

***Ablation in Children:
Is there still something to say?
STRATEGY TO OVERCOME
ABLATION FAILURE IN CHILDREN***

Fabrizio Drago, MD

***Chief of Cardiology and Arrhythmias-Syncope Unit
Pediatric Cardiology and Cardio-surgery Department
Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital
Rome and Palidoro-Italy***

NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I.

I have received (a)
research grant(s) /
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A

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YES☐**NO**☒**II.**

I have been a speaker
or participant in
accredited CME/CPD ...

A

... from current
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YES☐**NO**☒**III.**

I have been a
consultant / strategic
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A

... for current
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YES☐**NO**☒**IV.**

I am a holder of
(a) patent / shares /
stocks or ownership...

A

... related to
presentation

YES☐**NO**☒**B**

... from any institution

YES☐**NO**☒**B**

... from any institution

YES☐**NO**☒**B**

... for any institution

YES☐**NO**☒**B**

... not related to
presentation

YES☐**NO**☒

SCORE: 0

NON FINANCIAL INTERESTS

STRATEGY TO OVERCOME ABLATION FAILURE IN CHILDREN

1. Don't perform the ablation saying that there is no specific indication
2. Leave it to another operator saying that your wife needs you at home
3. Don't go to the hospital on ablation days presuming that your car suddenly broke down
4. Leave the ablation catheter to another colleague because of a terrible stomach ache
5. Or.....do like me...
call a better interventional electrophysiologist than you!



STRATEGY TO OVERCOME ABLATION FAILURE IN CHILDREN

NOW SERIOUSLY....

in any case, for general suggestions:

BEFORE THE PROCEDURE:

1. if you assume from ECG analysis that it is a difficult procedure or at risk due to the size of the patient, postpone the elective procedure to a more appropriate patient's age

DURING THE PROCEDURE

1. Re-evaluate the electrophysiologic diagnosis
2. Use more diagnostic catheters
3. If you are tired, change operator and re-examine the procedure from outside

MOST FREQUENT ABLATION SUBSTRATES IN CHILDREN

- AVNRT
- ACCESSORY PATHWAYS
- ECTOPIC ATRIAL TACHYCARDIA

MOST FREQUENT ABLATION SUBSTRATES IN CHILDREN

- AVNRT
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ECTOPIC ATRIAL TACHYCARDIA

HOW TO OVERCOME ABLATION FAILURE IN AVNRT WITH RF

No JR during RF application and failure?

1. Re-evaluate diagnosis
2. Improve your catheter contact using a long sheath
3. Try in CS ostium or more inside
4. Evaluate a left sided approach (especially for “slow-slow”)
5. Try a higher approach (please, use Cryo!)

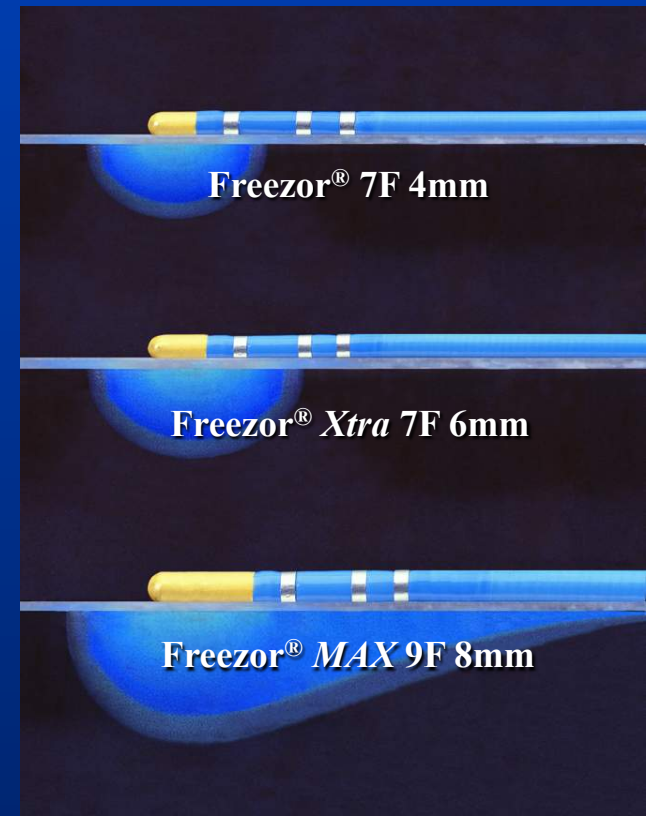
RF vs CRYO

AVNRT ABLATION IN CHILDREN

ENERGY	ACUTE SUCCESS RATE	RECURRENCE RATE	TOTAL SUCCESS RATE	IATROGENIC cAVB
RF Pediatric Radiofrequency Ablation Registry 2003 PEDIATRIC ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY SOCIETY	99%	4.9%	94.1%	2%
CRYO PAPERS 2006 - 2016	97%	13.7%	83.3%	0%

HOW TO OVERCOME ABLATION FAILURE IN AVNRT WITH CRYO

- 1) Use a longer cryoapplication (8 mins)
- 2) Use cryobonus to consolidate the cryolesion
- 3) Use a larger tip



HOW TO OVERCOME ABLATION FAILURE IN AVNRT WITH CRYO

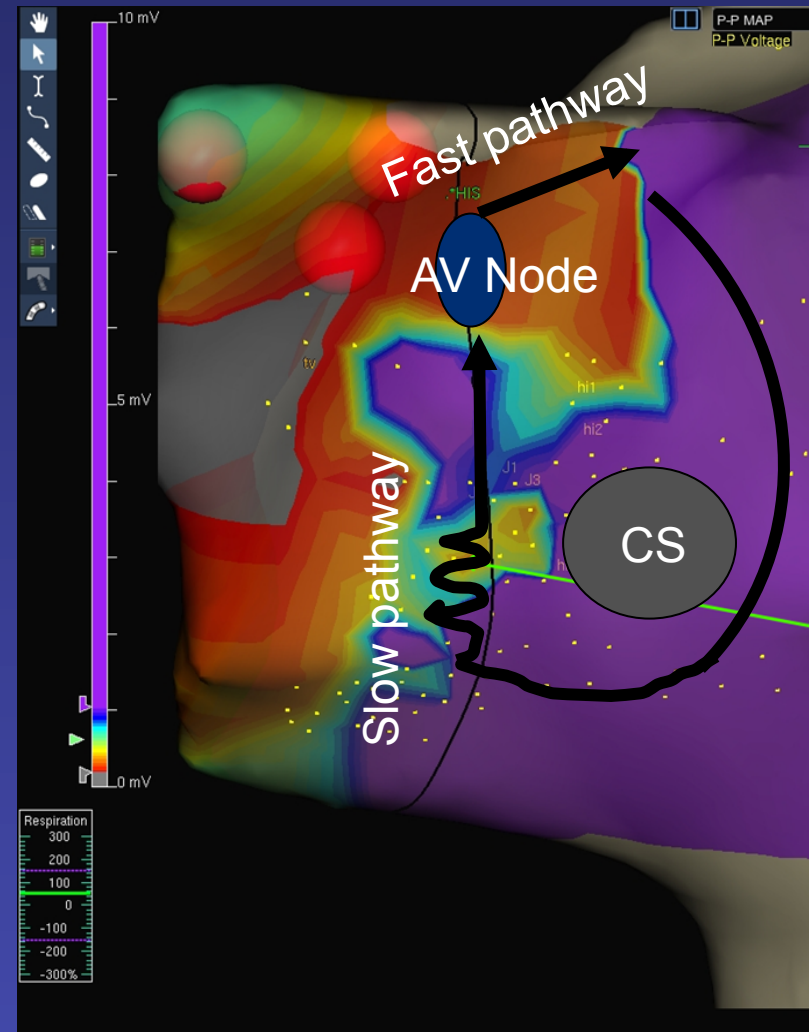
- 1) Use a longer cryoapplication
- 2) Use cryobonus to consolidate the cryolesion
- 3) Use a larger tip
- 4) Use the voltage gradient mapping and electrophysiology-guided cryoablation!

LOW VOLTAGE BRIDGES

Bailin SJ, EUROPACE 2011

Malloy L, Pediatr Cardiol 2014

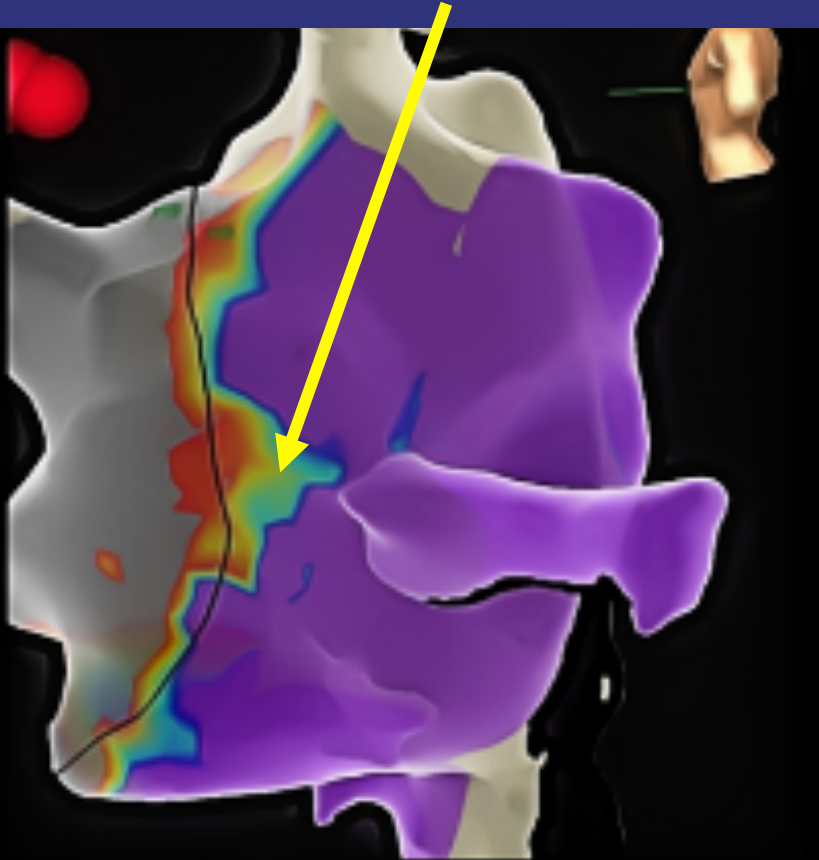
- Very high-density voltage 3D map is created for the atrial septum within Koch's triangle.
- The voltage color bar is individually adjusted for each patient in order to highlight a low-voltage bridge, if present, starting from a voltage range of 0.1-2 mV.
- Both high-voltage and low-voltage values are modified until a voltage bridge is evident. This adjustment is necessary because of voltage variability in each patient.



TYPE OF LOW-VOLTAGE BRIDGE

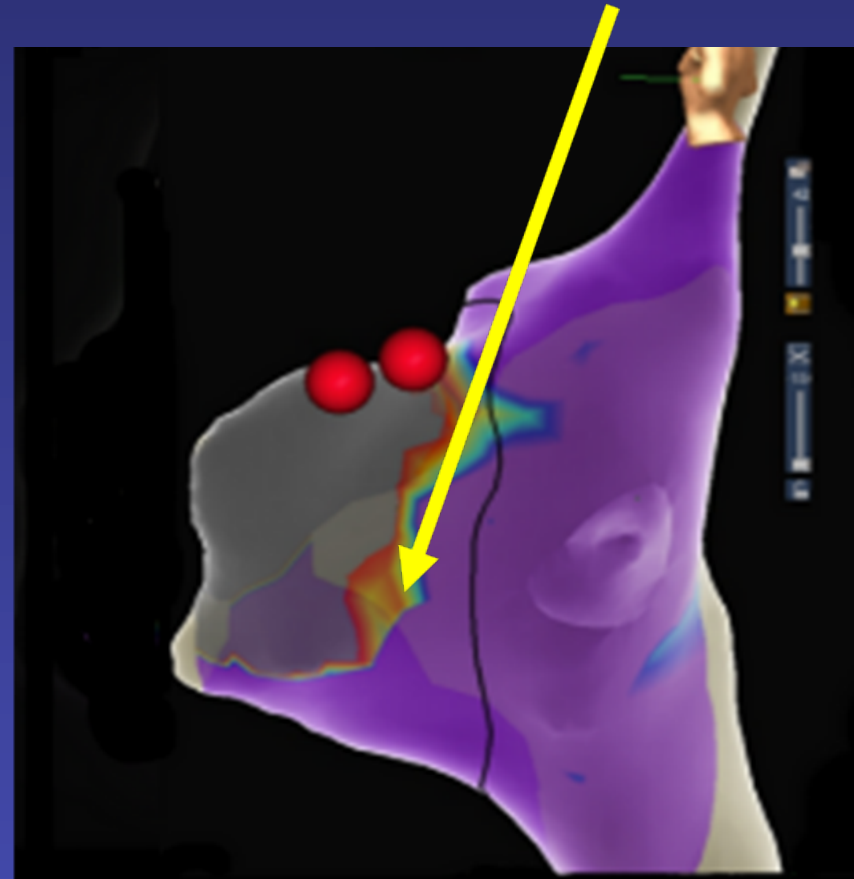
TYPE I

A clear, rather large area of low voltage within Koch's triangle between the coronary sinus ostium and the AV node



