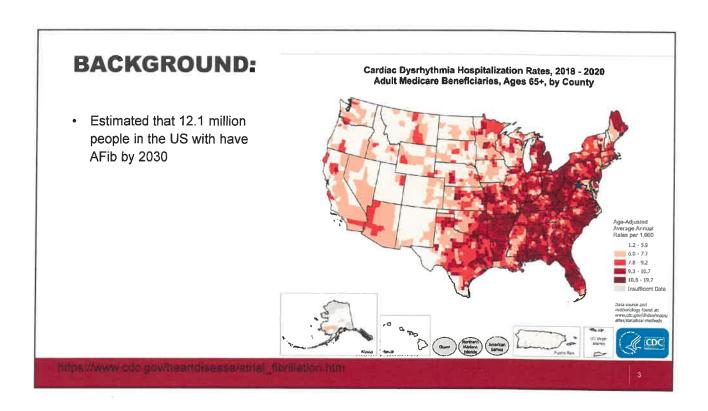
ARRHYTHMIA (AF) THERAPIES AND THE EMERGENCE OF PULSED FIELD ABLATION

Emmanuel Ekanem, MD Cardiac Electrophysiologist Winchester Cardiology & Vascular Medicine Winchester Medical Center- Valley Health

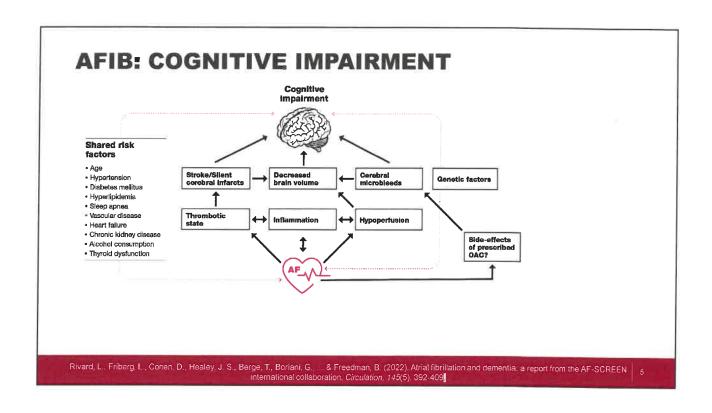
2024 Eugene and Betty Casey Cardiovascular Conference

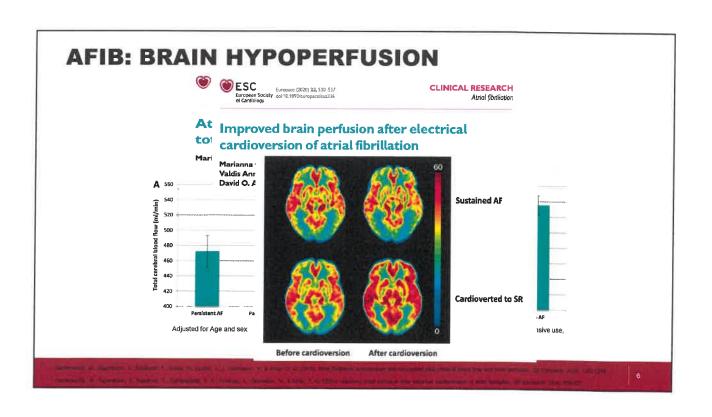
DISCLOSURES

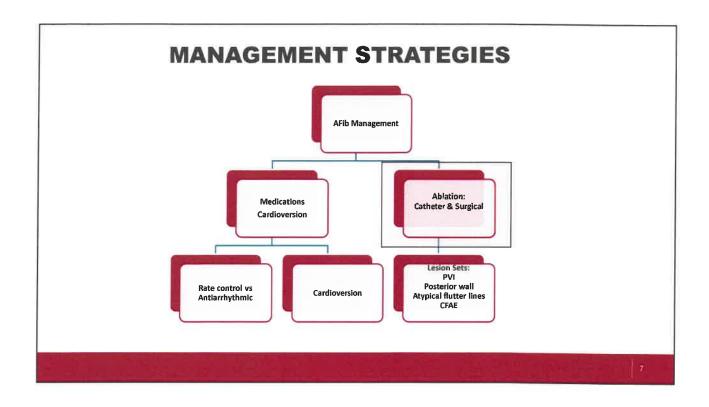
Speaker Honoraria/Travel grant: Boston scientific, Abbott Consulting: Kardium Inc.



