



# HISTORY OF EGM-BASED ABLATION

**Dr THOMAS PAMBRUN**

*University of Bordeaux – LIRYC institute*



**DISCLOSURES: NONE**

## EDITORIAL

### Fractionated electrical activity and continuous electrical activity: fact or artifact?

MARK E. JOSEPHSON, M.D., AND ANDREW L. WIT, Ph.D.

*Circulation.* 1984;70:529-532

FUNDAMENTAL  
BASIS

CLINICAL  
DESCRIPTION

PRACTICAL  
APPLICATION

STRATEGY  
REFINEMENT



**Mark E. Josephson**

These proposals are all based on the assumption that fractionated electrograms are caused by slow, inhomogeneous conduction, a property that can cause reentry.

These proposals are also a source of controversy. It has been suggested that fractionated electrograms and continuous activity may be artifacts, resulting from movement between the electrode and myocardium.

## Significance of Fragmented Ventricular Electrograms Observed Using Intracardiac Recording Techniques in Man

HARVEY L. WAXMAN, M.D., AND RUEY J. SUNG, M.D.

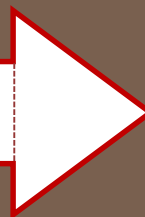
Circulation 62, No. 6, 1980.

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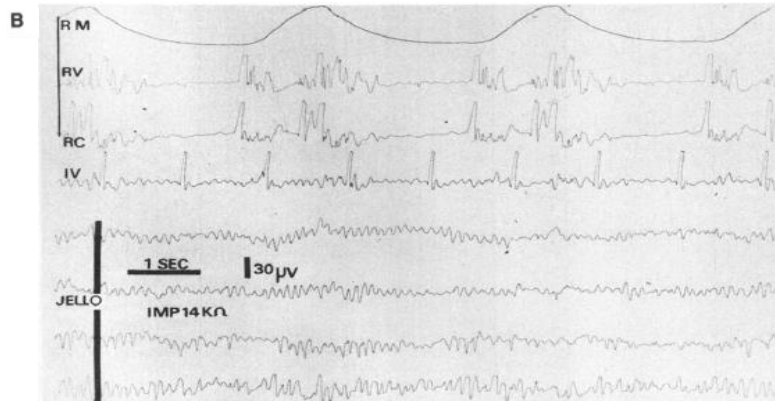
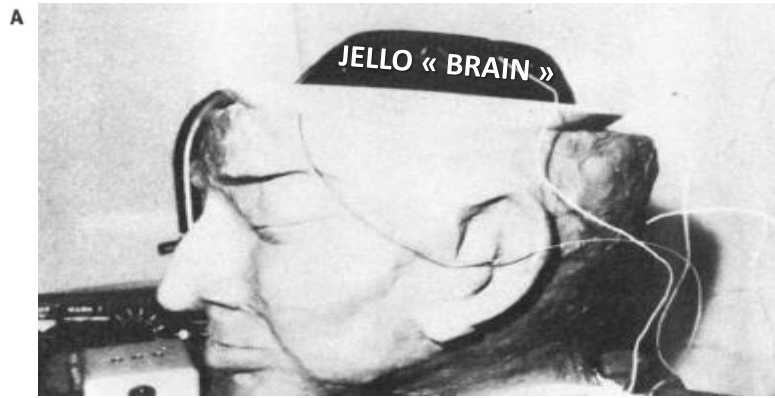
SIGNAL ARTIFACTS  
CAUSED BY  
ELECTRODE MOTION

FIGURE 3. Fragmentation of the ventricular electrogram with beat-to-beat variation recorded in patient 2, with cardiomyopathy and a history of sustained ventricular tachycardia. Note the beat-to-beat variation in the timing of the fragmentation (arrows) recorded in an unstable catheter electrode position near the left ventricular apex (LVA). No fragmentation is apparent in the right ventricular apical (RVA) electrogram.

### Techniques of Intraoperative Electrophysiologic Mapping

JOHN J. GALLAGHER, MD, FACC  
JACK H. KASELL  
JAMES L. COX, MD  
WILLIAM M. SMITH, PhD  
RAYMOND E. IDEKER, MD, PhD  
WARREN M. SMITH, MD  
Durham, North Carolina