TYPE II

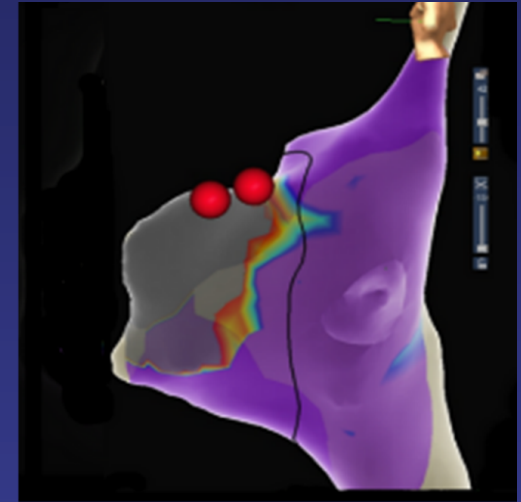
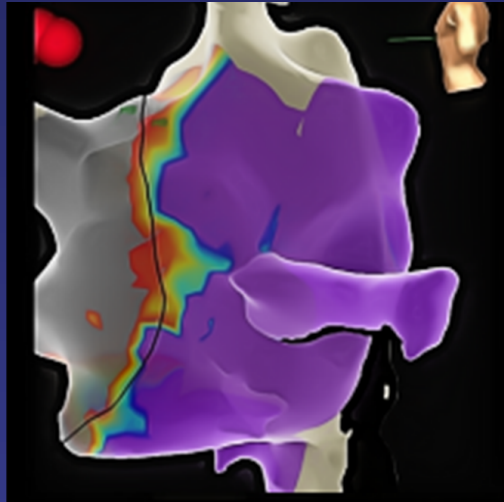
Narrow corridor made of low-voltage points between adjacent normal-voltage regions



LOW VOLTAGE BRIDGE AND ELECTROPHYSIOLOGICALLY GUIDED 3D CRYOABLATION IN CHILDREN WITH AVNRT

Drago F, EUROPACE 2017 (in press)

- 35 children (mean age 12.1 ± 4.5 years) with AVNRT

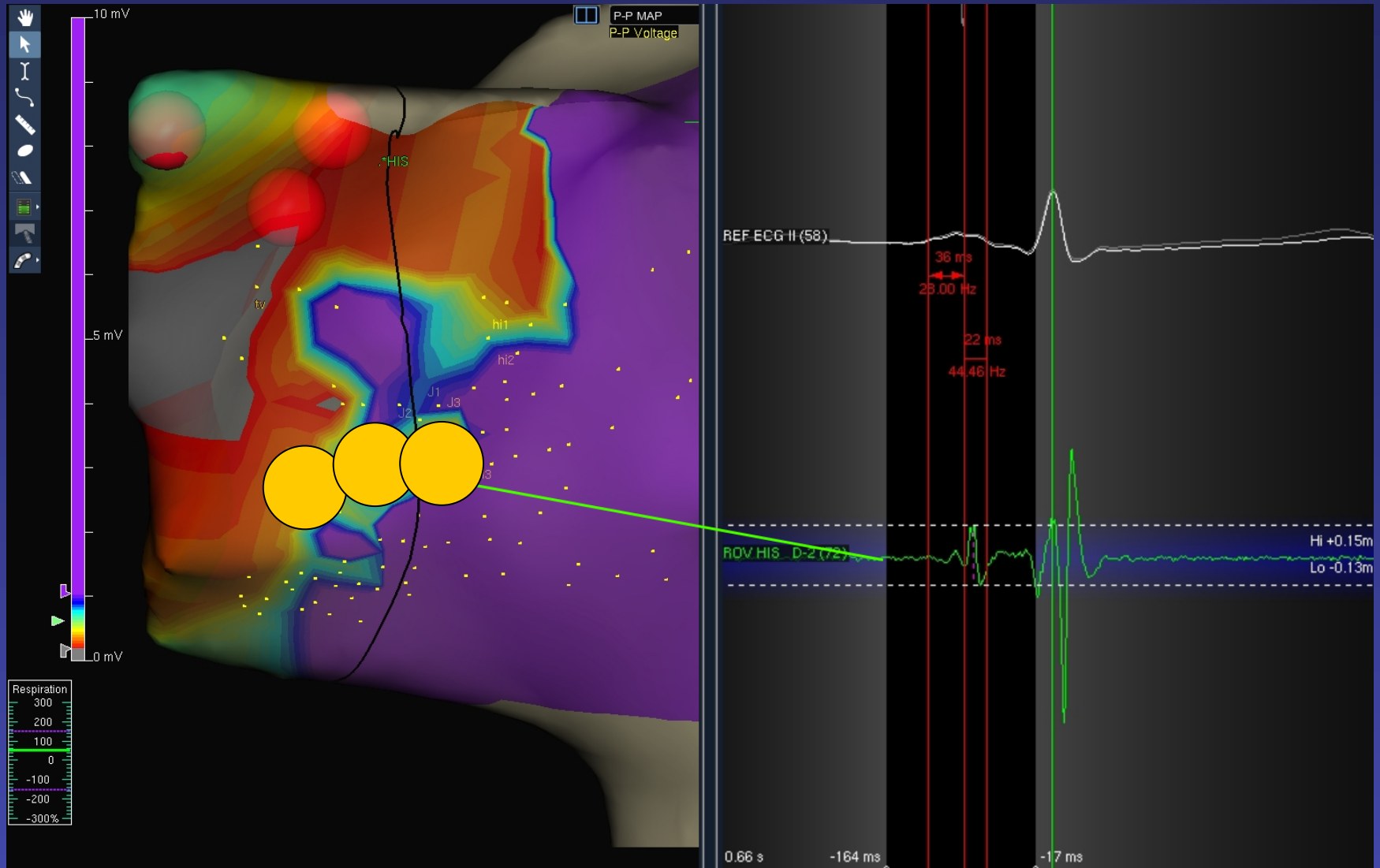


- 19 children without AVNRT (control group)



LOW VOLTAGE BRIDGE AND ELECTROPHYSIOLOGICALLY GUIDED 3D CRYOABLATION IN CHILDREN WITH AVNRT

Drago F, EUROPACE 2017 (in press)



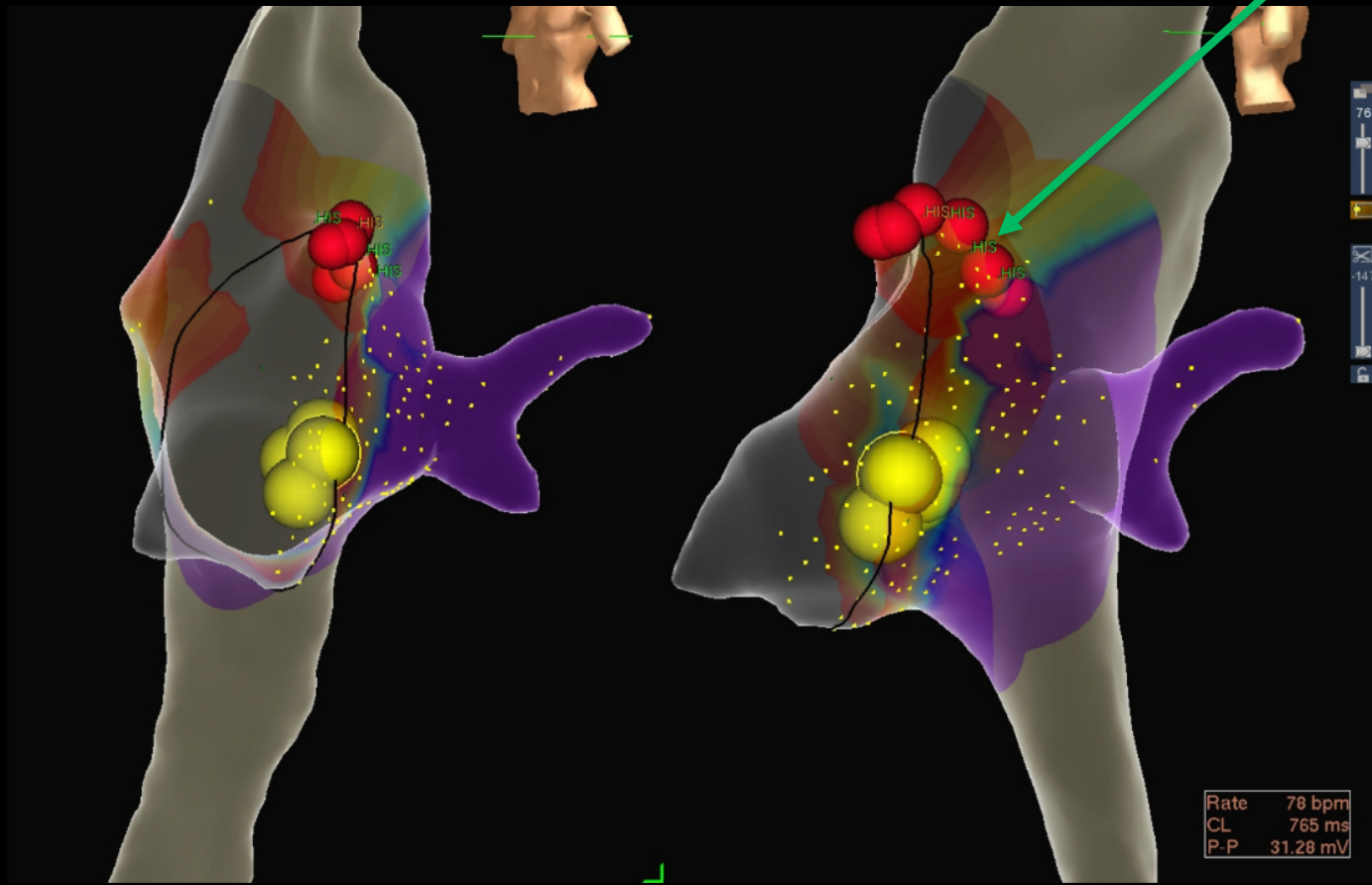
TYPE OF CRYOLESIONS

FOCAL LESION

SINGLE LESION

CRYOBONUS
one or more cryoenergy
application

IN THE SAME SPOT
consolidate and slightly
enlarge the successful
cryolesion



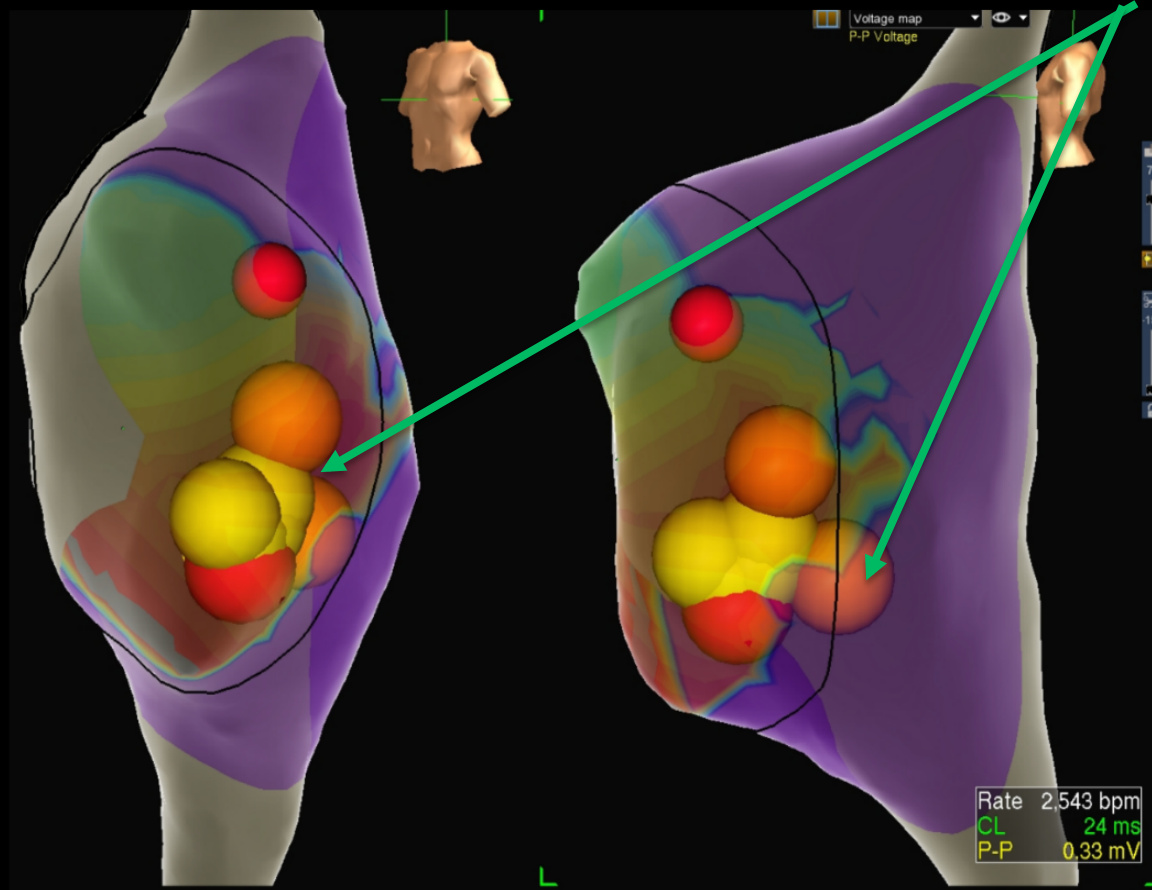
TYPE OF CRYOLESIONS

EXTENDED FOCAL LESION

SINGLE LESION

CRYOBONUS
one or more cryoenergy
application

SLIGHTLY ANTERIORLY
AND POSTERIORLY
to the first successful or
apparently successful lesion