• Atrial fibrillation is the most common tachyarrhythmia CHE AFID Reduced Survival





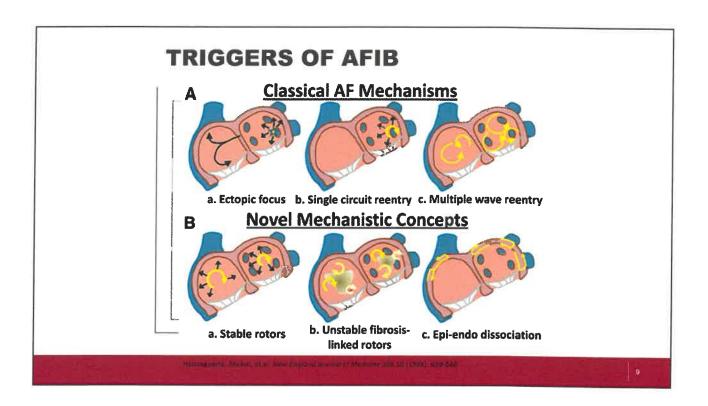


BRIEF HISTORY: CATHETER ABLATION

- 1981: First catheter ablation by Dr. Melvin Sheinman
 - · High energy DC shocks
 - His work led to development of Radiofrequency energy catheters: more precise
- 1998: Dr. Michelle Haissaguerre first described the use of catheter ablation for Afib.
- 2001: Empiric pulmonary vein isolation







EVOLUTION IN MANAGEMENT

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

A Comparison of Rate Control and Rhythm Control in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation

The Atrial Education Foliow-up Investigation of Whythm Management (AFFIRM) Investigators'

Rhythm



Rate

EVOLUTION IN MANAGEMENT: AFFIRM TRIAL

A Comparison of Rate Control and Rhythm Control in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation

You Atrial Februarion Follow up Investigation of Roydon Management (AFFIRM) Investigators

TABLE 1. BASE-LINE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PATIENTS.1

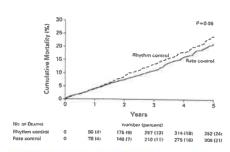
	CHARACY ERESTIC	OVERAU. (N = 4000)	Rate-Contriol Gaous (N = 2027)	Review-Contract. Gaous (N = 2003)	P Vaus
\Longrightarrow	Apr sr	69.7 ± 9.0	69.8±8.9	69.7±9.0	0.82
	Female sex un. (%)	1594 (39,3)	823 (40.6)	771 (37.9)	0.08
	Ethnic minority group no (%)	401 (114)	241 (11.0)	220:10.8)	0.28
	Predominant cardiac daignosis				0.29
	Coronary artery disease	1059 (26.1)	497 (24.5)	562 (27.6)	
	Castionropathy	194 (4.8)	99 (4.9)	95 (4.7)	
	Hypertension	2063 (50.8)	1045 (5).61	1018 (50.1)	
	Valvular disease	TOR (4.0)	98 (4.8)	100 (4.9)	
	Other	42 (1.0)	28 (1.1)	19 (0.9)	
	No apparent heart disease	594 (12.4)	265 (13.1)	239 (11.8)	
	History of congestive heart failure no. (%)	939 (23.1)	475 (23.4)	464 (22.8)	0.4
	Duration of qualifying arrial fibrillation ≥2 days no 1961	2808 (69.2)	140e (69.4)	1402 (69.0)	0.80
\Longrightarrow	First episode of strial fibrillation (vs. recurrent episode) no. (%)	1391 (35.5)	700 (35.8)	691 -353-	0.74
	Any prerandomization failure of an antiarthythmic drug no 1%	713 (17.6)	364 /180:	349 (17.2)	0.51
-	Size of left arrum normal no. (%)	1103 (35.3)	549 (35.3)	554 (353)	0.98
	Left ventricular ejection fraction	54.7±138	54.0±13.1	54.6±13.8	0.74
	Normal left ventricular spection fraction no. (%)\$	2244 (74.0)	1131 (74.9)	1113 (73.2)	0.29

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EVOLUTION IN MANAGEMENT: AFFIRM TRIAL

TABLE 2. DRUGS USED IN THE RATE-CONTROL GROUP AND THE RHTTHM-CONTROL GROUP.*

Daug	RATE-COM	RATE-CONFROL GROUP		REVIEW-CONTROL GROUP	
	USED DAUG		USEB DEUG		
	FOR INTUAL	USED DAILE	FOR INDIAL	USED DEUG	
	THERAPY	AT ANY TIME	THELAPY	AT ANY TIME	
	no. of patients (%)				
Rate control					
Data available	1957	2027	1266	2033	
Digoxia	949 (48.5)	1432 (70.6)	417 (32.9)	1100 (54.4	
Beta-blocker	915 (46.8)	1380 (68.1)	276 (21.8)	1008 (49.6	
Diltiazem	583 (29.8)	935 (46.1)	198 (15.6)	610 (30.0	
Verapanid	187 (9.6)	340 (16.8)	56 (4.4)	204 (10.0	
Rhythm control					
Data available	1265	2027	1960	2033	
Amind arone	2 (0.2)	207 (10.2)	735 (37.5)	1277 (62.8	
Sotalol	1 (0.1)†	84 (4.1)	612 (31.2)	841 (41.4	
Propalenone	2 (0.2)†	45 (2.2)	183 (9.3)	294 (14.5	
Procainamide	0	30 (1.5)	103 (5.3)	173 (8.5)	
Quinidine	2 (0.21)	14 (0.7)	92 (4.7)	151 (7.4)	
- Flecainide	0	29 (1.4)	88 (4.5)	169 (8.3)	
Disopyramide	0	7 (0.3)	42 (2.1)	87 (4.3)	
Moricizine	0	2 (0.1)	14 (0.7)	35 (1.7)	
Dofetslide	0	5 (0.2)	0	13 (0.6)	



- Cross over rate- 14.9% vs. 37.5% (P<0.001)
- AC could be discontinued in sinus rhythm
- No survival advantage over the rate-control strategy
- lower risk of adverse drug effects, with the rate-control strategy
- Anticoagulation should be continued in this group of high-risk patients.