The American Journal of CARDIOLOGY  
January 1982  
Volume 49 221



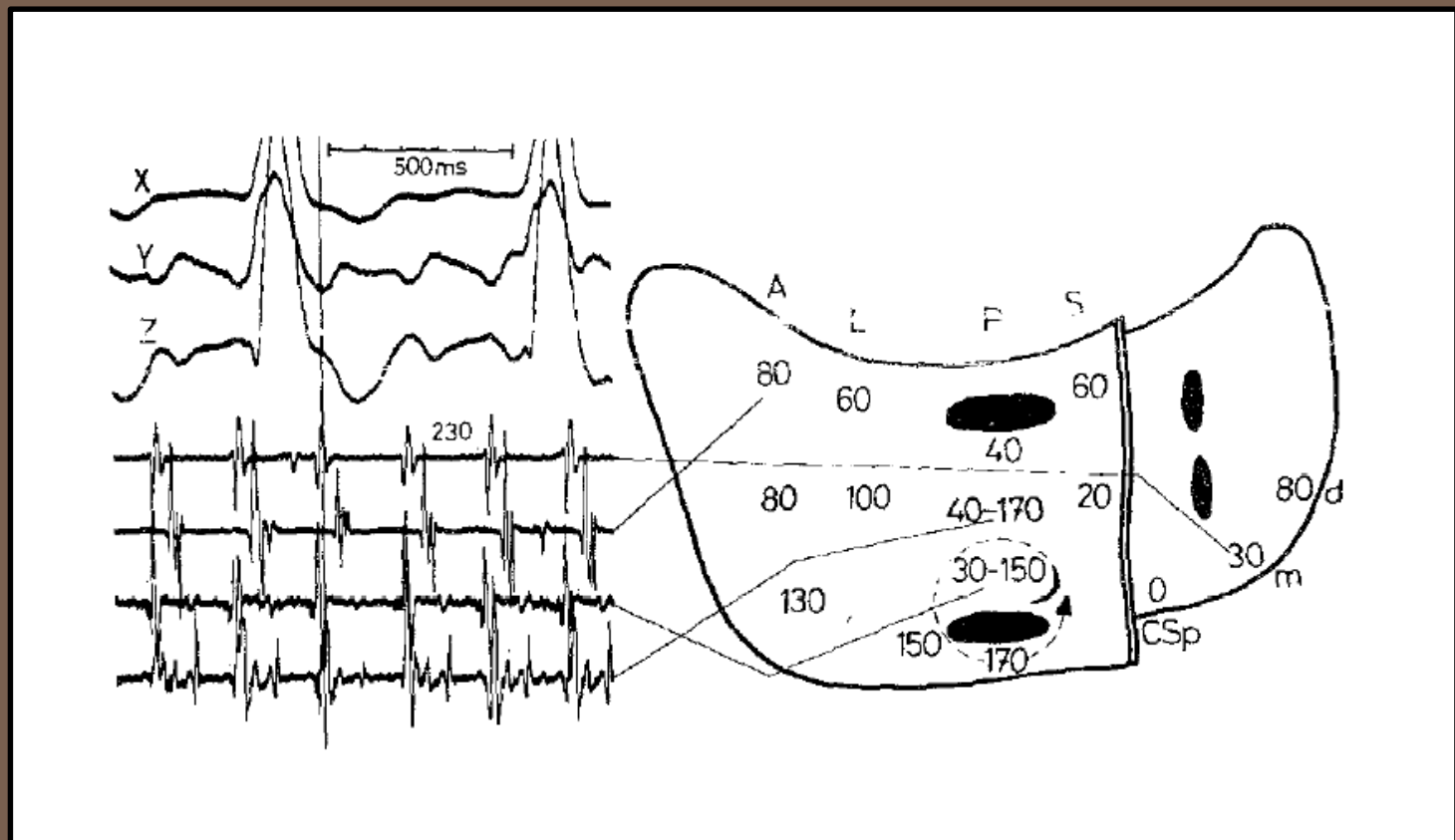
**FIGURE 7.** Recording of continuous activity from the jello "brain." **Panel A**, laboratory model showing electroencephalographic recording leads inserted in jello. **Panel B**, electroencephalographic tracing recorded from the jello. Recordings from top to bottom are from the respiration monitor (RM), the respirator/ventilator (RV), the respirator coil (RC), the intravenous line (IV) and four channels directly from the jello. The impedance of these latter recordings was 14,000 ohms. The amplitude of the recorded activity is approximately 30  $\mu$ V. The **artifactual electroencephalographic activity recorded from the jello probably stems from several sources.** Simultaneous recordings of several devices in the laboratory environment suggest a source for some of the components of this activity. Especially striking is the activity recorded from the intravenous drip apparatus, which suggests electrocardiographic complexes. (These illustrations were kindly supplied by Dr. Adrian Upton, Chedoke-McMaster Hospital, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.)

**SIGNAL ARTIFACTS  
CAUSED BY  
FARFIELD ACTIVITIES**

## Fragmented Electrograms and Continuous Electrical Activity in Atrial Flutter

FRANCISCO G. COSIO, MD, FERNANDO ARRIBAS, MD, JOSE PALACIOS, MD,  
JUAN TASCÓN, MD, and MARIA LOPEZ-GIL, MD

Am J Cardiol 1986;57:1309-1314





### Relating Extracellular Potentials and Their Derivatives to Anisotropic Propagation at a Microscopic Level in Human Cardiac Muscle

