



## Hospital Universitari de Girona Doctor Josep Trueta

### ADVANTICS™ Increasing Patient Access To New Arrhythmia Therapies

Hospital Josep Trueta de Girona's Cardiology Service is the referral centre for cardiovascular disease in the Girona Health Region. Recently, Boston Scientific, together with other hospital partners, has helped the hospital to improve access to new rhythm management treatments for patients who previously had to travel 100 km to Barcelona for their care.

#### Challenge

The cardiology department recognised the need to provide these services locally and planned to build a lab entirely dedicated to electrophysiology interventions. However, the hospital had a restricted budget that only allowed for the funding of an X-Ray machine. They needed additional equipment for therapy treatment and asked for support and collaboration from the industry.

#### Action

The *Capital Financing* Programme offers healthcare providers flexible options and advice to overcome budget constraints and enable upgrading of infrastructure and improvements to patient services.

Through a tender-driven agreement, Boston Scientific structured a capital financing deal to enable the cardiology department to implement their strategic initiative and realise their ambition.

Leveraging a risk-share model, the agreement allows for the provision of a specialised cardio ultrasound system, patient monitors, intensive care beds, procedural stretchers and medical recline seats to equip the Electrophysiology unit, while providing the hospital management with financial predictability and cash flow.

New Infrastructure

#### About the Hospital

Josep Trueta is a public specialist healthcare provider in Girona, serving a one million population in northern Spain.

It is run by the Catalan Institute of Health (ICS) and has more than 18,000 inpatients and up to 260,000 outpatients a year. More than 14,050 treatments, excluding cancer services, are carried out at the day hospital.

750 new patients treated in a year\*

Enhanced patient care through high-tech equipment

\* Baseline from December 2017 to December 2018.

## Outcomes

Boston Scientific's solutions team worked with the hospital to bring electrophysiology activities (from conventional to more complex ablations and S-ICD implants) much closer to the one million population it serves around Girona. The lab opened in December 2017 and improvements since then include:

- Significant reduction in patient travel time and costs to receive necessary arrhythmia treatment (previously 100 km trip).
- Increased patient satisfaction through access to new high-tech procedures
- Local access to rhythm management procedures
- Reduction in waiting lists gained through increased day lab procedures.
- More than 750 new patients have received advanced medical treatment within a year (~250 BSC Rhythm Management devices implants and ~500 Electrophysiology procedures).
- Increased access to referring physicians (internal and external)
- New equipment in a total value of €250K + VAT



*"One of my main objectives was to establish an arrhythmia unit to provide service to patients in the province of Girona, who previously had to travel Barcelona for this treatment.*

*With budgetary restraint, this was only possible with the collaboration between the hospital itself, this service and Boston Scientific whose Capital Finance Programme was instrumental in helping us to achieve our goal."*

**- Ramón Brugada,**  
Chief of Cardiology Service, Hospitals Josep Trueta and Santa Caterina, Girona

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