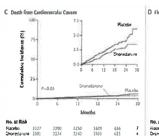
EVOLUTION IN MANAGEMENT: ATHENA

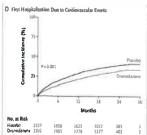
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Effect of Dronedarone on Cardiovascular Events in Atrial Fibrillation

Stefan H. Hohnloser, M.D., Harry J.G.M. Crijns, M.D., Martin van Eickels, M.D., Christophe Gaudin, M.D., Richard L. Page, M.D., Christian Torp-Pedersen, M.D. and Stuart J. Connolly, M.D., for the ATHENA Investigators®

- Multicenter trial
- N=4628 patients
- Dronedarone 400 mg BID vs placebo
- Reduced incidence of hospitalization for CV events or death





13

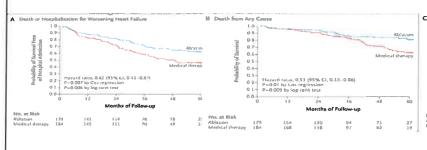
EVOLUTION IN MANAGEMENT: CASTLE-AF TRIAL

ORIGINAL ARTICL

Catheter Ablation for Atrial Fibrillation with Heart Failure

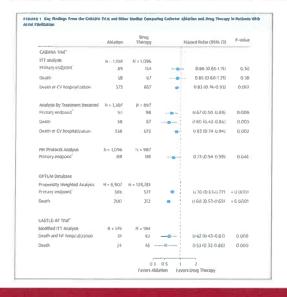
Nassir F. Marrouche, M.D., Johannes Brachmann, M.D., Dicthrin Andresen, M.D., Jorgen Siebets, M.D., Lucas Boersma, M.D., Luc Jordens, M.D., Béla Merkely, M.D., Evgeny Pokushalov, M.D., Prastranthan Sanders, M.D., Jorden Profit, B.S., Heribert Schunkert, M.D., Hidegard Christ, M.D., Cg.al., for the CASTLE AF Investigators*

- Catheter ablation for AFib in patients with heart failure
- Significantly lower rate of a composite end point of death from any cause or hospitalization for worsening heart failure vs medical therapy





EVOLUTION IN MANAGEMENT



15

EVOLUTION IN MANAGEMENT: EAST-AFNET

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

OCTOBER 1, 2020

VOL. 383 NO. 14

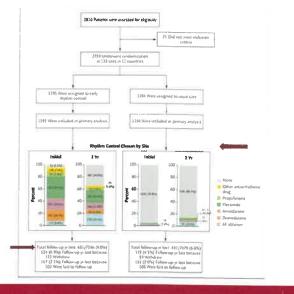
Early Rhythm-Control Therapy in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation

P. Kirchhof, A.J. Camm, A. Goëtte, A. Brandes, L. Eckardt, A. Elvan, T. Fetsch, I.C. van Gelder, D. Haase, L.M. Haegeli, F. Hamann, H. Heidbüchel, G. Hindricks, J. Kautzner, K.-H. Kuck, L. Mont, G.A. Ng. J. Rekosz, N. Schoen, U. Schotten, A. Suling, J. Taggeseile, S. Themistoclakis, E. Vettorazzi, P. Vardas, K. Wegscheider, S. Willems, H.J.G.M. Criins, and G. Breithardt, for the EAST-AFNET 4 Trial Investigators*

Is a strategy of early rhythm-control therapy that includes atrial fibrillation ablation associated with better outcomes in patients with early atrial fibrillation than contemporary, evidence-based usual care?