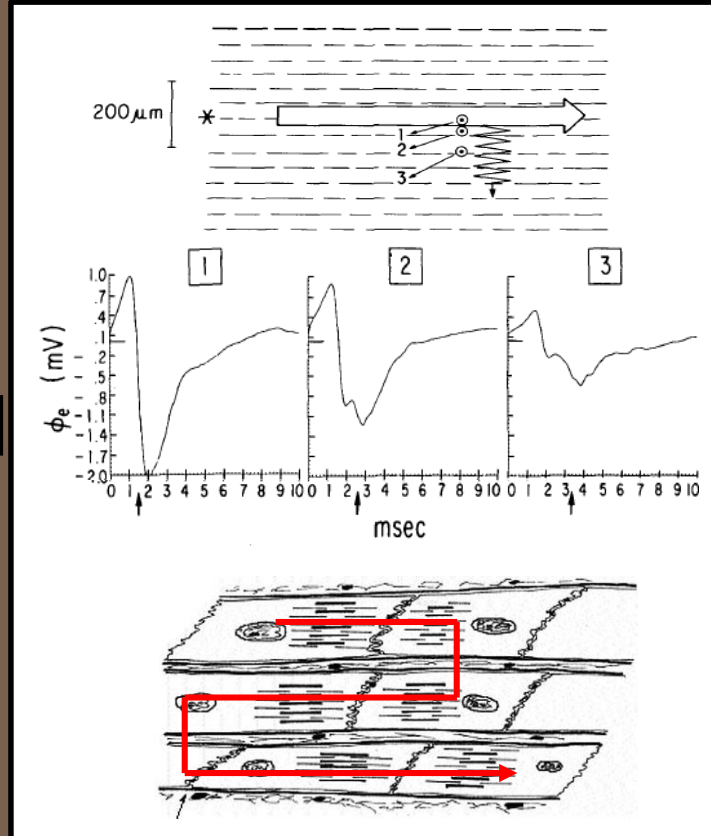
Madison S. Spach and Paul C. Dolber

From the Departments of Pediatrics and Physiology, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina

Circulation Research / Vol. 58, No. 3, March 1986



ASYNCHRONOUS ACTIVATION  
CAUSED BY  
**ANISOTROPIC  
PROPAGATION**



The above results in the older age group suggest an anisotropic propagation medium comprised of cells that are tightly coupled along the longitudinal axis of the fibers, but along the transverse axis there are recurrent areas in which side-to-side electrical coupling of adjacent groups of parallel fibers is absent. Thus, when compared to the tightly coupled medium with uniform anisotropic propagation of the young preparations, there is a progressive loss with age of side-to-side electrical coupling between groups of parallel-oriented atrial fibers. Such a medium would account for the uniform fast propagation without delays in the direction of low axial resistivity (the long axis of the fibers) in the presence of nonuniform slow propagation with delays along the axis of high axial resistivity (the transverse direction). The periodic absence of side-to-side electrical coupling between groups of fibers should also produce a zigzag course of transverse propagation. A significant zigzag component of excitation spread, in turn, should generate numerous deflections (and their varied shapes) in the extracellular waveforms.





## Configuration of Unipolar Atrial Electrograms During Electrically Induced Atrial Fibrillation in Humans

Karen T.S. Konings, Joep L.R.M. Smeets, Olaf C. Penn, Hein J.J. Wellens, Maurits A. Allessie

Circulation. 1997;95:1231-1241

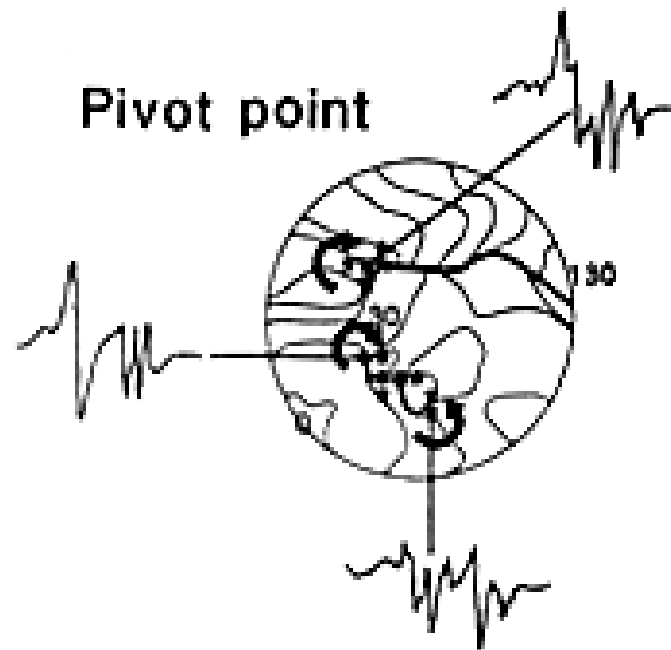
FUNDAMENTAL  
BASIS

CLINICAL  
DESCRIPTION

PRACTICAL  
APPLICATION

STRATEGY  
REFINEMENT

ASYNCHRONOUS ACTIVATION  
CAUSED BY  
WAVEFRONT  
CURVATURE



Pivot points of turning wavelets seem to be important factors for perpetuation of AF.

**Anisotropic propagation, anatomical barriers and wavefront curvature are the mechanisms favoring the recording of complex signals.**

**These complex signals have subsequently proved to be key elements for atrial fibrillation.**

### High-Density Mapping of Electrically Induced Atrial Fibrillation in Humans

Karen T.S. Konings, MD; Charles J.H.J. Kirchhof, MD, PhD; Joep R.L.M. Smeets, MD, PhD; Hein J.J. Wellens, MD, PhD; Olaf C. Penn, MD, PhD; Maurits A. Allessie, MD, PhD

