



Concomitant Procedure Options for Comprehensive AFib Management

Address AFib Symptoms and Protect Against Stroke

Atrial fibrillation (AFib) adversely affects cardiac rhythm and elevates stroke risk, with 90% of strokes originating in the left atrial appendage (LAA).¹ While AFib management typically begins with rhythm control medications and oral anticoagulants (OACs), some patients with AFib require both rhythm control with an ablation, while also needing the freedom from OACs that LAAC can provide.

- **Cardiac ablation:** Thermal ablation employs extreme heat or cold to create scar tissue, thereby blocking errant electrical signals. Pulsed field ablation (PFA) represents an advanced technique that utilizes rapid energy pulses to selectively target arrhythmogenic cardiac areas while minimizing collateral tissue damage.
- **WATCHMAN™ Left Atrial Appendage Closure (LAAC) Implant:** A minimally invasive, one-time procedure designed to reduce the risk of stroke while offering an alternative to long-term oral anticoagulation therapy and eliminating the risk of long-term OAC-related bleeding complications.

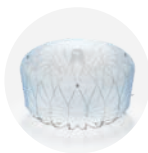
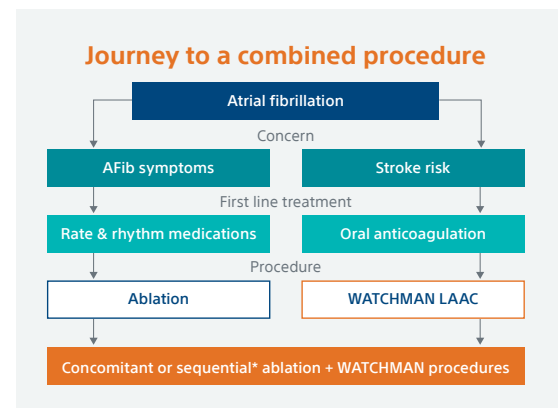
Alternative procedure options for comprehensive AFib management

Implanting physicians may choose to offer comprehensive AFib management strategies with a procedural approach to address both rhythm control and stroke protection. Performing an AFib ablation and implanting a WATCHMAN device in the same procedure may offer enhanced benefits and patient satisfaction.

WATCHMAN procedure options

As clinical trials broaden AFib patient and treatment indications, HCPs can feel more confident when recommending the WATCHMAN Implant for stroke protection.

For AFib patients suitable for the WATCHMAN LAAC Implant, implanting physicians may suggest one of three procedures, depending on their eligibility for an AFib ablation and the physician's discretion.



Standalone

A WATCHMAN device is implanted in a single procedure.



Concomitant

An AFib ablation is performed, and a WATCHMAN device is then implanted within a single procedural setting.[†]



Sequential

An AFib ablation is performed, and a WATCHMAN device is implanted in a later procedure.*

NOTE: FARAPULSE PFA Catheter pictured as representative example for AFib ablation, though any modality may be used.

*In the OPTION trial, sequential LAAC was a minimum of 90 days (as a protocol-driven blanking period) and less than 6 months post-AF ablation.

†Two distinct procedures delivered during one operative episode/coordinated intervention.

The road to concomitant

October 2024

CMS expands procedure reimbursement

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) introduced a new MS-DRG allowing cost coverage for concomitant AFib ablation and WATCHMAN procedures.²

November 2024

Positive OPTION results announced

Data from the OPTION clinical trial demonstrated that the WATCHMAN FLX™ device offers comparable safety and efficacy to OACs in stroke risk reduction for post-ablation patients.³

April 2025

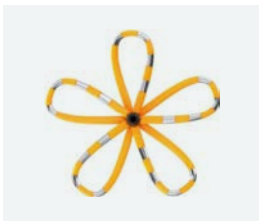
OPTION sub-analysis published

A sub-analysis of the OPTION trial showed LAAC has similar efficacy compared with OAC, and a lower risk of clinically relevant post-procedure bleeding in high-risk patients following AFib ablation regardless of whether it is implanted in concomitant or sequential procedures.^{4*}

*In the OPTION trial, sequential LAAC was a minimum of 90 days (as a protocol-driven blanking period) and less than 6 months post-AF ablation.

Industry-leading AFib management solutions

Boston Scientific provides two solutions to help patients manage AFib:



FARAPULSE™ Pulsed Field Ablation System

#1 utilized pulse field ablation (PFA) system in the US, treats rate and rhythm symptoms in AFib patients with minimal risk of post-procedural complications.



WATCHMAN Implant

Most-studied and implanted LAAC device globally. Delivers a lifetime of stroke risk reduction, without the bleeding risks associated with long-term oral anticoagulation (OAC) therapy.

Together, FARAPULSE and WATCHMAN offer a vital solution for AFib management.

To learn more about ablation and WATCHMAN procedure options, visit [watchman.com/hcp](https://www.watchman.com/hcp)



WATCHMAN FLX Pro Indications, Safety and Warnings

<https://www.watchman.com/en-us-hcp/watchman-flx-pro-brief-summary.html>



FARAPULSE Pulsed Field Ablation System Indications, Safety, and Warnings

<https://qrco.de/bfsrJX>

*OPTION Clinical trial studied thermal AFib ablation only.

1. Blackshear JL., Odell JA. Annals of Thoracic Surg. 1996; 61: 755-759.

2. FY25 IPPS Final Rule

3. Wazni O, et al. Randomized comparison of left atrial appendage closure with oral anticoagulation after catheter ablation for atrial fibrillation. Paper presented at: American Heart Association Scientific Sessions; November 15-18, 2024; Chicago, IL.

4. Saliba W, et al. Comparison of left atrial appendage closure and oral anticoagulation after catheter ablation for atrial fibrillation concomitant and sequential cohorts of the OPTION randomized controlled trial. Paper presented at: AF Symposium; January 16-18, 2025; Boston, MA.

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