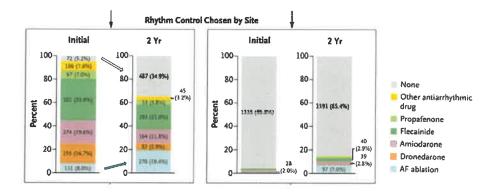
EVOLUTION IN MANAGEMENT: EAST-AFNET

- Multicenter, parallel-group, randomized, open, blindedoutcome-assessment trial.
- N= 2789
- 135 sites (11 European countries between July 2011-December 2016)
- Enrolled median of 36 days after first diagnosis of Afib
- Median follow up of 5.1 yrs



17

EVOLUTION IN MANAGEMENT: EAST-AFNET



- Flecainide was most commonly used (35.9%)
- Poor adherence to antiarrhythmics (5.2%>> 34.9% at 2yrs)
- 8% AF ablation at study onset

EVOLUTION IN MANAGEMENT: EAST-AFNET

Trial Interventions

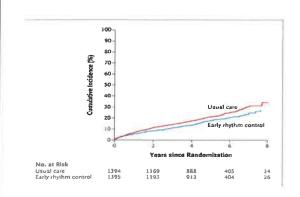
- Anticoagulation and treatment of cardiovascular conditions mandated in all patients
- Early rhythm control:
 - Antiarrhythmic drugs, AF ablation, Cardioversion of persistent atrial fibrillation
 - Early rhythm-control group transmitted a patientoperated single-lead ECG twice per week and when symptomatic
- Usual care group initially treated with rate-control therapy without rhythm-control therapy.
 - Rhythm-control therapy was used only to mitigate uncontrolled atrial fibrillation-related symptoms during adequate rate-control therapy

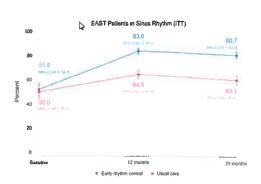
Outcome Measures

- Primary Outcome:
 - Composite of CV death, stroke, or hospitalization with worsening of heart failure or acute coronary syndrome
 - o Number of nights spent in the hospital per year.
- · Secondary outcomes:
 - Each component of the first primary outcome, rhythm, left ventricular function, quality of life, atrial fibrillation-related symptoms and cognitive function

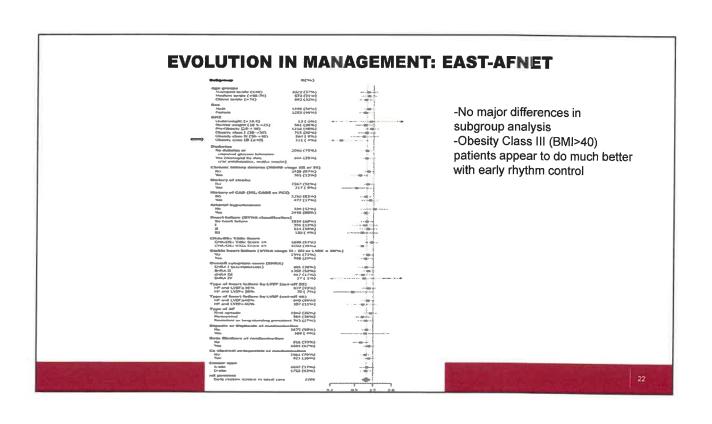
19

EVOLUTION IN MANAGEMENT: EAST-AFNET





EVOLUTION IN MANAGEMENT: EAST-AFNET Table 2. Efficacy Outcomes. Early Rhythm Control Usual Care Outcome Treatment Effect First primary outcome --- events/person-yr (incidence/100 person-yr) 249/6399 (3.9) 316/6332 (5.0) 0.79 (0.66 to 0.94)† Components of first primary outcome --- events/person-yr (incidence/100 person-yrj Death from cardiovascular causes 67/6915 (1.0) 94/6988 (1.3) 0.72 (0.52 to 0.98)‡ Stroke 40/6813 (0.6) 62/6856 (0.9) 0.65 (0.44 to 0.97)‡ Hospitalization with worsening of heart failure 139/6620 (2.1) 169/6558 (2.6) 0.81 (0.65 to 1.02)1 0.83 (0.58 to 1.19)‡ Hospitalization with acute coronary syndrome 53/6762 (0.8) 65/6816 (1.0) Second primary outcome - nights spent in hospital/yr 5.8±21.9 5.1±15.5 1.08 (0.92 to 1.28)§ Key secondary outcomes at 2 yr Change in left ventricular ejection fraction --- % 1.529,8 0.8±9.8 0.23 (-0.46 to 0.9))¶ Change in EQ-SD score! ~3.0±21.4 -2.7±22.3 1.07 (~0.68 to 2.82) Change in SF-12 Mental Score** 0.7±10.6 1.6±10.1 -1.20 (-2.04 to -0.37)¶ Change in SF-12 Physical Score** 0.3±8.5 0.1±8.2 0.33 (~0.39 to 1.06)¶ Change in MoCA score 0.1±3.3 0.1±3.2 -0.14 (~0.39 to 0.12)¶ 687/1135 (60.5) Sinus rhythm --- no. of patients with feature/total no. (%) 921/1122 (82.1) 3.13 (2.55 to 3.84)†† Asymptomatic -- no. of patients with feature/total no. (%) \$\$ 861/1159 (74.3) 850/1171 (72.6) 1.74 (0.93 to 1.40) 11