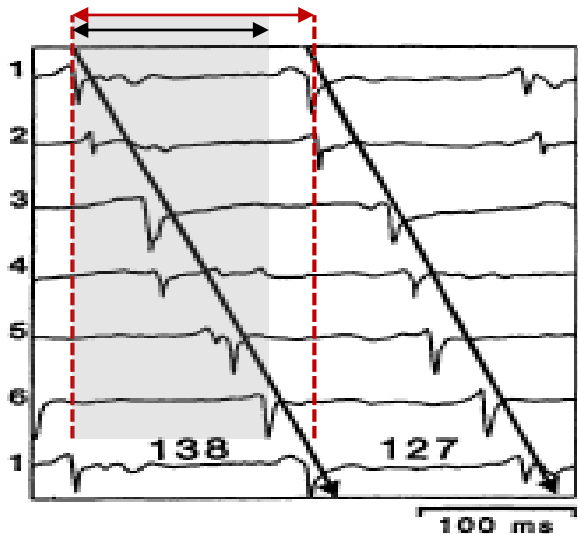
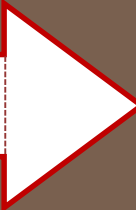
(Circulation. 1994;89:1665-1680.)

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#### Incidence of Reentry

more common ( $28 \pm 25\%$ ). In type III fibrillation, random reentry occurred in  $33 \pm 10\%$  of the beats, whereas a shifting leading circle was observed during  $66 \pm 29\%$  of the fibrillation cycles. During type III, the average persistence of a shifting leading circle in the free wall of the right atrium was  $5.4 \pm 3.1$  beats. The incidence of

**GRADIENT**

Pivot points are crucial because no matter how many wavelets are present, if they do not turn, they will soon die out at the boundaries of the atria and fibrillation will terminate.

## Configuration of Unipolar Atrial Electrograms During Electrically Induced Atrial Fibrillation in Humans

Karen T.S. Konings, Joep L.R.M. Smeets, Olaf C. Penn, Hein J.J. Wellens, Maurits A. Allessie

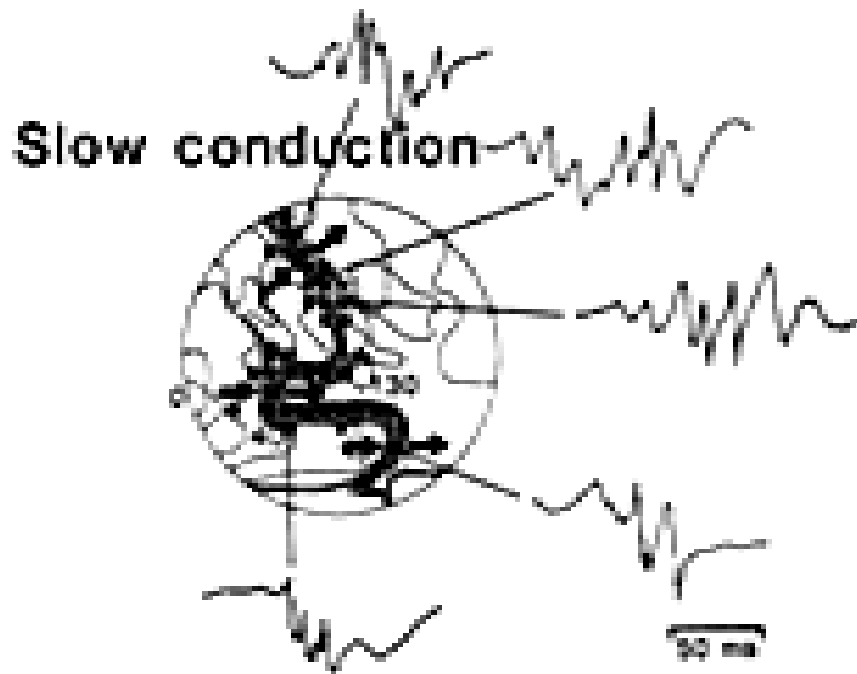
Circulation. 1997;95:1231-1241

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**FRACTIONATION**

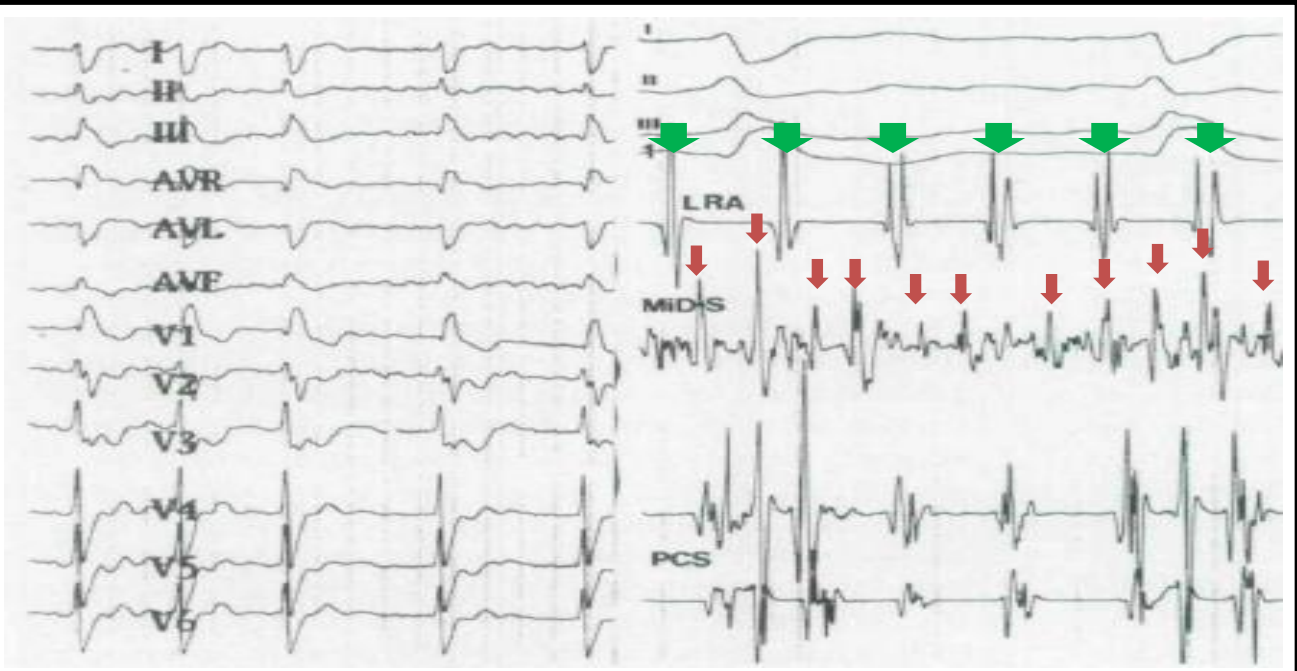
Our present study shows that abnormal conduction patterns are "translated" into fragmented potentials.