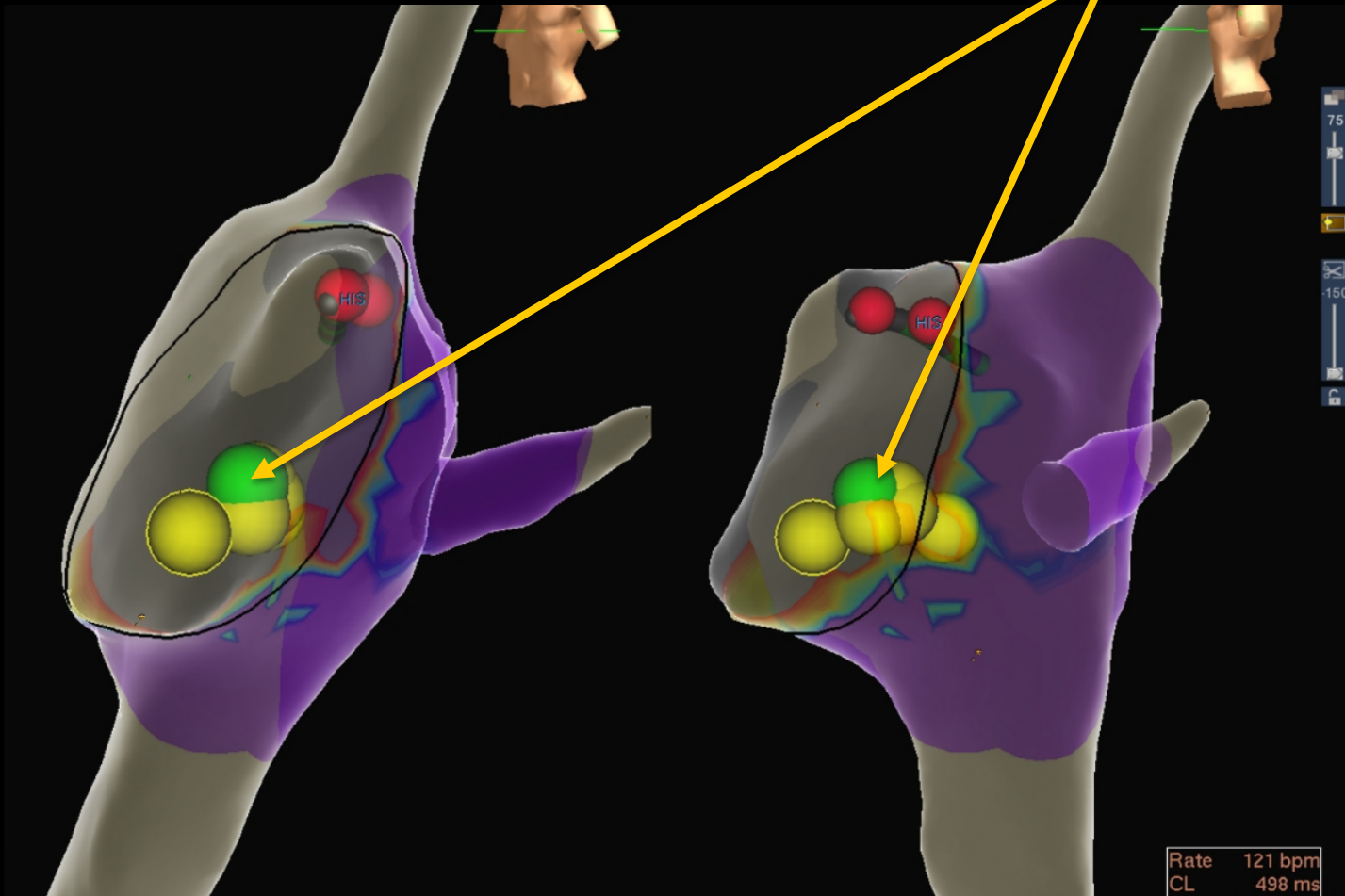
TYPE OF CRYOLESIONS

HDLL

multiple
overlapping
cryolesions

from the ventricular to
the atrial side of the
tricuspid annulus

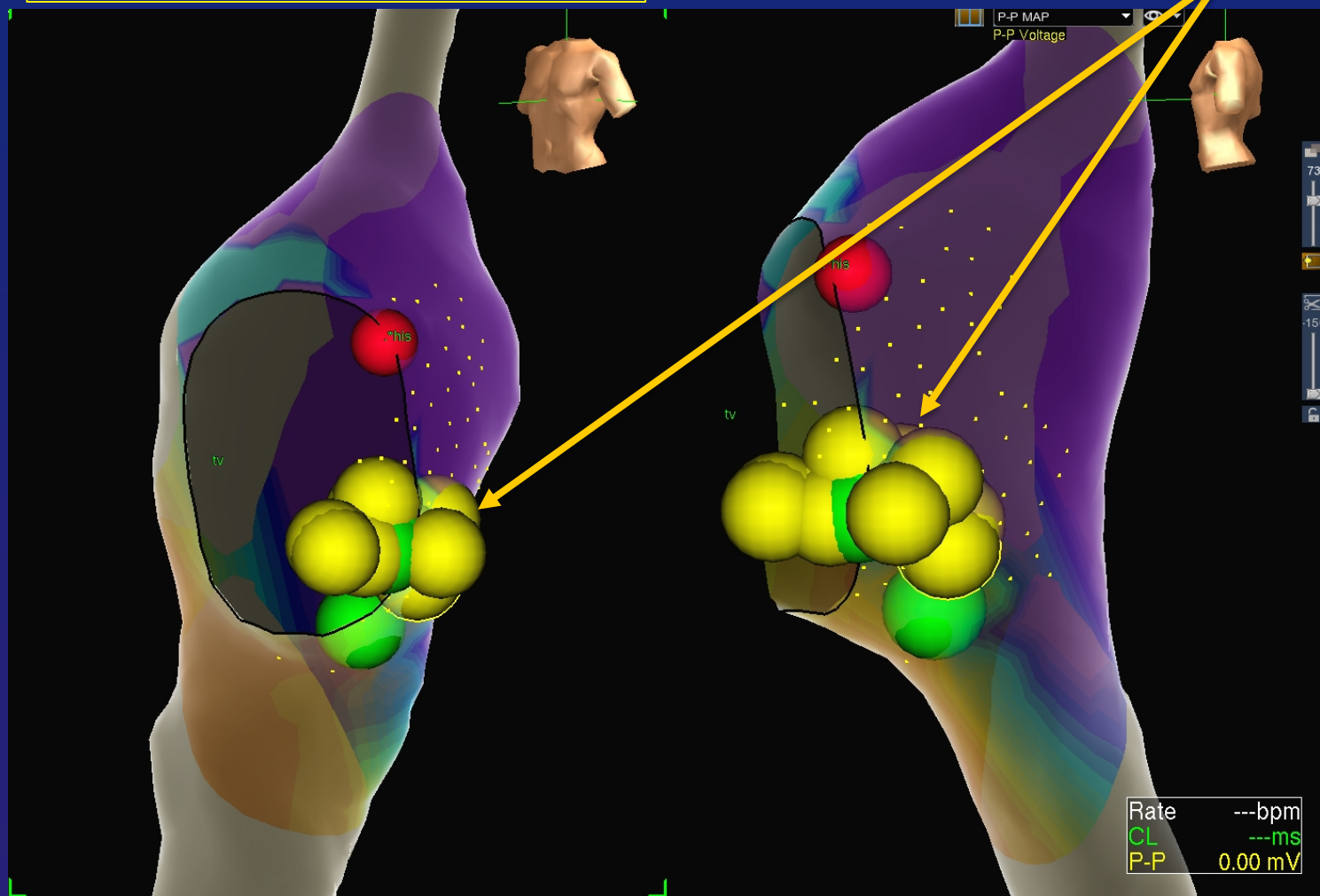
final cryolesion at least 10 mm long
With 3D spheres/lesions overlapping of at
least half of their diameter or at least 2 mm



TYPE OF CRYOLESIONS EXTENDED HDLL

Extending the multiple
overlapping cryolesions of HDLL

anteriorly and posteriorly



The Need for a Lengthier Cryolesion Can Predict a Worse Outcome in 3D Cryoablation of AV Nodal Slow Pathway in Children

FABRIZIO DRAGO, M.D.,* MARIO SALVATORE RUSSO, M.D., Ph.D.,*
IRMA BATTIPAGLIA, M.D.,* GINO GRIFONI, M.D.,* MASSIMO STEFANO SILVETTI, M.D.,*
ROMOLO REMOLI, M.D.,* VINCENZO PAZZANO, M.D.,*
FABIO ANSELMO SAPUTO, C.C.P.,* and MICHELE CIANI, F.T.E.†

From the *Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Arrhythmias/Syncope Unit, Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital and Research Institute, Rome, Italy; and †St. Jude Medical, Agrate Brianza, Italy

Background: Transcatheter cryoablation is a well-established technique for the treatment of atrioventricular nodal reentry tachycardia (AVNRT) in children. Nevertheless, atrioventricular nodal slow-pathway conduction may recur after an acutely successful procedure. The aim of this study was to evaluate the long-term outcome of acutely successful AVNRT cryoablations in pediatric patients in case of focal cryolesion and in case of need for High-Density Linear Lesion (HDLL) cryoablation due to focal failure.

Methods: Sixty-nine consecutive pediatric patients (30 males, mean age 12.4 ± 3.2 years; range: 5.4–18.0 years) underwent 3D-guided cryoablation for AVNRT at our institution from July 2013 to November 2014. When a focal cryoablation was acutely unsuccessful, a 3D-guided HDLL was created delivering multiple overlapping cryolesions/cryoenergy applications from the ventricular side of the tricuspid annulus to the atrial side, including the site of focal cryoablation if transiently successful.

Results: No permanent cryoablation-related complications occurred. Acute success rate was 98.5% (68 out of 69): in 55.9% (38 out of 68) with focal-lesion and in 44.1% (30 out of 68) with HDLL. Mean follow-up was 25.3 months and AVNRT recurrence rate was 13.2% (nine out of 68): 5.2% (two out of 38) with focal lesion and 23.3% (seven out of 30) with HDLL ($P = 0.036$).

Conclusions: In cryoablation of AVNRT in children, the need for a more aggressive protocol (HDLL), due to the failure of focal ablation, is strictly related to higher recurrence rates. Indeed, AVNRT recurrences after cryoablation in children seem to be due to a larger and deeper substrate rather than due to the type of energy used. (PACE 2016; 39:1198–1205)

transcatheter cryoablation, atrioventricular nodal reentry tachycardia, children

LOW VOLTAGE BRIDGE AND ELECTROPHYSIOLOGICALLY GUIDED 3D CRYOABLATION IN CHILDREN WITH AVNRT

Drago F, EUROPACE 2017 (in press)

- The procedural acute success rate was 100%
- During a median follow up of 8.0 ± 3 months (range 3-13 months) no recurrences occurred
- Now the children treated are 68 and acute and mid-term success rate is 100%

TYPE I BRIDGE:

25 patients (71.4%)

TYPE II BRIDGE:

10 patients (28.6%)

**2 LOW-VOLTAGE
BRIDGES:**

1 patient
(both typical and
atypical AVNRT)

“HUMP AND SPIKE” SIGNAL was observed and detected in all patients:

- 2 in the lower border of the bridge,
- 17 scattered in the low-voltage bridge area,
- 5 localized in the middle part of the bridge
- 1 case the slow pathway signal in the higher portion of the low-voltage area

RESULTS

Cryoablation Details

CRYOCATHETER TIP:

- 6 mm in 29 pts
- 4 mm in 5 pts
- 8 mm in 1 pt

**Focal
cryolesion**
19 pts

**Extended
focal cryolesion**
7 pts

74,2%

HDLL
6 pts

25,8%

**Extended
HDLL**
4 pts

• 2 Patients with typical and atypical AVNRT:

1st pt:

- Focal lesion was performed on a type I low-voltage bridge eliminating both tachycardias

