



Risk factors for LVEF alteration linked to apical stimulation: Monocentric retrospective study

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Abstract

Background: The aim of our retrospective study is to see what are the risk factors that can induce an alteration of left ventricular function (LVEF) in patients implanted with a Pacemaker with apical stimulation for conduction disorder.

Method: We implanted 520 patients between January 2019 and December 2020. We carried out the follow-up of 172 patients with an LVEF greater than 45%. The average follow-up is 18 months by echocardiography at 6, 12 and 18 months. We observed an alteration of LVEF in 43 patients, and compared these patients to the other 129 patients to see if there are any risk factors that may induce an alteration in LVEF.

Results 43 patients altered their LVEF during follow-up, representing 8.7% of the population of 520.

The mean time to onset of LVEF impairment was 6 months, sometimes with signs of heart failure requiring hospitalization. We ruled out any other pathology at the origin of this alteration in contractile function. The identified risk factors are: -Age, Ischemic cardiomyopathy, LVEF, Percent of pacing, Kidney failure

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Key Words. Apical pacing (AP), risks factors (RF), Left ventricular fraction ejection (LVEF), Arrhythmic cardiomyopathy (AC), Pacemaker (PM) , Upgrade pacing, Non upgrade pacing.

Concept of Asynchronism

- We know that there are arrhythmic heart disease.
- And we know from Cazeau's study the deleterious and aggravating effect of the existence of a left bundle branch block or of the apical stimulation.
- We will conclude that the apical RV pacing can lead to arrhythmic heart disease.

Method

Retrospective study.

- We have implanted 520 patients by Pacemaker (PM) between January 2019 and December 2020.
- We screened 172 patients who had a cardiac ultrasound before PM implantation at 6,12, and 18 months
- We observe that they have 43 out of 520 (8,2%) patients who required an Up-grading PM due to the alteration of their left ventricular function (LVFE) with heart failure chart.
- We tried to find out if there are risk factors that facilitate the alteration of LVEF.

Study population

Followed-up of 172 patients for 2 years Average follow-ups is 18 months

Number.	520 patients (172p)
Age	60 to 88 years
Sex	75 % are man.
Cardiomyopathy	81 %
LVEF.	45 to 65 %.
Hypertension	78%
Diabetes	50%
Renal insufficiency (creatinine clearance lower than 40 ml)	53%
Dysthyroid	23%

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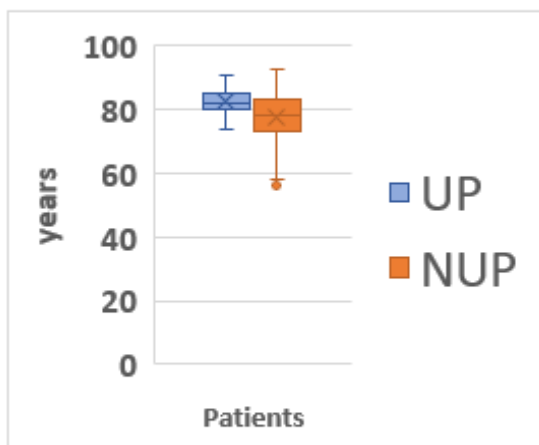
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Arrhythmia (atrial fibrillation)	76%
Chronic bronchitis.	38%
Sleep apnea syndrome.	35%
Percent RV pacing.	48%
Medical treatment. (Ri or Ai, betablocker)	80%

The risk factors that have appeared are:

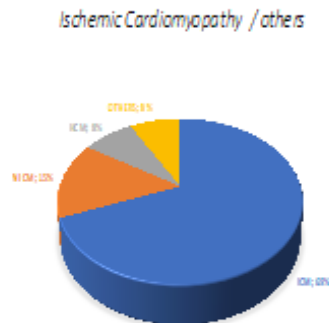
Patients Up-grading. (43p)	Patients without up-grade.(129p)
Age 83 years.	78 years.
Ischemic CM 69%.	30%.
Atrial fibrillation 81%.	78%.
Percent of pacing >88 %.	< 40%
LVEF < 55%.	> 55%
Sex 85 % was man.	ND
Kidney failure (< 40ml) > 75%.	< 45%

AGE in years.