Areas of slow conduction shorten the wavelength of the wandering wavelets, thereby increasing the number that can coexist in the atria.

## Radiofrequency Catheter Ablation in Unusual Mechanisms of Atrial Fibrillation: Report of Three Cases

MICHEL HAÏSSAGUERRE, M.D., FRANK I. MARCUS, M.D.,\*  
BRUNO FISCHER, M.D., and JACQUES CLÉMENTY, M.D.

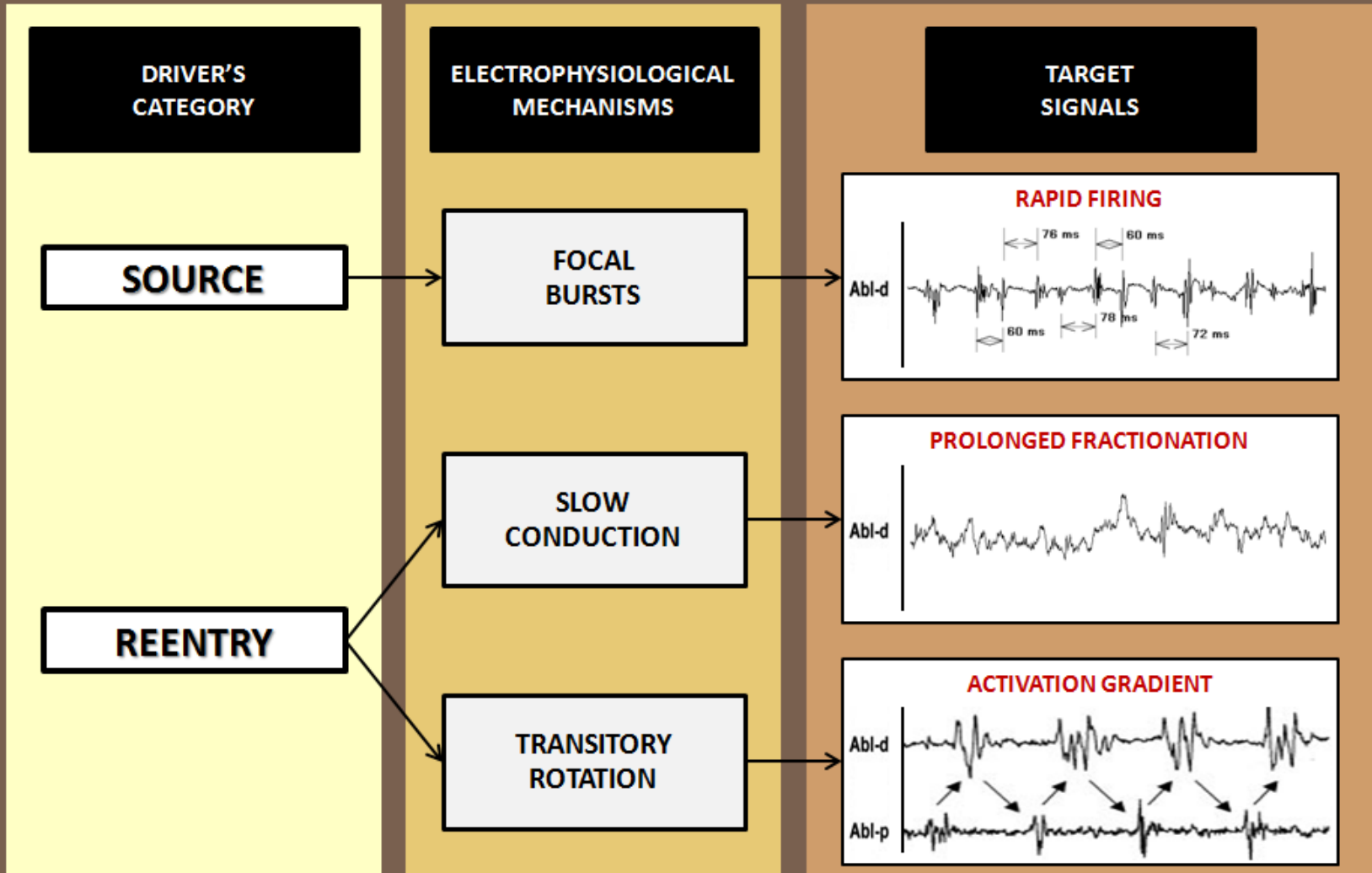
*Journal of Cardiovascular Electrophysiology* Vol. 5, No. 9, September 1994



