- Members of the Austrian Rhythmology WG: mainly cardiologists specialised in rhythmology (invasive and noninvasive) and thoracic surgeons who are specialised in Cardiac device implantation.

The members of the Austrian Rhythmology WG meet three times per year. Every two years a new Chair of the Austrian WG of Rhythmology is elected by the WG members.

Austrian Rhythmology WG members in EHRA positions:

- Helmut Pürerfellner: Chair of the Membership pillar; International Affairs Coordinator
- Daniel Scherr: National Cardiac Societies Committee member
- Markus Stühlinger: Scientific Documents Committee member
- Martin Manninger: Young EP Committee member
- Michael Pfeffer: Young EP ambassador

Main Goals:

The main goals of the Austrian Rhythmology WG are:

- Education and support of Cardiologists of Tomorrow (CoT) in invasive and noninvasive rhythmology
- Training of general cardiologists in the area of cardiac rhythm disorders
- Teaching nurses and technicians working in EP environment
- Organisation and hosting of national and international rhythmology meetings
- Cooperation with other Austrian cardiologic working groups
- Collaboration with international societies or working groups, e.g. EHRA working groups
- Support of research and development
- Quality assurance in the field of EP-procedures and cardiac devices
- Implementation of International Guidelines and Creation of Position-Papers in the field of rhythmology
- Acting as Key-Contact for doctors, nurses, technicians and patients as needed

Education:

The Austrian Rhythmology WG organises on a yearly basis:

- EP rotational program: three positions per year for aspiring interventional electrophysiologists, educational track including preparation for EHRA exam, internships in the EP lab of the three training centers Wiener Neustadt, Linz, Graz
- EP training courses for allied professionals: annual three-day training course including live cases
- ECG-Training Courses for General Practitioners, Cardiologists and assistant staff
- Pacemaker curriculum: A theoretical and practical course, established in 2015, for young Cardiologists, senior Cardiologists and Surgeons with the goal to share state of the art technologies and know-how of pacemakers covering indication, implantation and follow ups
- AICD and CRTD Courses since 2020
- Holter-ECG-Courses
- Meeting with the Cardiologists of Tomorrow: a two days meeting, where senior Cardiologists and Cardiologists of Tomorrow are presenting basics as well as very special rhythmologic topics and cases

There are two EHRA-recognised training centres in Austria:

- Elisabethinen Hospital Linz (Contact: [Prof. Helmut Pürerfellner FESC, FHRS](#))
- Medical University of Graz (Contact: [Prof. Daniel Scherr, FESC, FEHRA, FHRS](#))

Quality Assurance:

As quality assurance is an important part in medicine, the Austrian Rhythmology WG established and enlarged various registries in the last years to collect necessary information to safeguard the quality of the indications and procedures, e.g.: Pacemaker registry, CRT registry, ablation registry (Fig. 1), LifeVest registry, LAA occluder registry

National and International Meetings:

National Austrian Cardiologist Summit - ÖKG-Jahrestagung: At this annual Congress of the Austrian society of Cardiology, members of the Austrian Rhythmology WG chair and present the rhythmological parts of the agenda.

RhythMeet: international interactive EP Workshop. Once a year several difficult and complex cases in interventional EP are collected to treat those together with the help of nationwide experts.

Austro-Canadian-Corner: Canadian EP Experts meet Austrian EP Experts to discuss the new data in the field of cardiac arrhythmias.

Participation in EHRA-Congress: Rhythmology Working group team members are regularly invited to the EHRA-Congresses to give presentations, present papers or chair sessions. In addition, the EHRA meeting is held regularly in Vienna with active participation of Austrian working group members.

Position Papers:

During the last years the Austrian Rhythmology WG drafted and published various Position Papers especially for the implementation in Austria. According to international guidelines and recommendations, the following position papers were established:

- Pacemaker and MRI
- Remote-Monitoring
- Wearable Cardioverter Defibrillator
- S1 guideline - Austrian consensus for anticoagulation in the context of atrial fibrillation ablation (S1 Leitlinie – Österreichischer Konsensus zur Antikoagulation im Rahmen der Vorhofflimmernablation)
- S1 guideline – Austrian Consensus on acute therapy of ventricular tachycardias – the Austrian VT ablation network (S1 Leitlinie - VT Konsensus und Netzwerk)

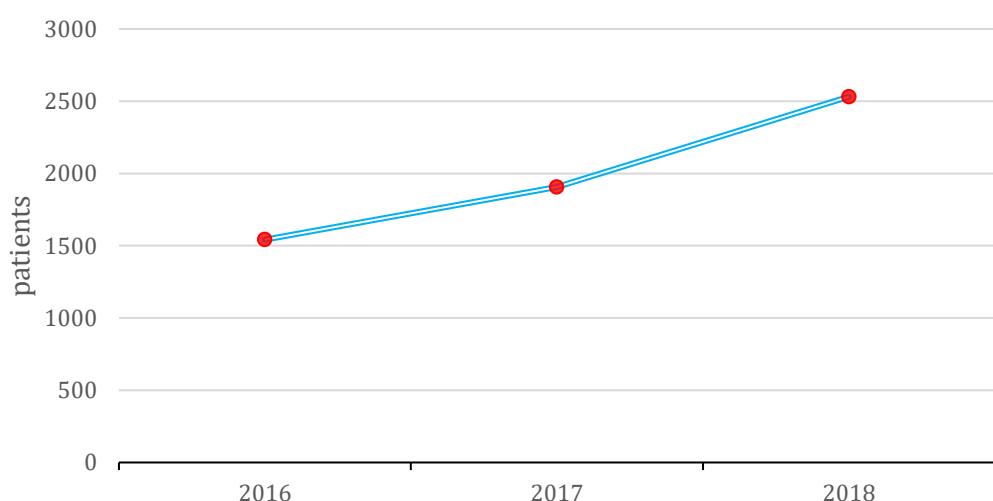


Fig. 1: number of patients undergoing ablation in Austria 2016-2018