EVOLUTION IN MANAGEMENT: EAST-AFNET

Table 3. Safety Outcomes.*

Outcome	Early Shythm Control (Nu1395)	Usual Care (N=1394)
	number (per	
Primary composite safety autcome	231 (16.6)	223 (16.0)
Stroke	40 (2.9)	62 (4.4)
Death	138 (9.9)	164 (11.8)
Serious adverse event of special interest related to rhythmicinitrol therapy	68 (4.9)	19 (1.4)
Serious adverse event related to annuarilythmic drug therapy		
Nonfatal cardiac arrest	1 (0.1)	1 (0.1)
Your effects of atnal fibrillation-related drug therapy	10 (0.7)	3 (0.2)
Drug-induced bradycardia	14 (1.0)	5 (0.4)
Astioventricular block	5 (0.1)	0
Tersades de pointes rachycardra	1 (0.1)	0
Senous adverse event related to atrial fibrillation ablation		
Pericardial tamponade	3 (0.2)	D
Major bleeding related to abrial fibrillation ablation	6 (0.4)	0
Nonmajor bleeding related to atrial fibrillation ablation	1 (0.1)	2 (0.1)
Other serious adverse event of special interest related to rhythm-control therapy		
Biood pressure-related event	1 (0.1)	Ō
Hospitalization for atrial fibrillation	11 (0.8)	3 (0.2)
Other cardiovascular event	5 (0.4)	1 (0.1)
Other event	1 (0.1)	3 (0.2)
Syncope	4 (0.3)	1 (0.1)
Prospitalization for worsening of heart failure with decompensated heart failure	3 (0.2)	0

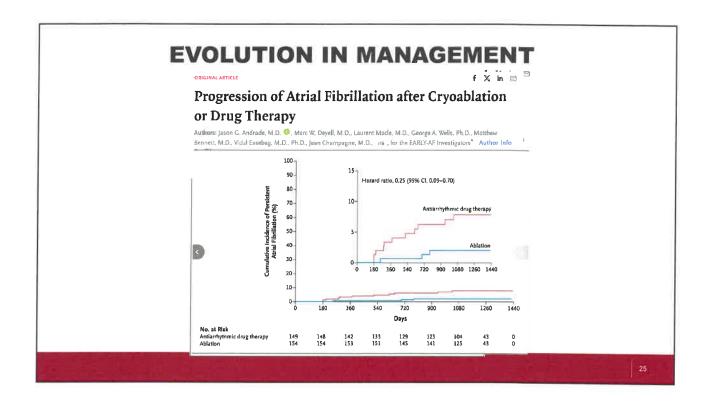
EAST-AF NET

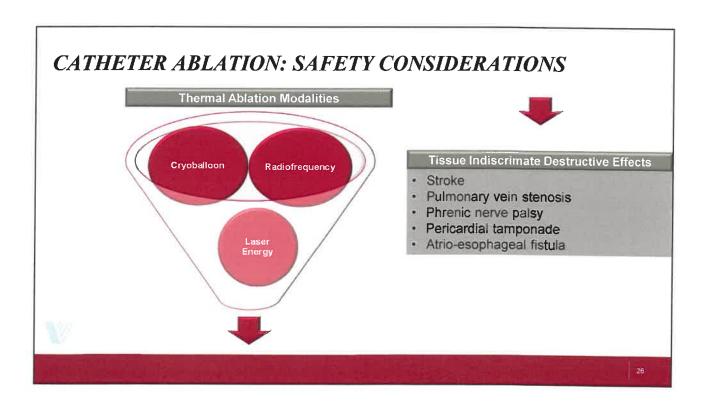
Key considerations

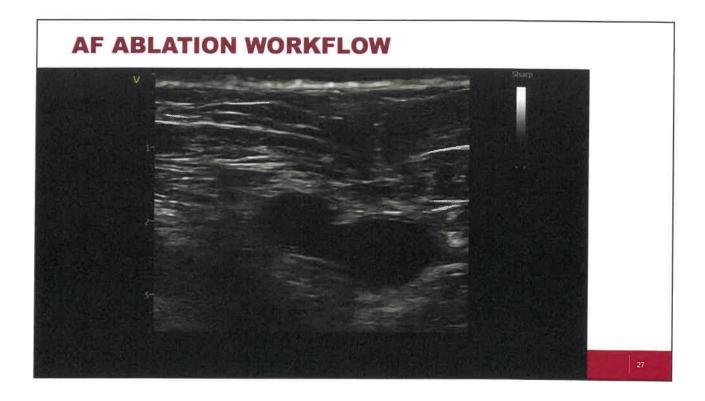
- Loss to follow up and cross-over rates
 - 9% vs 6.6% loss to follow up in early rhythm control vs rate control
 7% of patients in rate control arm received AF ablation by 2yrs
- 90% of patients continued AC
- Serious Adverse effect rate 4.9% (ERC) vs 1.4% (Rate)
- Sinus rhythm assessed by EKG not continuous monitoring
 - o Possible overestimation?
 - Relatively low AF ablation rate
 - c 8% at onset and 20% by 2yrs
- Trend towards reduced hospitalization with rhythm control