For the oldest age most of the population were men

Cardiomyopathy



69% of patients had ischemic cardiomyopathy

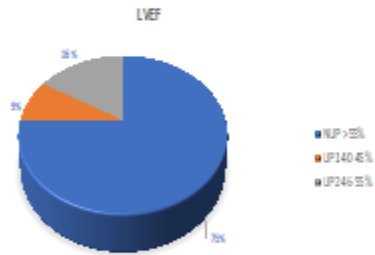
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LVFE.

Left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF)



The cut off of NUP LVEF was 55%

% Of Pacing.

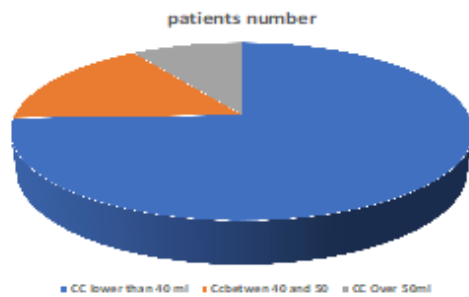
Percent of pacing



The cut off of NUP of % of pacing was 40%

Renal insufficiency

Rénal insufficiency



Renal failure was defined as creatine clearance below 40ml . 53 % of patients had a UPG had a clearance less than 40ML

Discussion

- We have identified 5 risk factors for alteration of LVEF:
- Age
- Ischemic cardiomyopathy
- Left ventricular ejection fraction.
- Percent pacing.
- Renal failure.

Study limitations

- Reviews:
- Single-center retrospective study.
- Implantation of 520 but followed by 172. And 43 patients who required Up-grade this following 8,2%.
- Medical treatment is not the same because of a population is very different.

Arrhythmic cardiomyopathy (1,2,3,4,5,6)

Arrhythmic cardiomyopathy

- They are not known. The diagnosis is often exclusionary which disturbs rhythm or conduction .
 - They are classified :
 - As pure CMR because we don't find a cardiomyopathy.
 - As impure CMR and in fact aggravate an existing heart disease.
- The RV pacing can induce an arrhythmic cardiomyopathy or aggravate an existing heart disease.

Physiopathology (4,5,6,7,8,9)

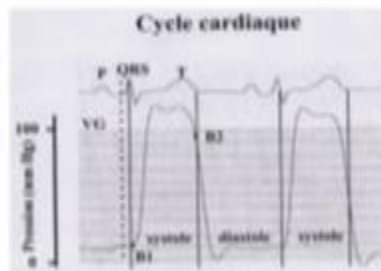
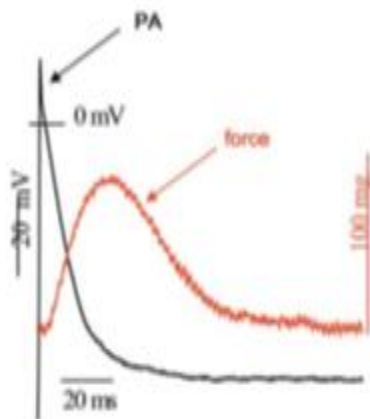
Pathophysiology

- The apical pacing causes a desynchronization with a widening of the QRS resembling the left bundle branch block whose deleterious effects on myocardial contractility are known.
- This asynchronism leads to ventricular remodeling. The consequences of which include an overlap in systole diastole, mitral insufficiency and a decrease in contractility, therefore dilation of the LV and decrease in LVEF.
- MOST and DAVID study demonstrated the deleterious effect of RV stimulation .

Pathophysiology

- Right ventricular pacing affects myocardial perfusion.
- Right ventricular pacing reduced inferior, septal and global blood flow (Nilsen , Ono S)
- LEE found in 16 dogs with iatrogenic AV block that the cardiac tissue norepinephrine level was significantly high

(11,12,13,14,15,16,17)



