



### **PAB Lay Language Example**

#### **Patient vulnerability in stereotactic arrhythmia radioablation (STAR): a preliminary ethical appraisal from the STOPSTORM.eu consortium**

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STAR is a new, promising, non-invasive treatment for difficult-to-treat ventricular tachycardia (VT). The [STOPSTORM.eu](https://stopstorm.eu) group is mainly focused on gathering evidence about how well STAR works and how safe it is by creating a shared database of patients treated with STAR. Additionally, they aim to guide medical centers in following the highest ethical standards to ensure patient rights and autonomy are protected.

Future research by [STOPSTORM.eu](https://stopstorm.eu) will provide insights into the experiences of patients undergoing STAR treatment, helping to understand their vulnerabilities better and develop ethical guidelines based on this evidence. This initial ethical review highlights important ethical concerns that clinicians should consider when using STAR.

Key ethical concerns include:

1. The new situation of cardiology patients being treated by radiation oncologists.
2. The risk that patients might feel pressured to participate in experimental research.
3. Issues around patients' ability to give consent, considering both moral and legal aspects.

This review aims to help clinicians balance the innovative nature of STAR with strong ethical safeguards to protect patients' rights, dignity, and autonomy.