Conclusion

A strategy of early rhythm-control therapy which includes AF ablation was associated with a lower risk of adverse cardiovascular outcomes than usual care among patients with early atrial fibrillation and cardiovascular conditions

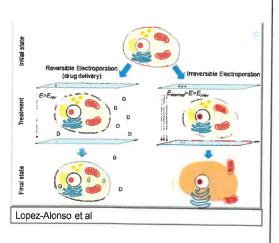


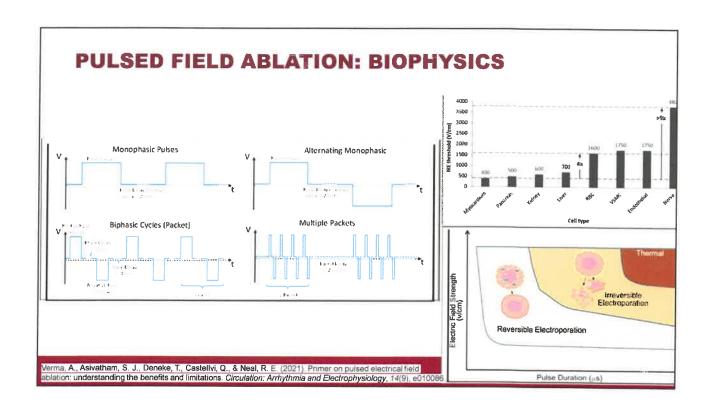


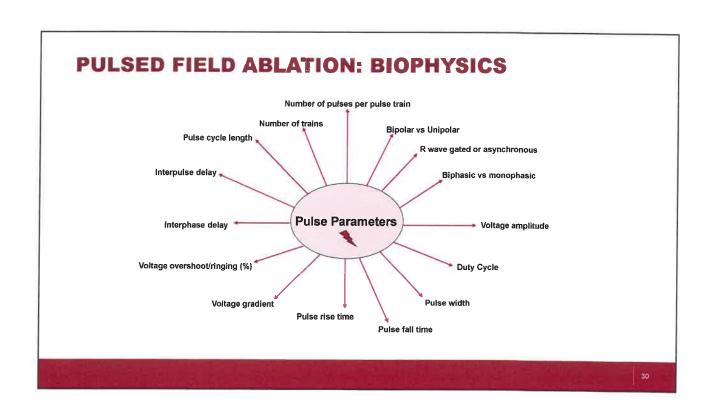


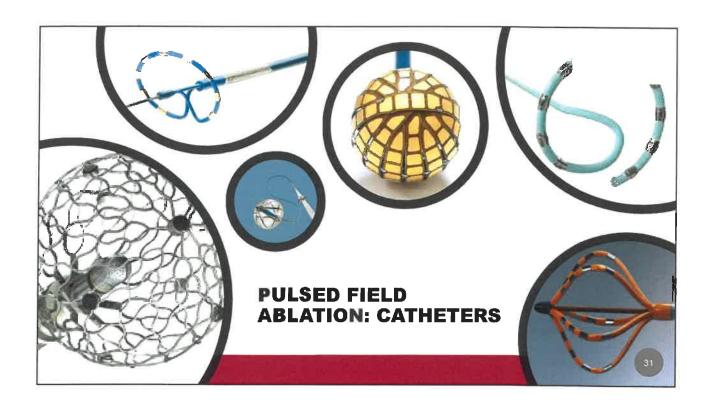
PULSED FIELD ABLATION

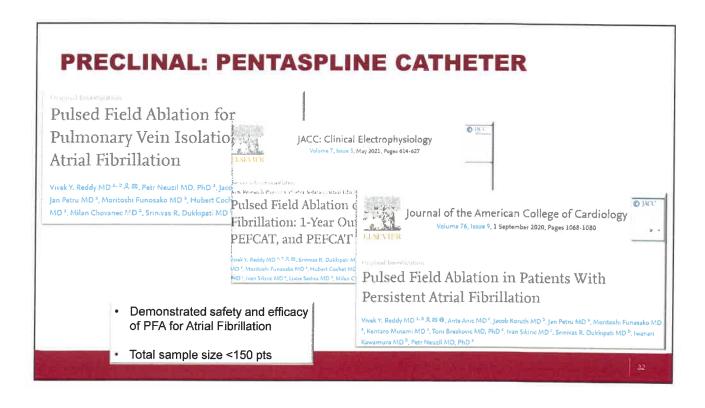
- Ultra-rapid electrical pulses to generate strong electrical fields with resultant irreversible nanoscale pore formation
 - Mechanism of cellular death
- Preclinical and Clinical studies have displayed preferential tissue ablation
 - Optimized voltage amplitude, phasic waveforms and pulse sequences
 - Avoid damage to pericardiac structures