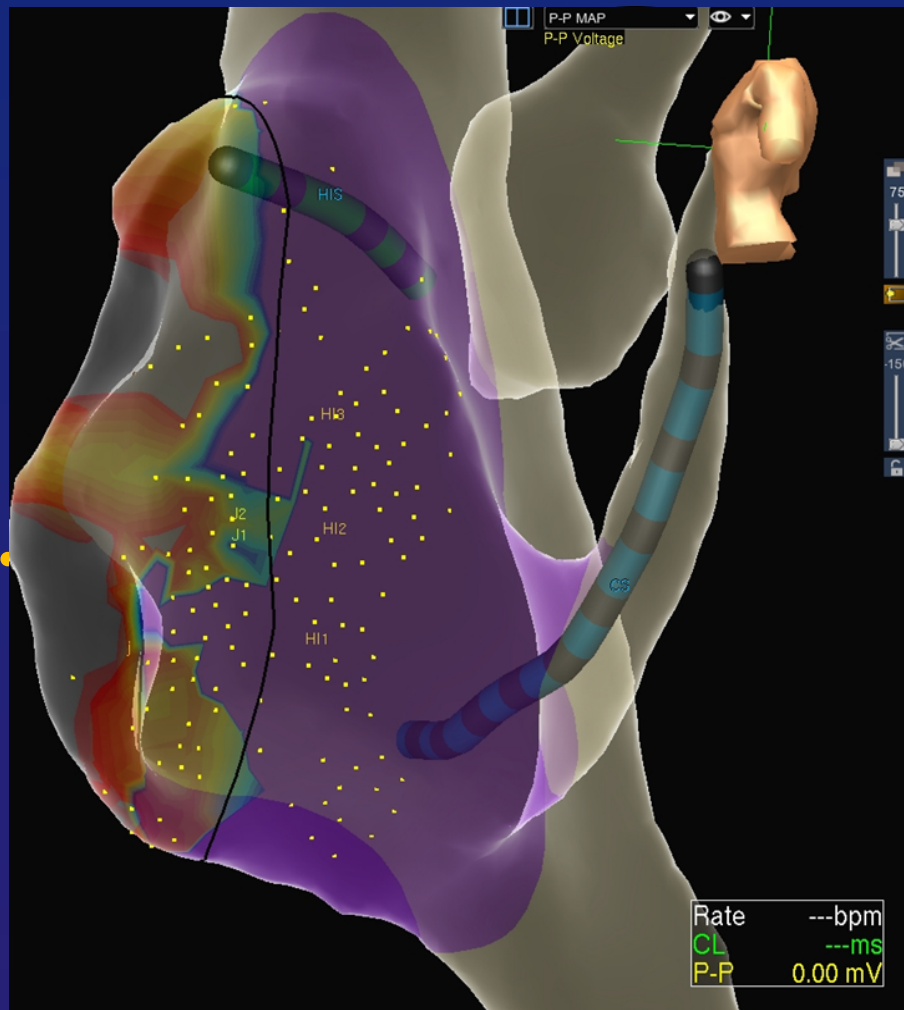
2nd pt: two bridges

- Focal lesion was created on the first bridge
- HDLL was created on the second bridge

RESULTS

Cryoablation Details

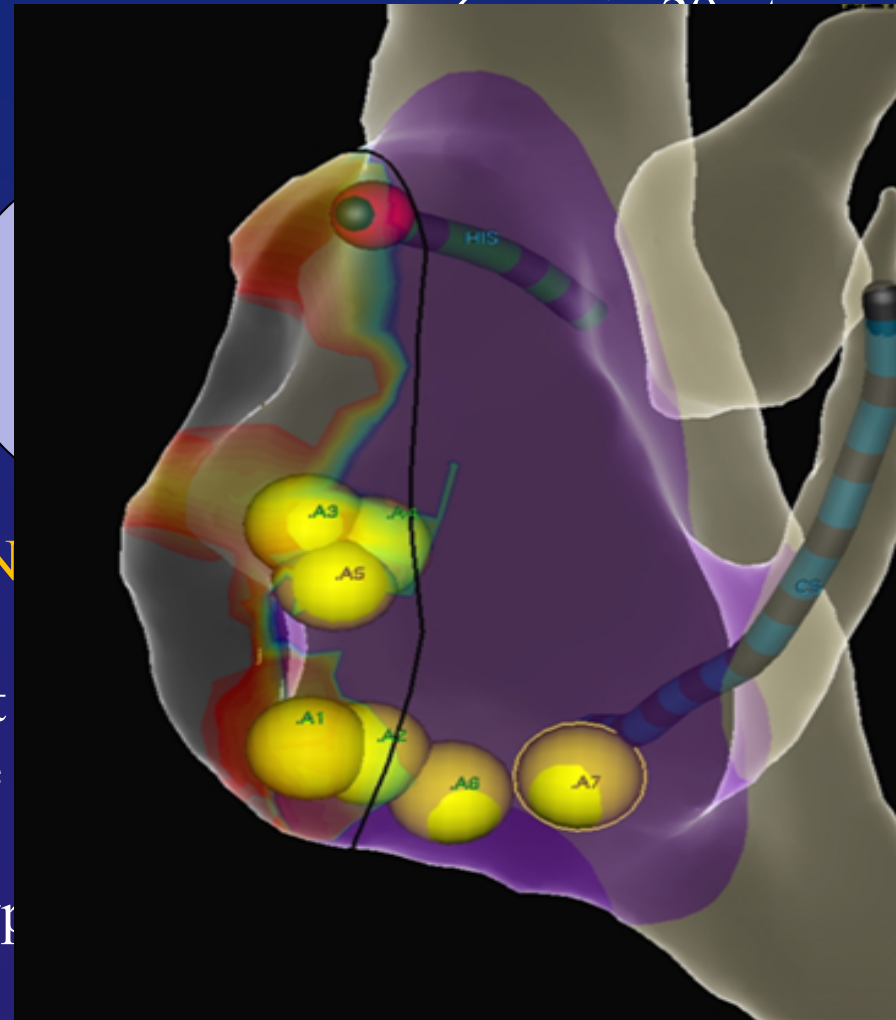
CRYOCATHETER
TIP:



AVN

first
edge

a typ



TYPICAL ABLATION SUBSTRATES IN CHILDREN

- AVNRT
- ACCESSORY PATHWAYS

ECTOPIC ATRIAL TACHYCARDIA

SUCCESS RATE OF RFTA

Pediatric Radiofrequency Ablation Registry

PEDIATRIC ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY SOCIETY

(Van Hare, JCE 2004: 2761 pts 0-16 yrs, 1999-2003)

All APs in pts with NH : 93%

↑ *LL* 98% *(p<0.001)*

Other locations: 88%

- Left septal 88%
- Right free wall 90%
- Right septal 89%

REASONS OF FAILURE IN APS ABLATION IN CHILDREN

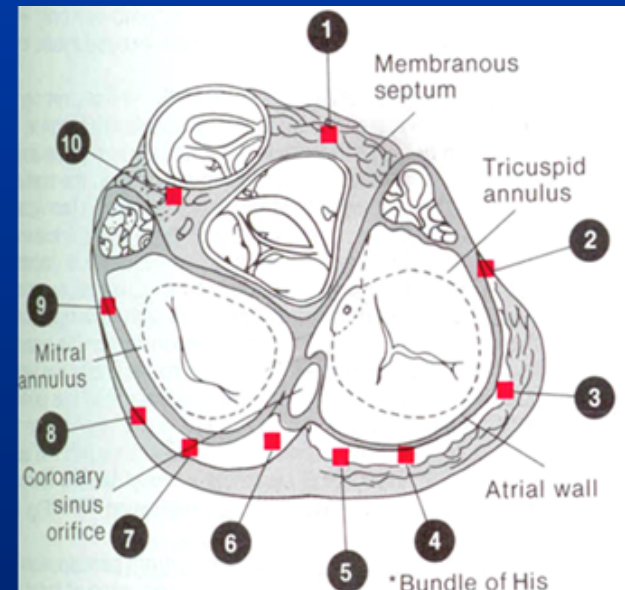
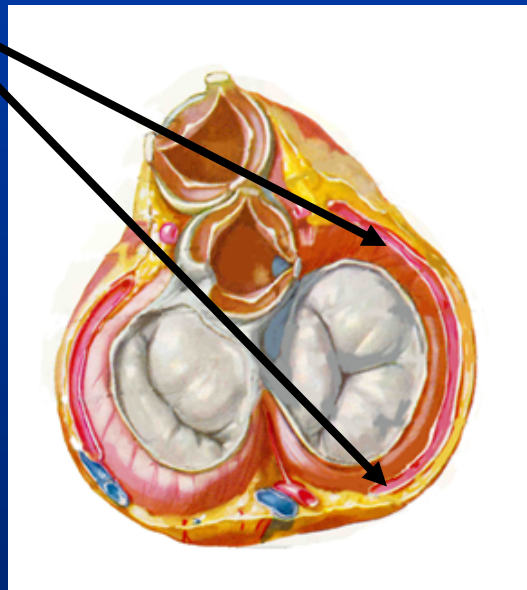
- 1) Technical difficulties
- 2) Misdiagnosis, inaccurate AP localization
- 3) Coexisting cardiac abnormalities
- 4) High-risk location

REASONS OF FAILURE IN APS ABLATION IN CHILDREN

1) Technical difficulties

- Catheter instability
- Poor tissue contact

Especially if ablation is performed during tachycardia!!



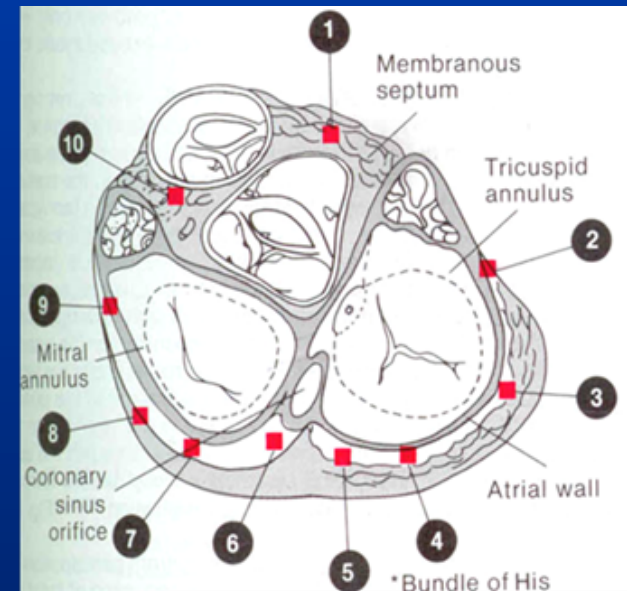
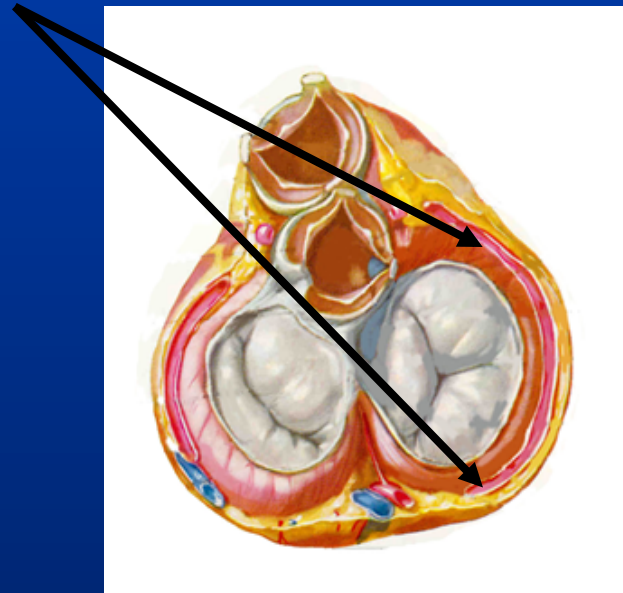
REASONS OF FAILURE IN APS ABLATION IN CHILDREN

1) Technical difficulties

- Catheter instability
- Poor tissue contact

Especially if ablation is performed during tachycardia!!

Use entrainment during AVRT to prevent dislodgement!!!



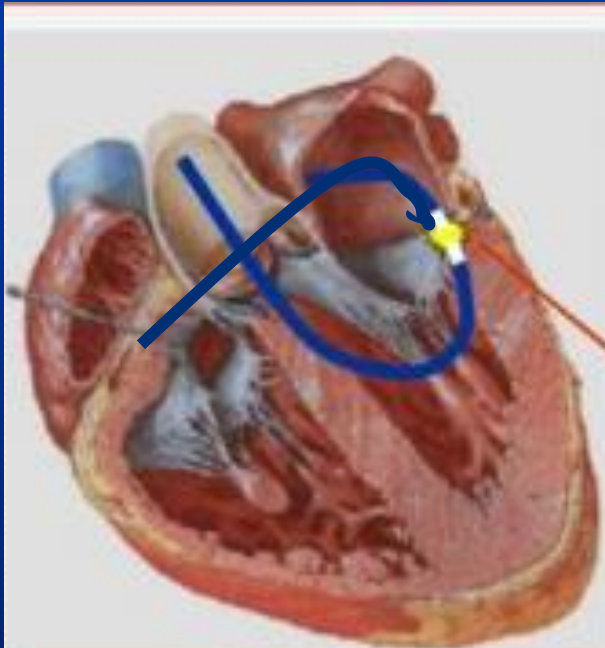
REASONS OF FAILURE IN APS ABLATION IN CHILDREN

1) Technical difficulties

- Catheter instability
- Poor tissue contact



RIGHT



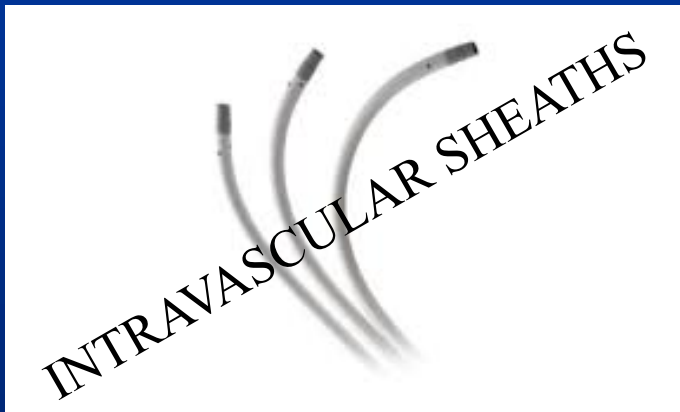
LEFT

Consider an alternative approach!