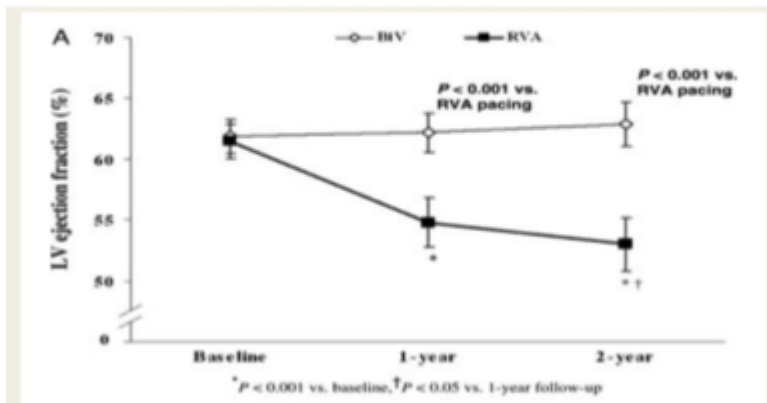
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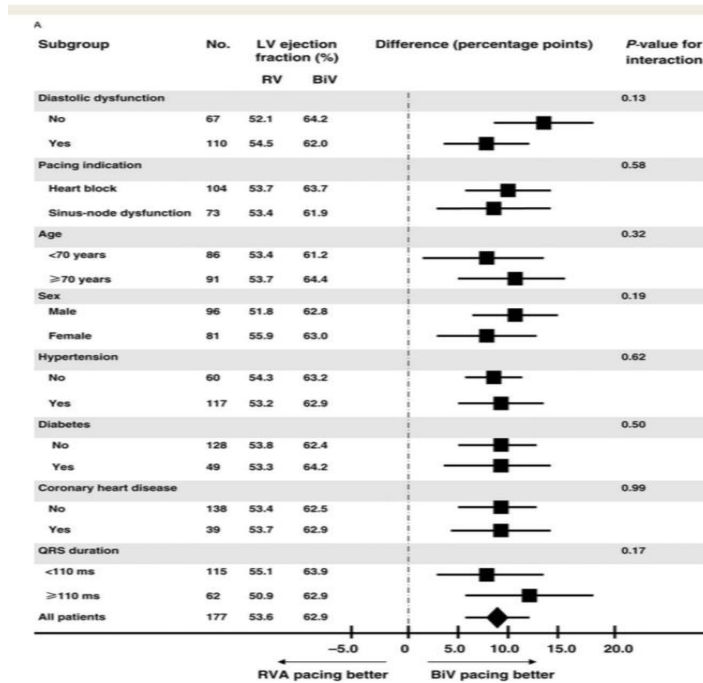
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PACE study (Deleterious effect of RV pacing on the LVEF)



PACE study (beneficial effect of biventricular pacing on RV pacing)



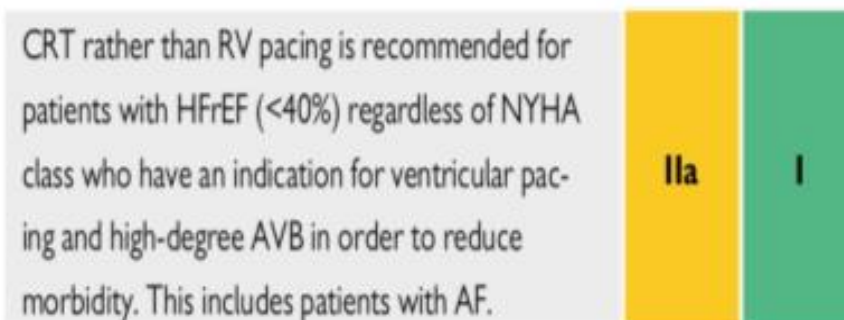
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(22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29)

ESC recommendations



Discussion

the interest of this study, even if it is monocentric and retrospective, is to show the risk factors that can contribute to the evolution towards a rhythmic heart disease in the event of apical stimulation by a pacemaker.

Numerous studies have shown the deleterious effect of apical stimulation but have not specified the risk factors towards this development.

Neither do the ESC recommendations. They recommend with a level IIa for a CRT only in case of LVEF < 40% and a rate of RV stimulation > 20% (this would be related to the CMRs induced by an ESV rate > 20%).

I think it is important that there are other larger and prospective studies to further clarify the factors likely to favor the evolution towards CMR.

Conclusion

The interest of this work is to have highlighted certain factors such as age, ischemic CM, LVEF, RV stimulation rate and renal failure. This avoids taking a patient for an Up grading

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