**FIRING**

This report describes successful ablation of "focal" AF using catheter techniques. AF appeared to be due to a rapid focus

# WHICH SIGNALS MAY BE TARGETED IN THE EP LAB ?





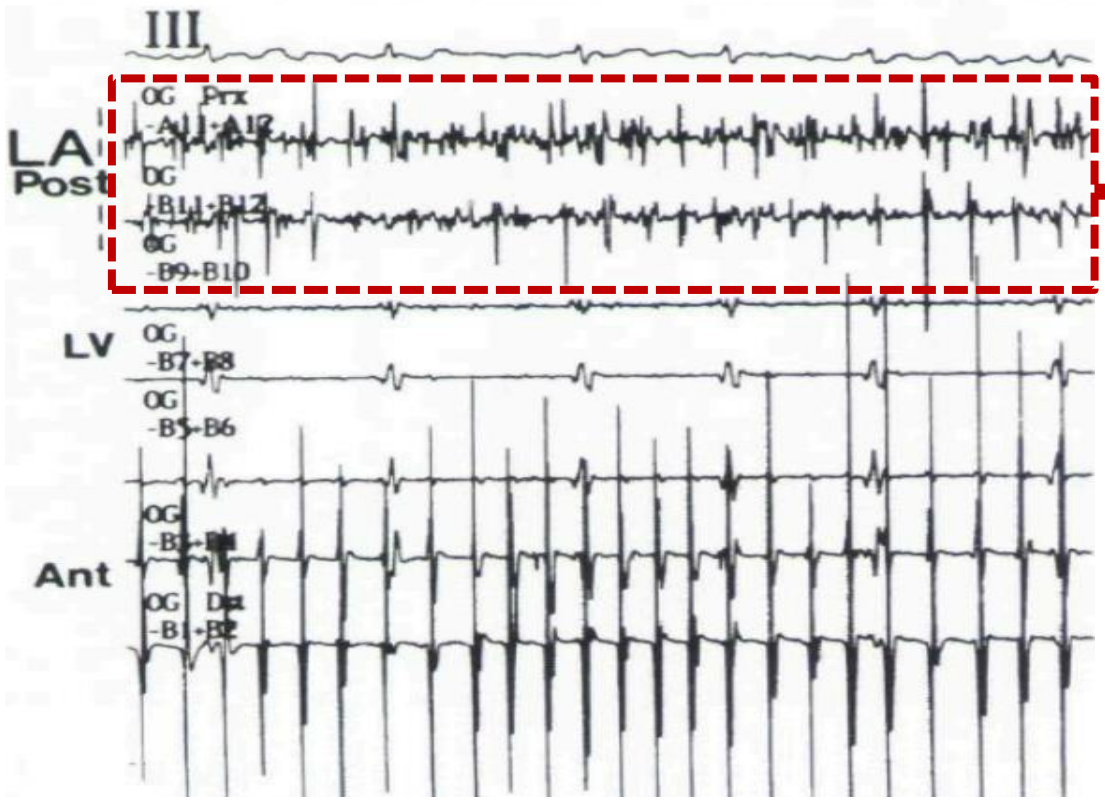
# FIRST DESCRIPTION OF THESE COMPLEX SIGNALS AS A POTENTIAL TARGET FOR AF ABLATION

## Regional Disparities of Endocardial Atrial Activation in Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation

PIERRE JAÏS, MICHEL HAÏSSAGUERRE, DIPEN C. SHAH, SALAH CHOUAIRI, and JACQUES CLÉMENTY

Hôpital Cardiologique du Haut-Lévêque, Bordeaux, France

(PACE 1996; 19[Pt. II]:1998–2003)



complex electrical activity (CEA)  
=  
continuous electrical activity  
OR  
FF interval < 100 ms

The areas exhibiting the most consistently disorganized electrograms could be considered **preferential targets** for catheter-based AFib ablation.



# FIRST APPLICATION IN DAILY-LIFE PRACTICE FOR ATRIAL FIBRILLATION ABLATION



## A New Approach for Catheter Ablation of Atrial Fibrillation: Mapping of the Electrophysiologic Substrate

Koonlawee Nademane, MD, FACC,\* John McKenzie, MD,\* Erol Kosar, MD,\* Mark Schwab, MD,\*  
Buncha Sunsaneewitayakul, MD,† Thaveekiat Vasavakul, MD,\* Chotikorn Khunnawat, MD,\*  
Tachapong Ngarmukos, MD‡

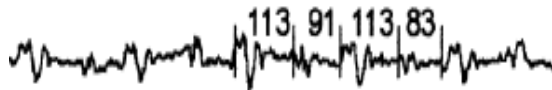
JACC Vol. 43, No. 11, 2004  
June 2, 2004:2044-53



### FIRING

« Atrial EGM with very short CL  
< 120 ms averaged  
over a 10-s recording period »