REASONS OF FAILURE IN APS ABLATION IN CHILDREN

1) Technical difficulties

- Catheter instability
- Poor tissue contact
- Epicardial location



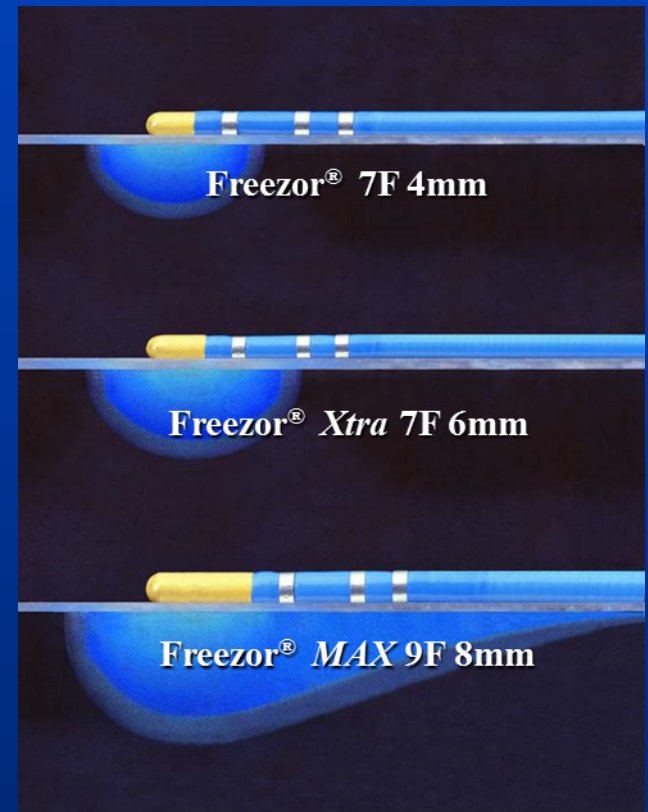
REASONS OF FAILURE IN APS ABLATION IN CHILDREN

1) Technical difficulties

- Catheter instability
- Poor tissue contact

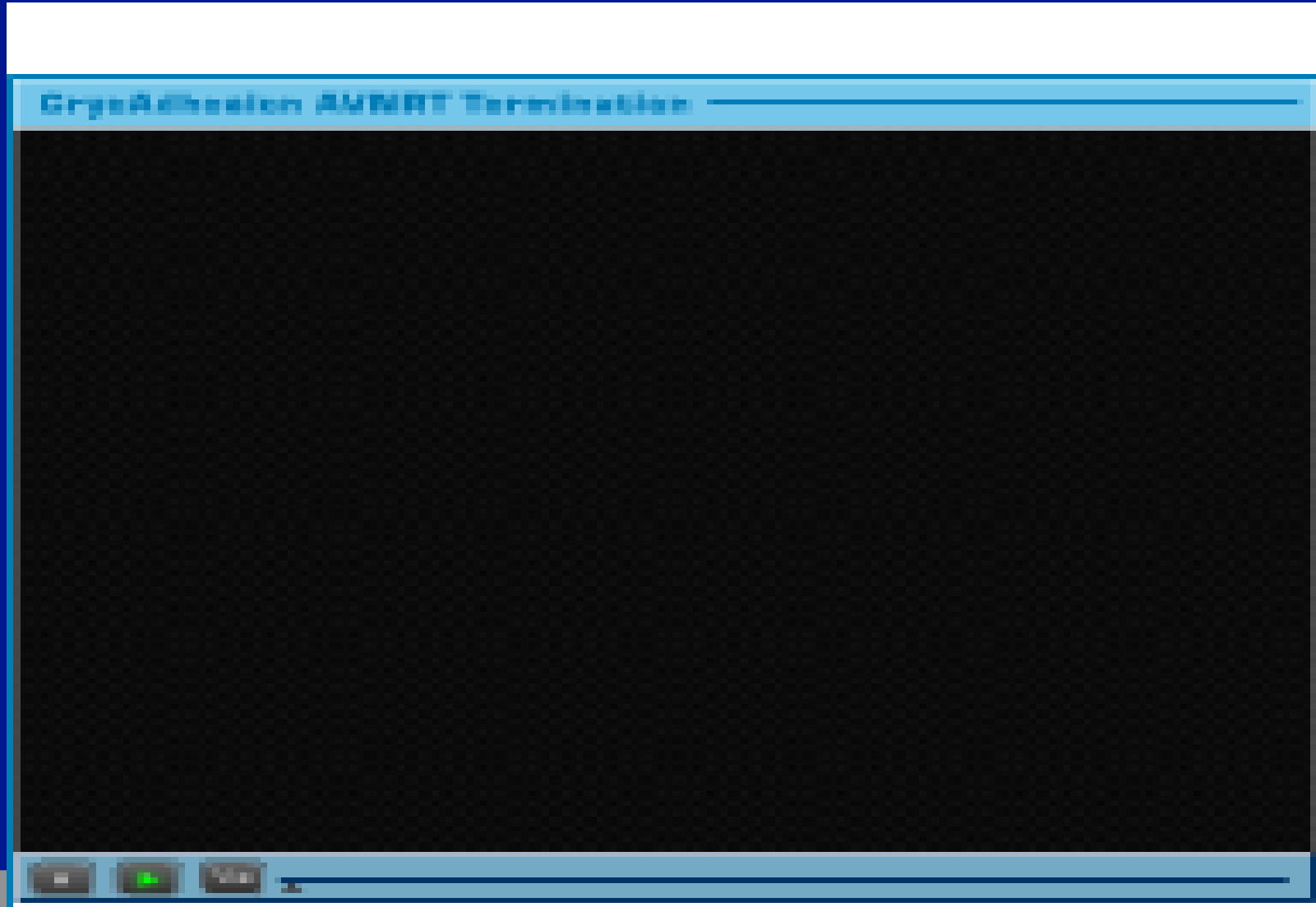
YOU CAN USE CRYO

- No fluoroscopy to check catheter position during ablation
- Pacing maneuvers allowed
- No dislodgement during rhythm changes



CRYOADHESION

AVNRT Termination



REASONS OF FAILURE IN APS ABLATION IN CHILDREN

- 1) Technical difficulties
- 2) Misdiagnosis, inaccurate AP localization
- 3) Coexisting cardiac abnormalities
- 4) High-risk location

REASONS OF FAILURE IN APS ABLATION IN CHILDREN

2) Misdiagnosis, inaccurate AP localization

Multiple AP:

Inability to recognize A or V activation sequence

+++

**Previously unsuccessful attempt:
distorted and low voltage EGM**

Oblique APs:

Different A and V insertions

+ ---

Unusual AP localization

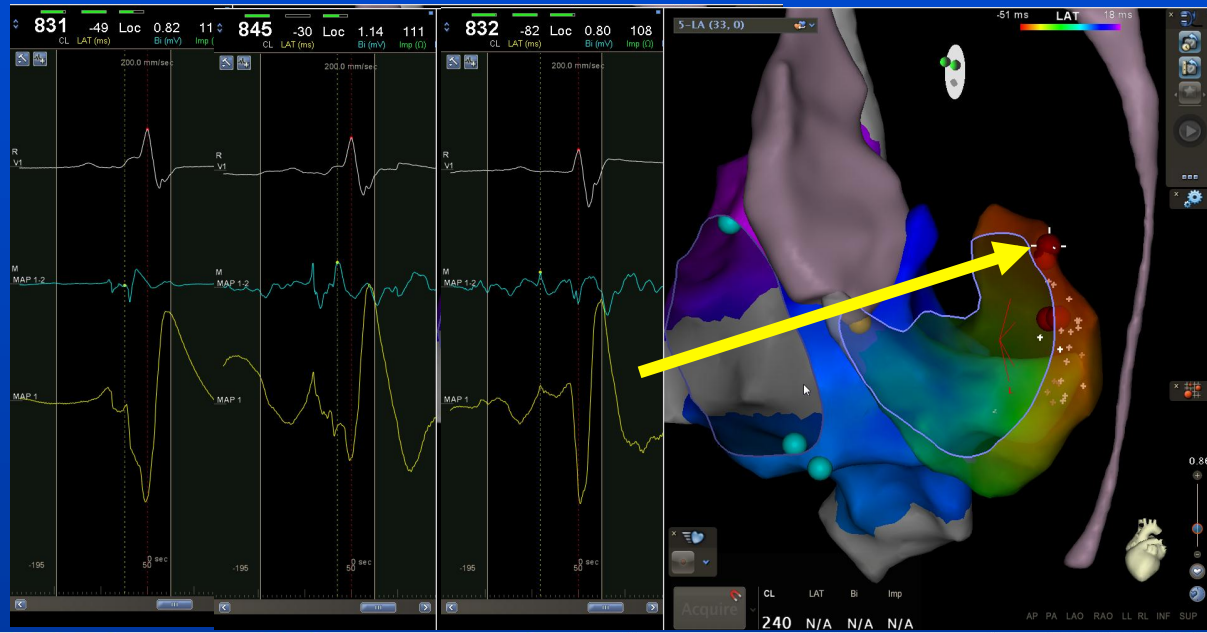
MULTIPLE APs

- Incidence 3-15% (generally in RPS-RFW region)
- Important cause of initial ablation failure
- Ablation success rate 86-98% with high recurrence rate: 8-12%

SUGGESTIONS

1. Apparent failure in an optimal site should raise a suspicion
2. Full energy delivery should be undertaken with scrutiny of change in local VA or AV activation time or delta wave morphology
3. Meticulous remapping after RF/CRYO delivery

MULTIPLE APs



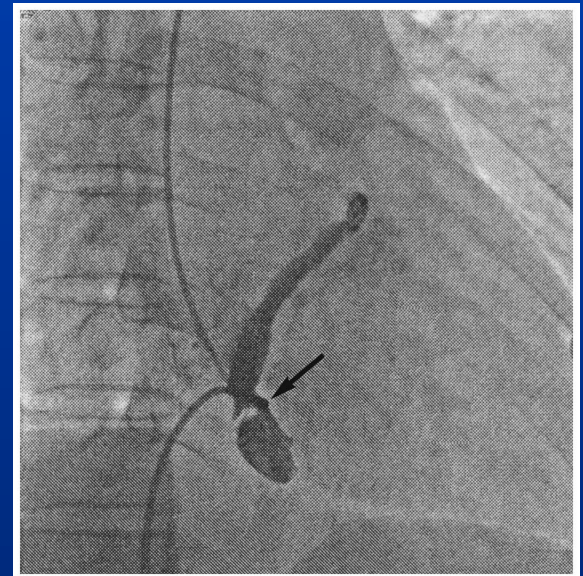
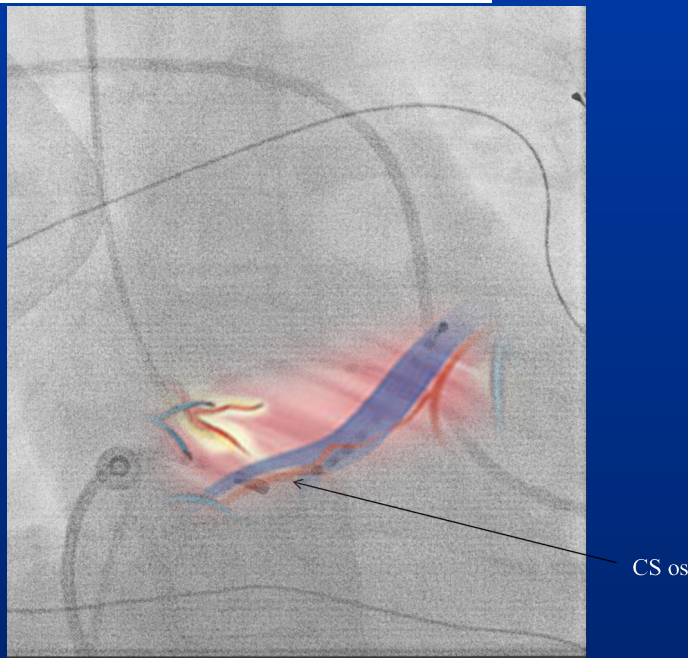
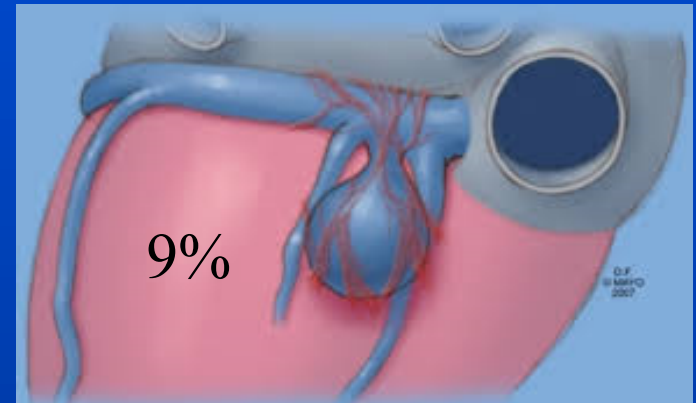
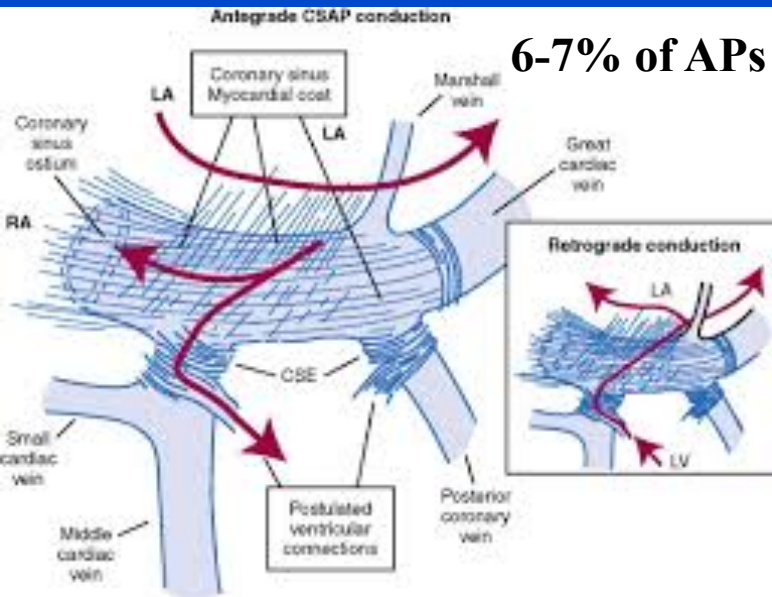
I LALAP



