Reviewer's report

Title: Financial Impact of adopting Implantable Loop Recorder Diagnostic for unexplained syncope compared with Conventional Diagnostic Pathway in Portugal

Version: 3

Date: 17 January 2014

Reviewer: Richard Sutton

Reviewer's report:

MINOR:
1. P3 line 21: should be worded 'none is' rather than 'neither' as 3 studies are quoted.
2. P5 line 22 Reveal XT not xt

MAJOR:
3. The authors use Farwell's data for recurrence of syncope but they may obtain confirmation from the ISSUE 2 study which had a recurrence rate in the untreated group of 0.83 syncopes/year. On P5 a 63% recurrence rate is taken seemingly driven by the PICTURE study. This is a very high recurrence rate and all other studies old and new are in the range 30-40%. This raises the possibility of recalculation with this more conservative figure. It must also be borne in mind that the PICTURE study was a registry where selection bias may apply.
4. The argument for the study and its methodology is rather long. perhaps, it could be written more precisely and more briefly.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.