BACKGROUND

Pulsed Field Ablation

- Thermal ablation (RF / Cryo) is largely tissue indiscriminate
 - As the thermal (heat / cold) wave propagates, all tissues are ablated
 - Potential for damage to adjacent tissues:
 - Esophagus → AE fistula, Gastroparesis
 - Phrenic nerve → Diaphragmatic paralysis
 - Pulmonary Vein → PV Stenosis
- Pulsed Field Ablation: Instead of thermal energy, damages by electroporating tissue
 - Preclinical indicate an important degree of preferentiality to myocardial tissue ablation
 - MANIFEST-PF Registry (>1,500 patients undergoing PFA): No evidence of esophageal damage or PV stenosis, and only rare phrenic nerve paralysis (<1 in 1000)



VY.Reddy, P.Neuzil, J.Koruth, et al, J Am Coll Cardiol 74:315–26 (2019) M.Turagam, P.Neuzil, B.Schmidt...VY.Reddy, Circulation 148:35–46 (2023)

33

MANIFEST-PF STUDY

Goal

- To assess the "real world" performance of the pentaspline PFA catheter:
 - How is it being used?
 - Acute effectiveness
 - Safety: in particular, rare esophageal effects and other unforeseen PFA-related complications



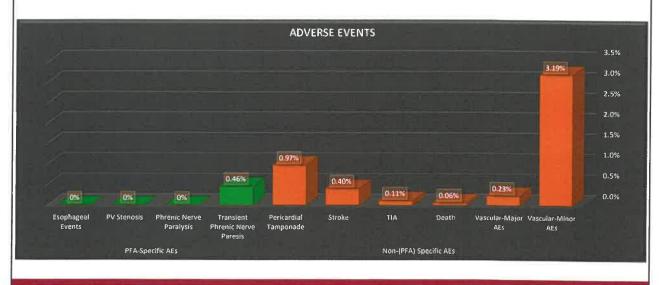
Ekanem, E., Reddy, V. Y., Schmidt, B., Reichlin, T., Neven, K., Metzner, A., & MANIFEST-PF Cooperative. (2022). Multi-national survey on the methods, efficacy, and safety on the post-approval clinical use of pulsed field ablation (MANIFEST-PF). Europace, 24(8), 1256-1266.

MANIFEST-PF STUDY

	Data (%)
General Anesthesia / Intubation (%)	17.8%
Deep Sedation / No Intubation (%)	82.1%
No. of Transeptal Punctures, n (%)	1 (100%)
Procedure Time (minutes), mean (min- max)	65 (38-215)
Fluoroscopy Time (minutes), mean (min-max)	13.7 (4.5-33)
Same Day Discharge (%)	15.8%

Ekanem, E., Reddy, V. Y., Schmidt, B., Reichlin, T., Neven, K., Metzner, A., ... & MANIFEST-PF Cooperative. (2022) Multi-national survey on the methods, efficacy, and safety on the post-approval clinical use of pulsed field ablation (MANIFEST-PF). Europace, 24(8), 1256-1266

MANIFEST-PF STUDY

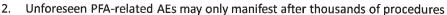


Ekanem, E., Reddy, V. Y., Schmidt, B., Reichlin, T., Neven, K., Metzner, A., ... & MANIFEST-PF Cooperative. (2022). Multi-national survey on the methods, efficacy, 36 and safety on the post-approval clinical use of pulsed field ablation (MANIFEST-PF). Europace, 24(8), 1256-1266.

BACKGROUND

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 - Pulmonary Vein → PV Stenosis
- Pulsed Field Ablation: Instead of thermal energy, damages by electroporating tissue
 - Preclinical indicate an important degree of preferentiality to myocardial tissue ablation
 - MANIFEST-PF Registry (>1,500 patients undergoing PFA): No evidence of esophageal damage or PV stenosis, and only rare phrenic nerve paralysis (<1 in 1000)
- But:
 - 1. Rem: with cryoballoon ablation, we initially thought that atrio-esophageal fistula couldn't happen → only observed after a couple thousand patients were treated





VY.Reddy, P.Neuzil, J.Koruth, et al, *J Am Coll Cardiol* 74:315–26 (2019) M.Turagam, P.Neuzil, B.Schmidt...VY.Reddy, *Circulation* 148:35–46 (2023)

32

MANIFEST-17K STUDY

Goals

- 1. Assess whether PFA truly demonstrates a clinically-important degree of <u>preferentiality to myocardial tissue ablation</u>
 - Esophageal damage, Pulmonary vein stenosis, Phrenic nerve injury
- 2. Assess if PFA is associated with other unusual adverse events