II LLAP

1.3cm

EPICARDIAL APs

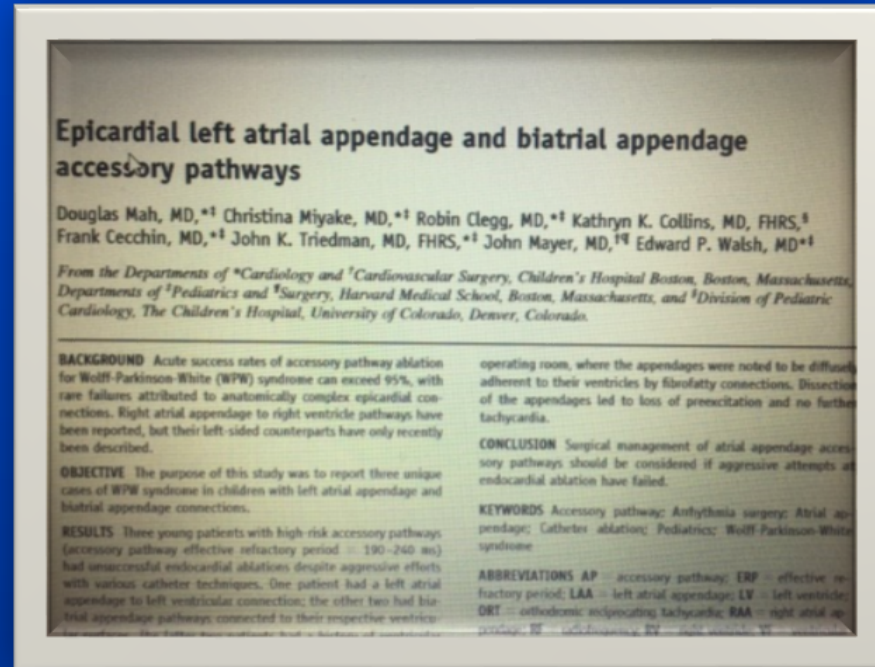
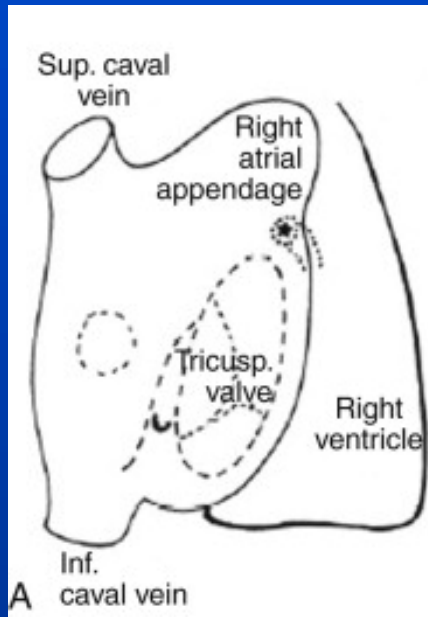


EPICARDIAL APs

negative δ wave in II,
positive δ in aVR
V6 with deep S wave
(R<S)

- Evaluate carefully the ECG before.
- If you have a strong suspicion try to delay the ablation procedure when Pt weight >40 Kg (to avoid failure and/or complication)
- Use irrigated tip catheter
- Use Cryo when possible

ATRIAL APPENDAGE TO VENTRICULAR APs



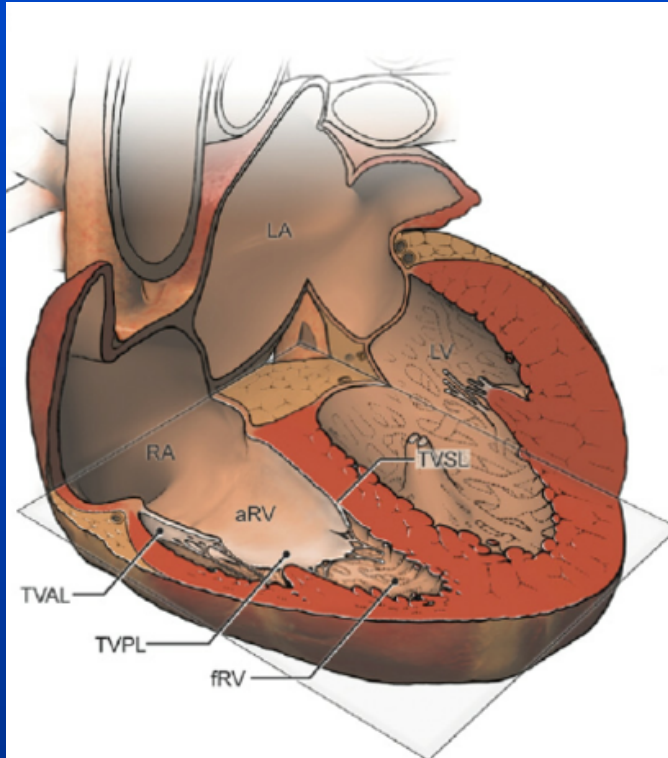
First described in a child in 2000 (EUROPACE)

1. Use 3D mapping
2. Use irrigated catheter
3. Use surgery or epicardial approach

REASONS OF FAILURE IN APS ABLATION IN CHILDREN

- 1) Technical difficulties
- 2) Misdiagnosis, inaccurate AP localization
- 3) Coexisting cardiac abnormalities
- 4) High-risk location

EBSTEIN'S ANOMALY



1. Apical displacement of the TV into the RV
2. Atrialization of the RV between the true TA and anomalous attachment of the septal and posterior leaflets
3. Atrialized RV thinned and dilated
4. TV regurgitation
5. 20-30% associated to Aps , generally right sided!

PROBLEMS RELATED TO ABLATION FAILURE:

- Poor catheter stability
- Poor tissue contact
- Difficult pathway localization

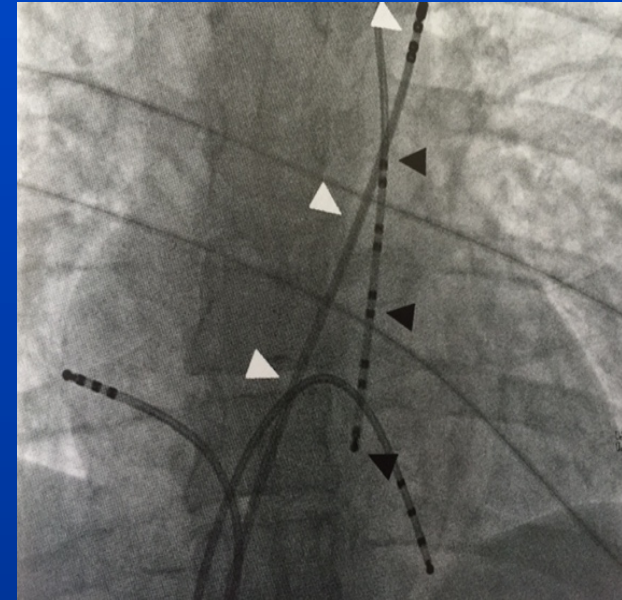
SOLUTIONS:

- Use 3D mapping
- Use irrigated catheter
- Use long sheaths or force sensor

PERSISTENT LSVC



- ❑ 4.7%% associated to APs
- ❑ Anastomosis with CS results in CS dilated



PROBLEM RELATED TO ABLATION FAILURE:

Impossibility to map MV annulus for left sided AP with the CS catheter

SOLUTIONS:

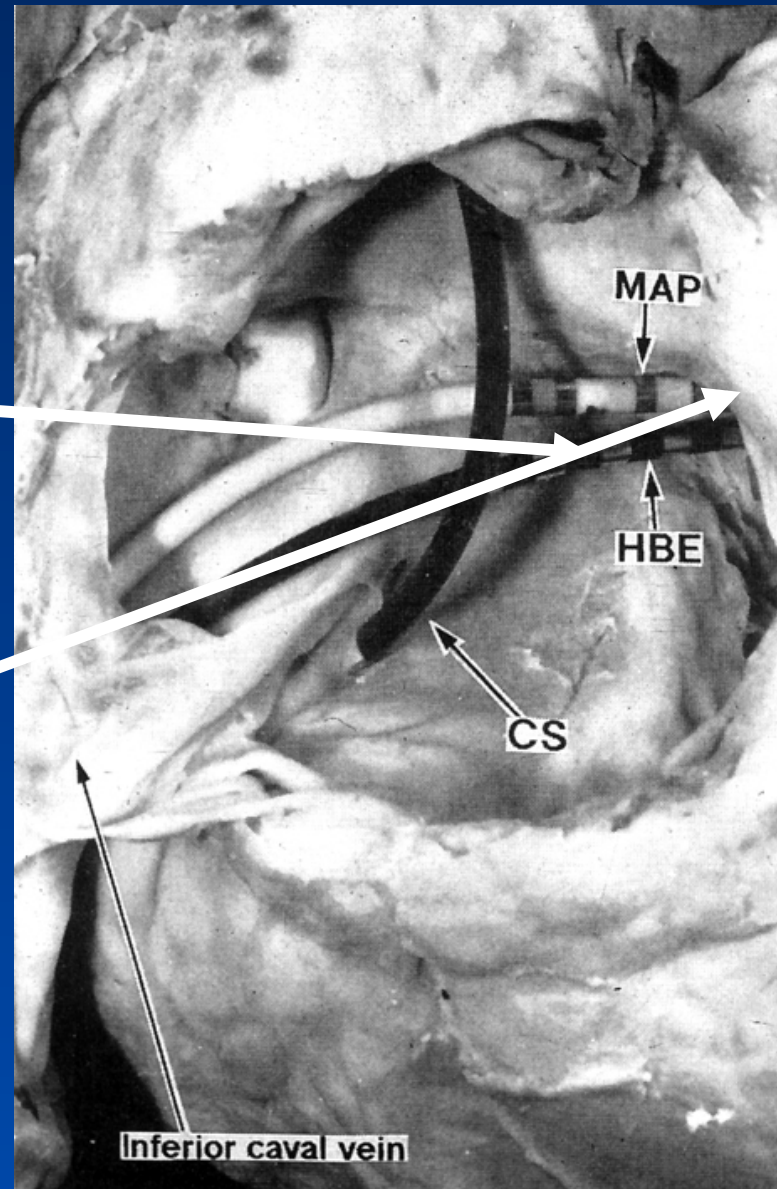
- Use 3D mapping
- Retrograde approach to MV with point by point mapping

REASONS OF FAILURE IN APS ABLATION IN CHILDREN

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WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

- Parahisian AP
- Anteroseptal AP



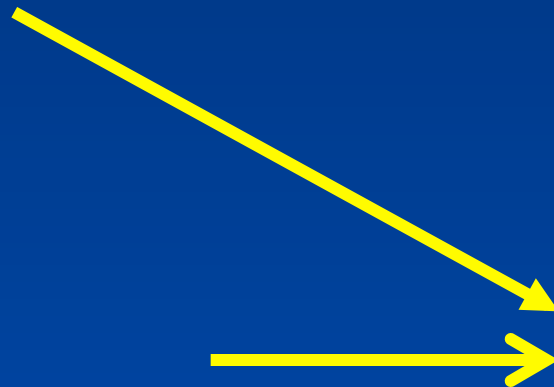
PH and SPS Accessory Pathways

Which access for the ablation catheter?