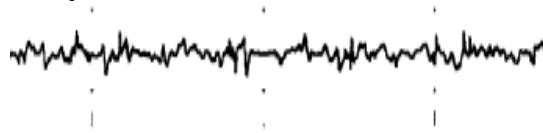
LA-roof



### FRACTIONATION

« Atrial EGM displaying perturbation of the  
baseline with continuous deflection  
over a 10-s recording period »

Posterior  
septum 1-2



### GRADIENT

-

-

**AF TERMINATION DURING ABLATION : 95%**

**Catheter Ablation of Long-Lasting Persistent Atrial Fibrillation:  
Critical Structures for Termination**

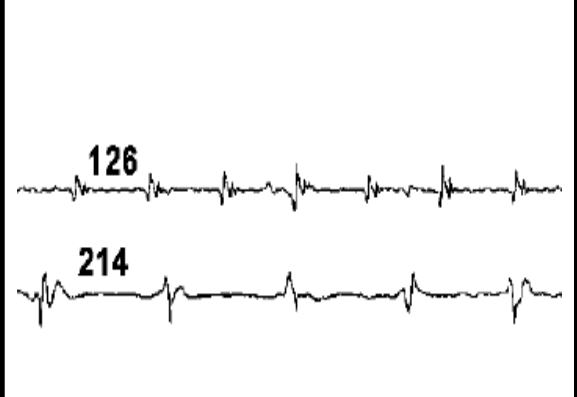
MICHEL HAÏSSAGUERRE, M.D., PRASHANTHAN SANDERS, M.B.B.S., Ph.D., MÉLÈZE HOCINI, M.D., YOSHIHIDE TAKAHASHI, M.D., MARTIN ROTTER, M.D., FREDERIC SACHER, M.D., THOMAS ROSTOCK, M.D., LI-FERN HSU, M.B.B.S., PIERRE BORDACHAR, M.D., SYLVAIN REUTER, M.D., RAYMOND ROUDAUT, M.D., JACQUES CLÉMENTY, M.D., and PIERRE JAÏS, M.D.

J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol. 2005 Nov;16(11):1125-37.



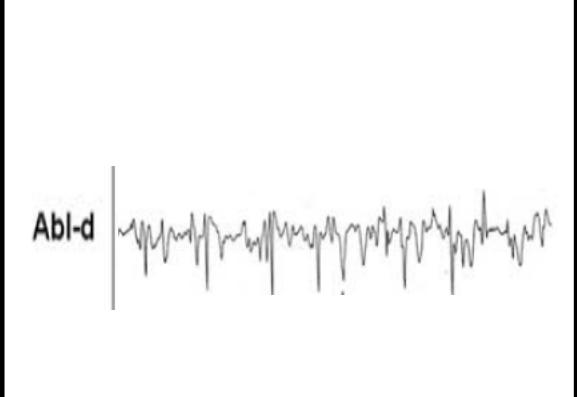
## FIRING

« Discrete atrial EGM with shorter CL than the mean LAA CL »



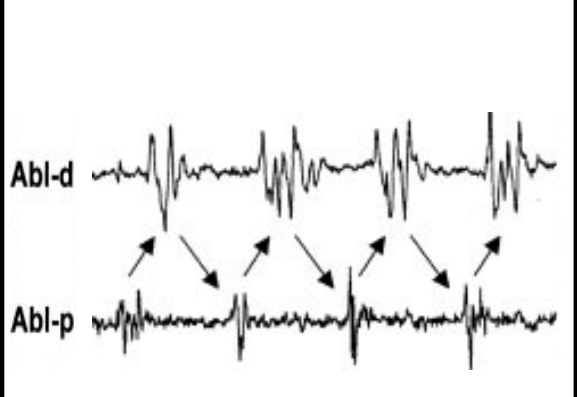
## FRACTIONATION

« Atrial EGM with continuous electrical activity »



## GRADIENT

« Atrial EGM with significant offset between distal and proximal bipoles of the mapping catheter »



**AF TERMINATION DURING ABLATION : 87%**

**Active or passive pulmonary vein in atrial fibrillation:  
Is pulmonary vein isolation always essential?**

Julien Seitz, MD,<sup>\*</sup> Jérôme Horvilleur, MD,<sup>†</sup> Laurence Curel, MSc,<sup>\*</sup> Jérôme Lacotte, MD,<sup>†</sup>  
Alexandre Maluski, MD,<sup>\*</sup> Ange Ferracci, MD,<sup>\*</sup> Michel Bremondy, MD,<sup>\*</sup> Amaud Rosier, MD,<sup>†</sup>  
Mehran Monchi, MD,<sup>†</sup> Guillaume Penaranda, MSc,<sup>\*</sup> Jacques Faure, MD,<sup>\*</sup>  
Sylvain Beurtheret, MD,<sup>\*</sup> André Pisapia, MD, FHRS<sup>\*</sup>

Heart Rhythm 2014;11:579–586

FUNDAMENTAL  
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**FIRING**

**FRACTIONATION**

**GRADIENT**

Mean procedure and fluoroscopy duration times were  $210 \pm 60$  min (range 90–420 minutes) and  $21.3 \pm 14.1$  minutes (range 4–77 minutes), respectively. Mean RF time was  $77.7 \pm 29.8$  minutes (range 17.3–164.1 minutes).