METHODS

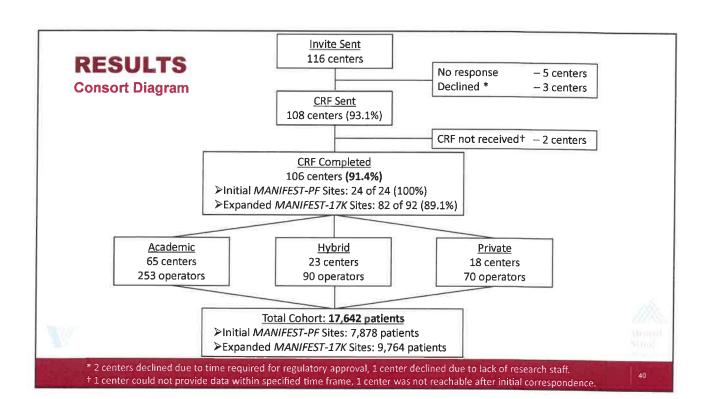
MANIFEST-17K

- Retrospective observational study of centers performing PFA after EU regulatory approval of the pentaspline PFA catheter (Farawave, Boston Scientific Inc, Marlborough, MA)
 - Contacted <u>all</u> 116 centers (Europe, Israel) performing clinical PFA cases to treat AF
- Data form sent to all sites willing to participate
 - Primarily center-level data
 - But additional queries sent to obtain additional details about certain AEs (eg, coronary spasm, deaths, etc)
- Excluded the initial patients already reported in MANIFEST-PF
 - Excluded 1,758 patients at the original 24 MANIFEST-PF sites





E.Ekanem, VY.Reddy, B.Schmidt, et al. Europace 24:1256-1266 (2022) M.Turagam, P.Neuzil, B.Schmidt...VY.Reddy, Circulation 148:35–46 (2023)



RESULTS **Baseline Patient Characteristics** Full MANIFEST-17K Cohort (N=17,642) Demographic Age (years), Mean (min-max) 64 (11-96) Female (%) 34.7 Indication for ablation Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation (%) 57.8 Persistent atrial fibrillation (%) 35.2 Longstanding persistent atrial fibrillation (%) 5.6 Atrial flutter/atrial tachycardia (%) Sedation General anesthesia (%) 46.9

53.1

Deep Sedation/no intubation (%)

RESULTS
Complications Rates Partitioned by Relationship to Pulsed Field Energy

1.5%

1.5%

1.0%

1.0%

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RESULTS

Major and Minor Complications

	Full Patient Cohort from
	All MANIFEST-17K Sites
	106 Sites (N=17,642)
Major Adverse Events	173 (0.98%)
Death †	5 (0.03) †
Stroke	22 (0.12)
Esophageal fistula or dysmotility	0 (0)
Pulmonary vein stenosis	0 (0)
Phrenic nerve injury (persistent) ‡	0 (0) ‡
Pericardial tamponade †	63 (0.36) †
Percutaneous intervention	56 (0.32)
Surgical intervention †	7 (0.04) †
Vascular complication (with intervention)	53 (0.30)
Coronary artery spasm	25 (0.14)
Myocardial Infarction	0 (0.0)
Hemolysis-Renal Failure (hospitalization)	5 (0.03)
Other (thrombosis)	1 (0.006)

† One patient requiring surgical intervention for tamponade subsequently died and is thus counted in both categories.

‡ Persistent injury is defined as being present beyond hospital discharge, while transient injury has recovered by discharge.

48

RESULTS

Major and Minor Complications

	Full Patient Cohort from All <i>MANIFEST-17K</i> Sites 106 Sites (N=17,642)
Minor Adverse Events	567 (3.21%)
Transient Ischemic Attack	21 (0.12)
Phrenic nerve palsy (transient) ‡	11 (0.06) ‡
Pericardial effusion (no intervention)	59 (0.33)
Pericarditis	30 (0.17)
Vascular complications (no intervention)	388 (2.20)
Hemolysis-Renal Failure (no hospitalization)	1 (0.006)
Other complications	57 (0.32)

‡ Persistent injury is defined as being present beyond hospital discharge, while transient injury has recovered by discharge.

RESULTS

Coronary Artery Spasm

	Coronary Spasm N = 25 (0.14%)
Type of Spasm:	
Proximity-Related Spasm *	22 (88%)
Generalized Spasm †	3 (12%)
EKG changes	23 (92%)
Hypotension	5 (20%)
Acute Clinical sequelae	4 (16%)
Chest Pain	2 (8%)
Ventricular Fibrillation	2 (8%)
IV Nitroglycerin Administered	21 (84%)

* Spasm occurring during PFA adjacent to a coronary artery, either during mitral isthmus or cavotricuspid isthmus ablation.
† Spasm occurring during conventional PV application remote from the location of a coronary artery.

45

RESULTS

Hemolysis →Acute Renal Failure Requiring Hemodialysis

- Occurred in 5 pts (0.03%)
 - All had Persistent AF
 - Baseline Creatinine
 - ➤ Normal in 3 pts
 - Mildly elevated in 2 pts (1.2 & 1.5 mg/dl)
- PFA lesion set was complex in all pts
 - PVI, posterior wall ablation, mitral/CTI lines
 - Total PF lesions/procedure: 143 ± 27
- <u>Transient hemodialysis</u> was utilized for all patients with significant improvement in renal function by the time of hospital discharge
 - Renal function normalized in all in follow-up