- Femoral vein
- Jugular vein
- Subclavian vein

Additional help?

- Long sheath
- Long steerable sheath



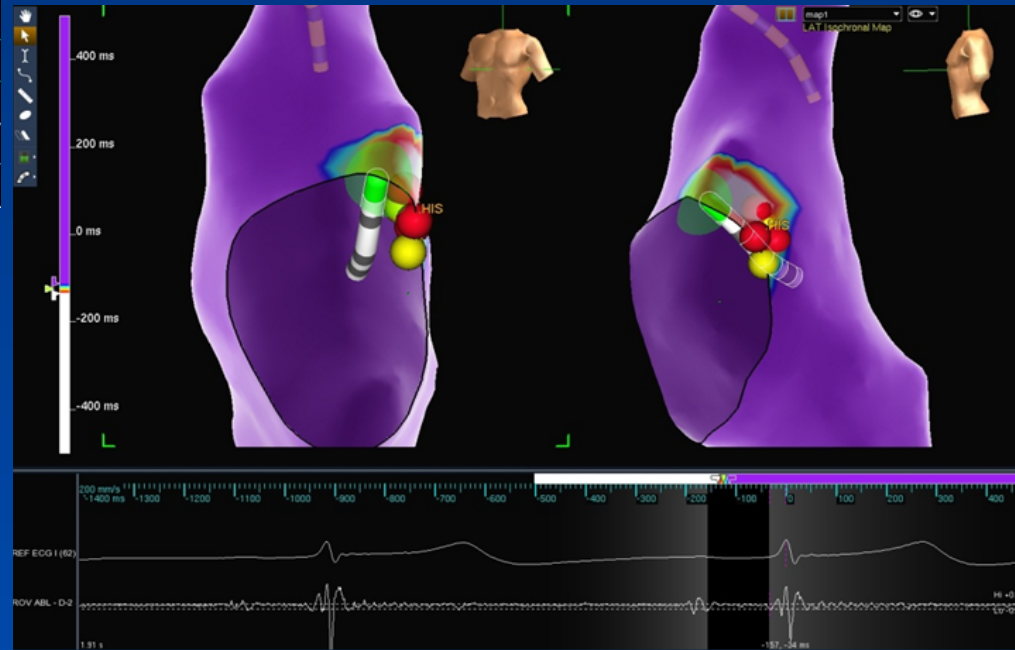
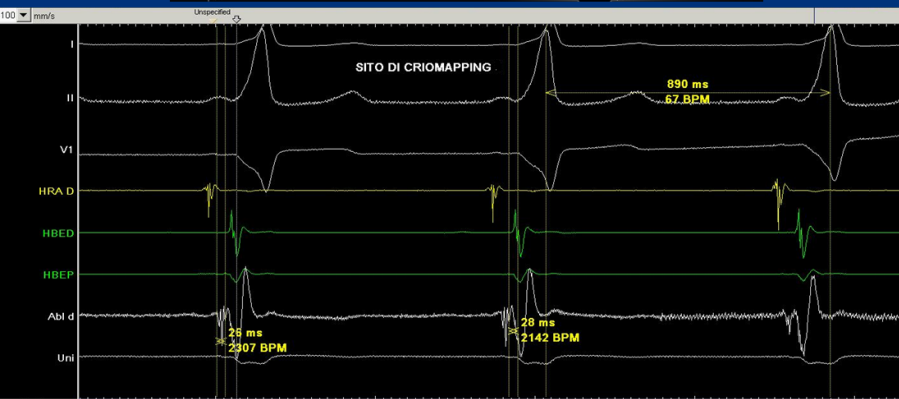
Increase stability

CRYOABLATION OF APs VERY CLOSE AV NODE IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

RFTA vs CRYO

ENERGY	Acute Success	Recurrence	Chronic Success	cAVB (RBBB)
RF North American Pediatric RFTA Registry PAPCA study 2003	89%	24,6%	63%	2.5% (4%)
RF 3 Czech Republic centers 2014	76.9%	14.1%	62.8	0.7%
CRYO ALL RECENT PAPERS 2013-2015	94.8%	11.9%	92.9%	0% (0.18%)

3D CRYO!



RF ENERGY DELIVERY

Manifest preexcitation

- Use a 4mm tip RF ablation catheter
- Begin at relatively low power (25-30 W)
- Set low temperature (50-60° C)
- Keep the RF catheter in contact with endocardium
- Stop after 15” if VP does not disappear
....and.....
- Check AV conduction

TROUBLESHOOTING IN DIFFICULT CASES

<i>Problem</i>	<i>Causes</i>	<i>Possible Solutions</i>
Pathway block during mapping	Catheter trauma of superficially located pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful catheter manipulation. If catheter remains in same location that caused block, ablate. Wait up to 1 hour to recovery
Accelerated Junctional rhythm during RF application	Heating of AV node	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop RF application immediately Reposition catheter
Right bundle branch block during application	Catheter positioned too distally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reposition catheter
Unable to successfully ablate at earliest site of RA activation in SVT	Poor catheter contact Incorrect location on right side left-sided atrial or ventricular pathway insertion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vascular sheath; alter approach (switch to SVC femoral vein) Continue mapping Map LA/LV septum LVOT; non coronary sinus of Valsalva
Large His potential in best ablation recording	True parahisian pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use cryomapping to test sites before ablation Advance His catheter so that insulated shaft 'shields' His bundle from ablation energy.

ABLATION AFTER BUMP MAPPING

SVT or ventricular pre-excitation accidentally interrupted by bump mapping is non-reinducible



RealReview/Replay function of the EnSite Velocity™ System/ CARTO™ 3 detects the catheter position and pre-recorded portions of the procedure can be reviewed.



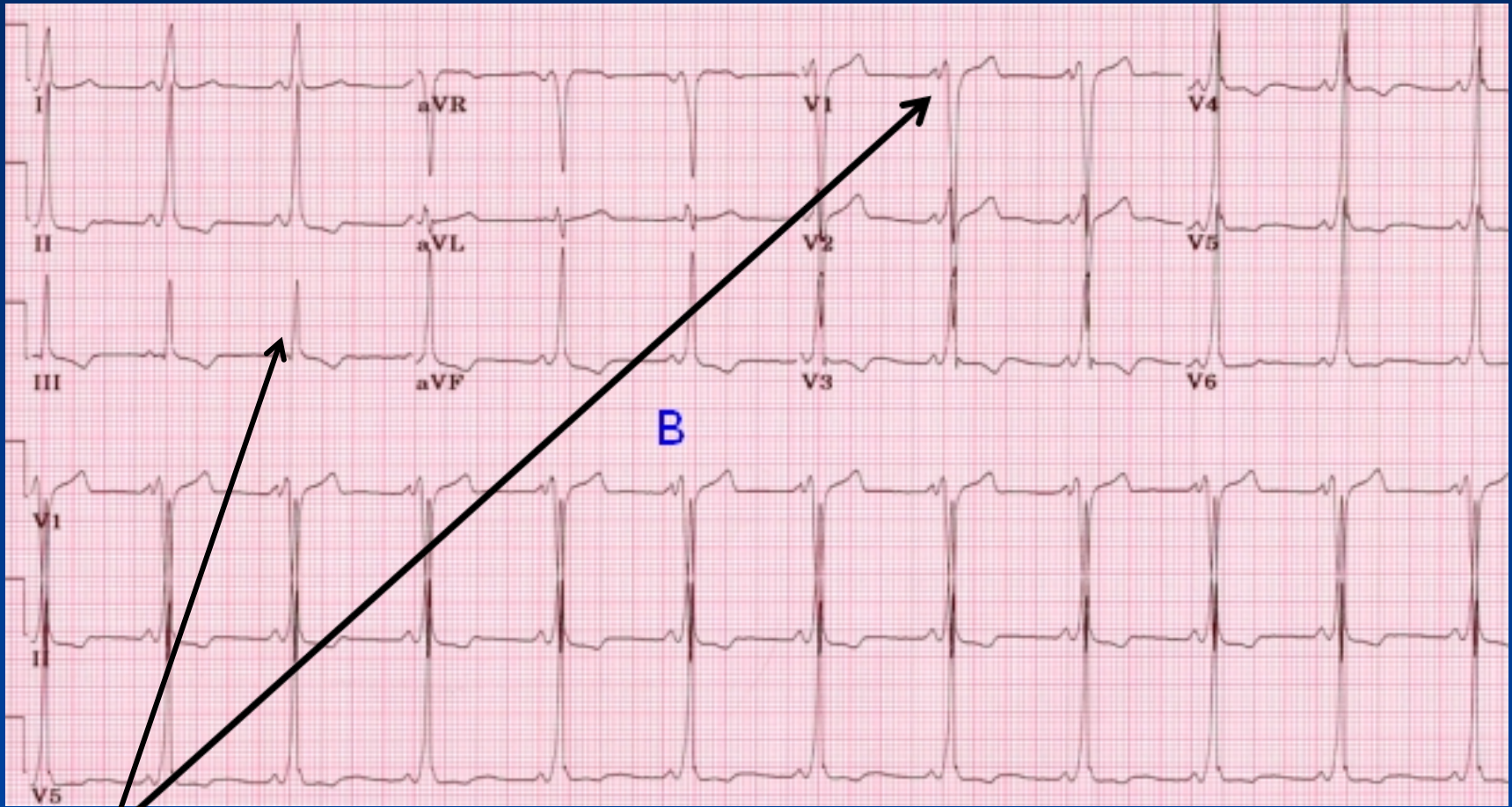
ABLATION IN THE EXACT SITE OF BUMP MAPPING

TROUBLESHOOTING IN DIFFICULT CASES

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THE NONCORONARY CUSP ABLATION OF ACCESSORY PATHWAYS

Suleiman M JCE 2011



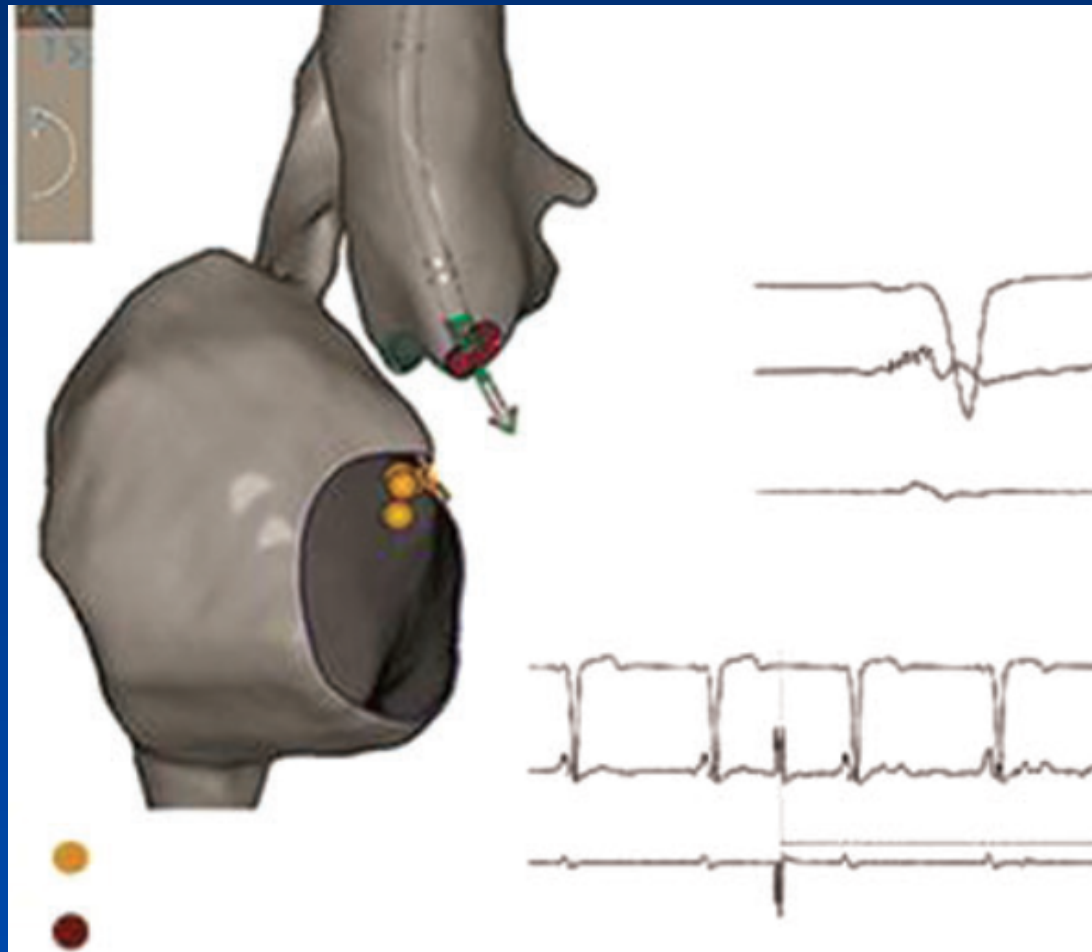
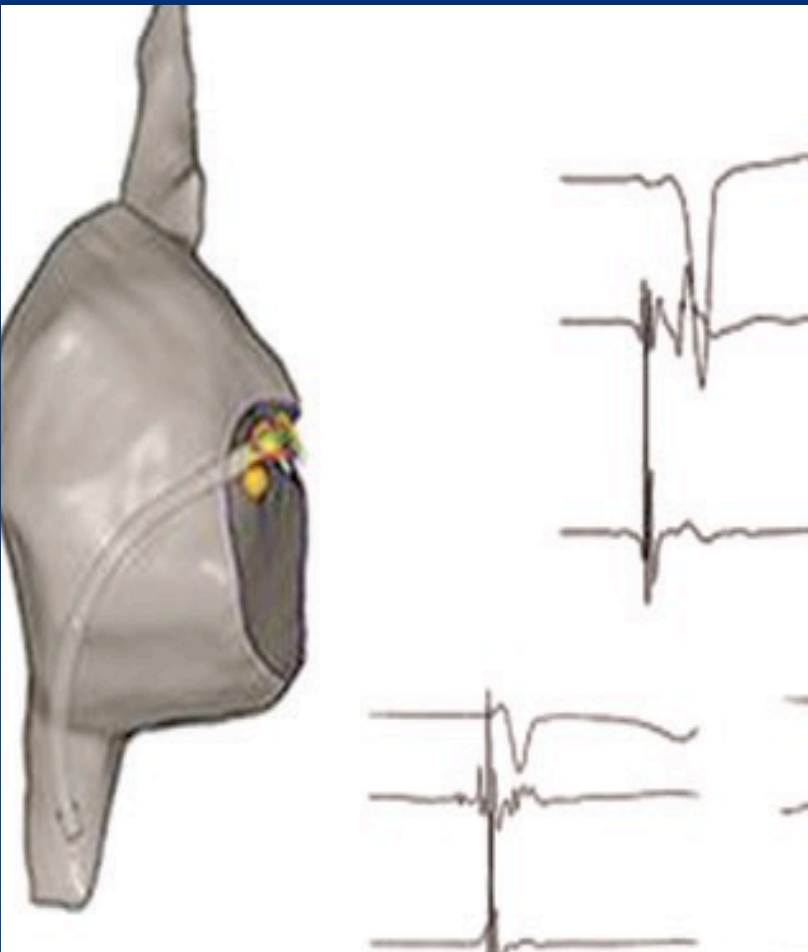
Small positive delta wave is seen in lead V1 and the delta wave in lead III is less positive than the delta wave in lead II

