

Customer information

concerning incorrect QRS measurement in case of very long BBB

Dear Sir or Madam,

SCHILLER continuously advances its devices and constantly supervises their quality. We feel responsible and always endeavour to meet the high quality standards you expect from our devices. We recently received an error report from a Swedish customer that may also be of interest to other users.

On an automatic ECG measurement on a patient with extremely long (>200ms) bundle-branch block (BBB), it was discovered that the QRS duration could be measured incorrectly. Our own tests have shown that indeed in the case of very long BBB, occasionally the QRS duration measured by the equipment is too short. However, no change of interpretation has been caused by this error.

The SCHILLER ECG measurement and interpretation program is designed to assist the physician in reading and evaluating an ECG printout. It was developed in co-operation with leading cardiologists and evolved over many years; extensive checking has been carried out using, among others, the CSE diagnostic data base (Common Standards for Quantitative Electro cardiology (concerted action Project II.1.1.2)). However, no program is completely infallible and interpretative standards and criteria can and do vary between cardiologists and programs. Never rely solely on the statements given with any computerised interpretation program; a machine cannot deliver a complete diagnosis on the basis of the ECG alone without a considerable amount of additional information. Always obtain physician's confirmation.

We consider it our task to use new technologies, but also the feedback from our customers, for the continuous improvement of our products.

Yours sincerely,


Serkan Sezer

Quality Assurance & Regulatory Affairs Manager