SUCCESSFUL RFTA OF AN AS AP FROM THE RIGHT CORONARY CUSP

Teresa Oloriz, Simone Gulletta and Paolo Della Bella*

EUROPACE 2014

13 year-old boy



TYPICAL ABLATION SUBSTRATES IN CHILDREN

- AVNRT
- ACCESSORY PATHWAYS
- ECTOPIC ATRIAL TACHYCARDIA

REASONS OF FAILURE IN EAT ABLATION IN CHILDREN

- 1) Inability to induce tachycardia
- 2) EAT non-sustained enough for mapping
- 3) Technical difficulties
- 4) High-risk or difficult location

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REASONS OF FAILURE IN EAT ABLATION IN CHILDREN

- 1) Inability to induce tachycardia
- 2) EAT non-sustained enough for mapping

SOLUTIONS

- Use isoproterenol (evaluate inducibility even during wash-out) or other adrenergic drugs (aminophylline /norepinephrine)
- Use 3D mapping waiting ns episodes or pace-mapping (?)
- Use “balloon 3D mapping “ in older children or adolescents
- Try to ablate in the site of bump-mapping

REASONS OF FAILURE IN EAT ABLATION IN CHILDREN

- 1) Inability to induce tachycardia
- 2) EAT ns long enough for mapping
- 3) Technical difficulties (poor catheter stability/failure despite precise mapping)

SOLUTIONS

- Try alternative catheter or CRYO (necessity of irrigated /force sensor catheter is very rare!)
- Use preformed sheaths
- Try to ablate in SR

REASONS OF FAILURE IN EAT ABLATION IN CHILDREN

- 1) Unable to induce tachycardia
- 2) EAT ns long enough for mapping
- 3) Technical difficulties
- 4) High-risk or difficult location

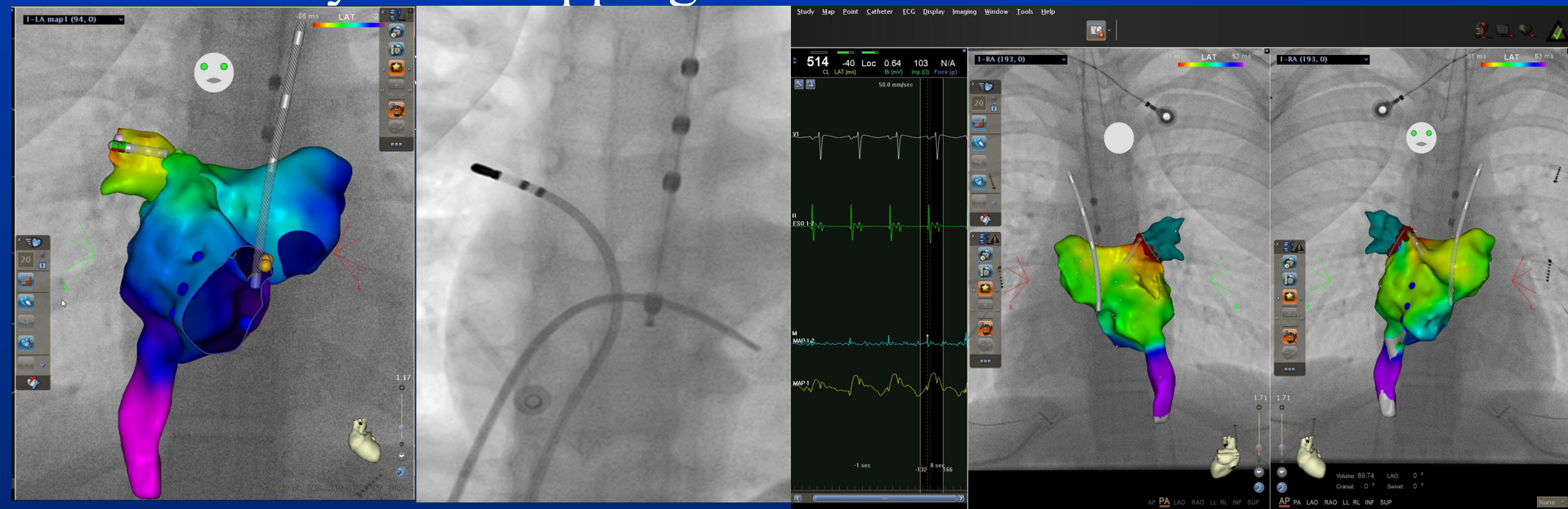
EAT origin in:

1. CS (no early atrial site)
2. VVPP
3. Parahisian

REASONS OF FAILURE IN EAT ABLATION IN CHILDREN

HIGH-RISK OR DIFFICULT LOCATION

1. The location of RRPP veins and near septal foci may be not discernible, necessitating mapping both in left and the right atrium
2. Use always 3D mapping



REASONS OF FAILURE IN EAT ABLATION IN CHILDREN

HIGH-RISK OR DIFFICULT LOCATION

FOR
PARAHISSIAN
LOCATION

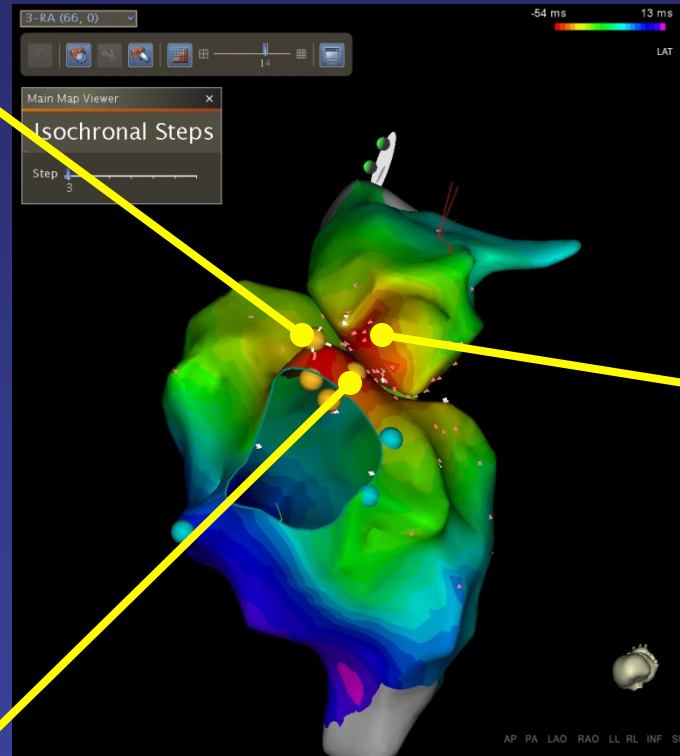
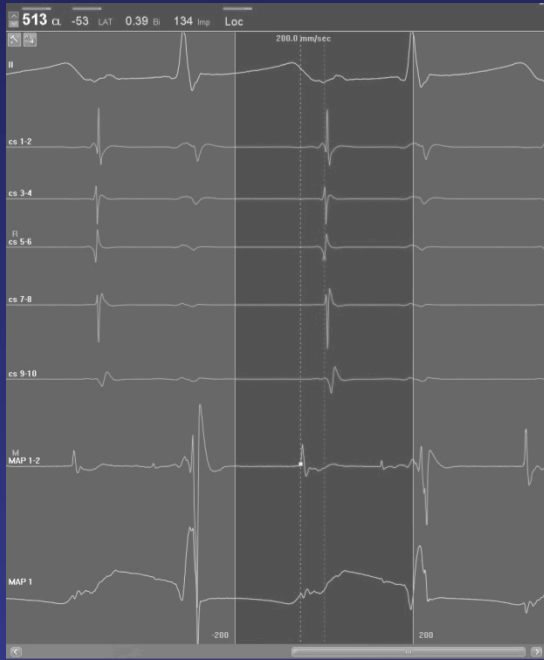
USE 3D
MAPPING

MAP HIS
CLOUD

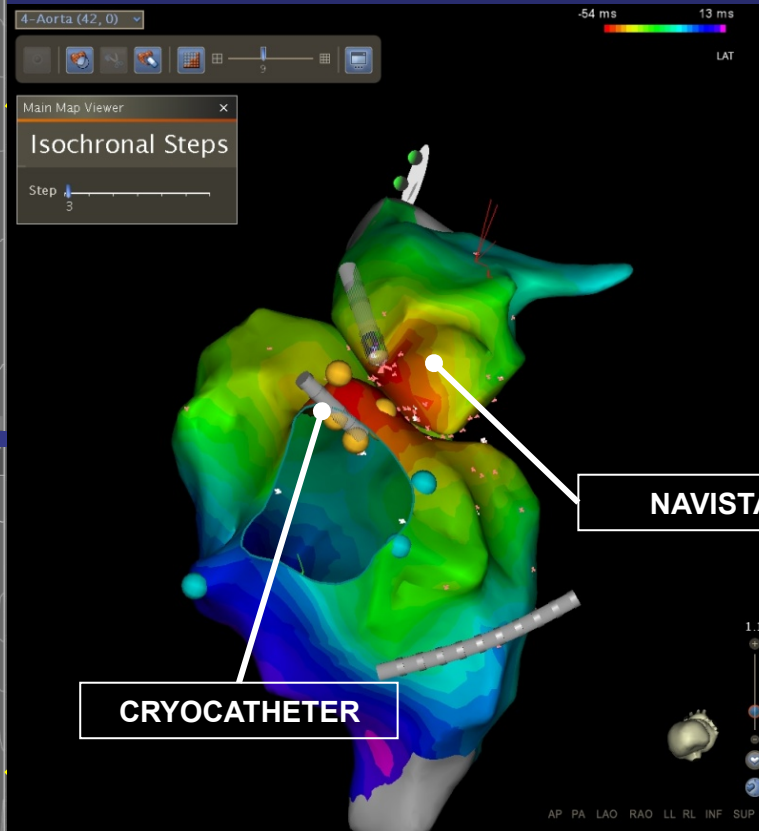
BEFORE
ABLATION

USE
CRYO!

PARAHISSIAN EAT



PARAHISSIAN EAT



IN CONCLUSION.....

Failures can always happen even in the best
Institution.....



Rome, September 2017



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First Announcement

PAEDIATRIC ARRHYTHMIAS

6th TEACHING COURSE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR EUROPEAN PAEDIATRIC AND CONGENITAL CARDIOLOGY

September 22/23, 2017

*Organized by the AEPC Working Group
of Cardiac Dysrhythmias and Electrophysiology*

Auditorium San Paolo – Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù
Viale Ferdinando Baldelli, 38 - Rome, Italy



Bambino Gesù
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