**AF TERMINATION DURING ABLATION : 95%**



# WHICH NEW CRITERIA WOULD ENSURE EFFICIENT SELECTION OF ACTIVE SIGNALS ?



# ARE ALL THESE SIGNALS ACTIVE ?

## MAJOR INFLUENCE OF CYCLE LENGTH

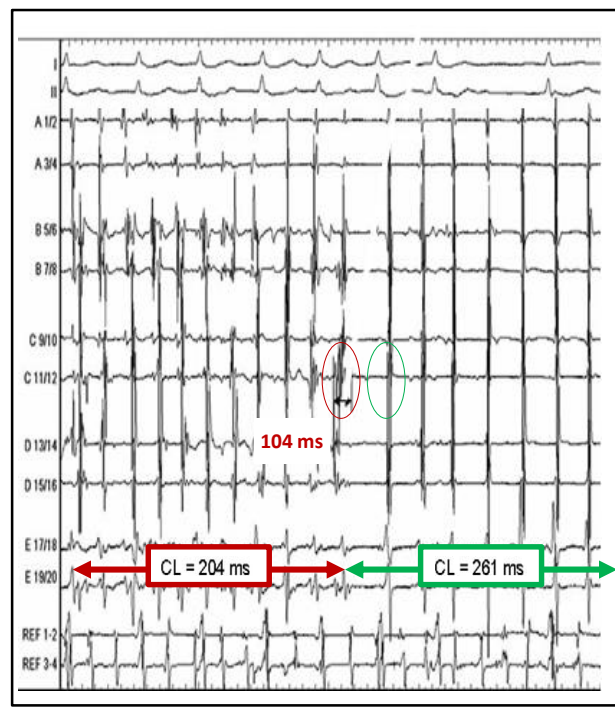


**High-density activation mapping of fractionated electrograms in the atria of patients with paroxysmal atrial fibrillation**

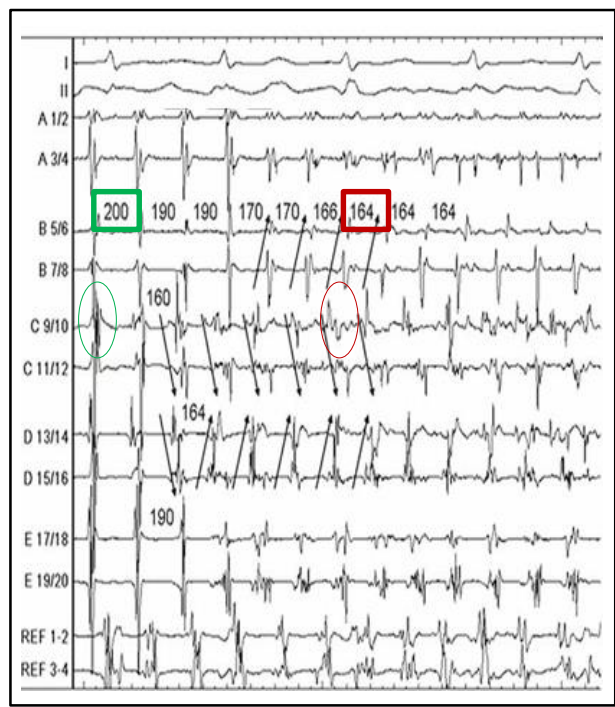
Thomas Rostock, MD,<sup>a</sup> Martin Rotter, MD,<sup>a</sup> Prashanthan Sanders, MBBS, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Yoshihide Takahashi, MD,<sup>a</sup> Pierre Jaïs, MD,<sup>a</sup> Mélèze Hocini, MD,<sup>a</sup> Li-Fern Hsu, MBBS,<sup>a</sup> Frédéric Sacher, MD,<sup>a</sup> Jacques Clémenty, MD,<sup>a</sup> Michel Haïssaguerre, MD<sup>a</sup>

(Heart Rhythm 2006;3:27-34)

**FRACTIONATED-EGM ARE DETERMINED BY AF-CYCLE LENGTH AND PARTLY ASSOCIATED WITH PASSIVE PHENOMENA**



**84% of fractionated-EGM occur nearly simultaneously in all splines, reflecting a passive activity.**



**16% of fractionated-EGM display a non-simultaneous activation compatible with underlying reentry**



# ARE ALL THESE SIGNALS ACTIVE ?

## INFLUENCE OF WAVEFRONT DIRECTION

### Functional Nature of Electrogram Fractionation Demonstrated by Left Atrial High-Density Mapping

Amir S. Jadidi, MD; Edward Duncan, PhD; Shinsuke Miyazaki, MD; Nicolas Lellouche, MD;  
Ashok J. Shah, MD; Andrei Forclaz, MD; Isabelle Nault, MD, FRCP; Matthew Wright, MBBS, PhD;  
Lena Rivard, MD; Xingpeng Liu, MD; Daniel Scherr, MD; Stephen B. Wilton, MD;  
Frédéric Sacher, MD; Nicolas Derval, MD; Sebastien Knecht, MD; Steven J. Kim, MSEE;  
Mélèze Hocini, MD; Sanjiv Narayan, MD; Michel Haïssaguerre, MD; Pierre Jaïs, MD

(*Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol.* 2012;5:32-42.)

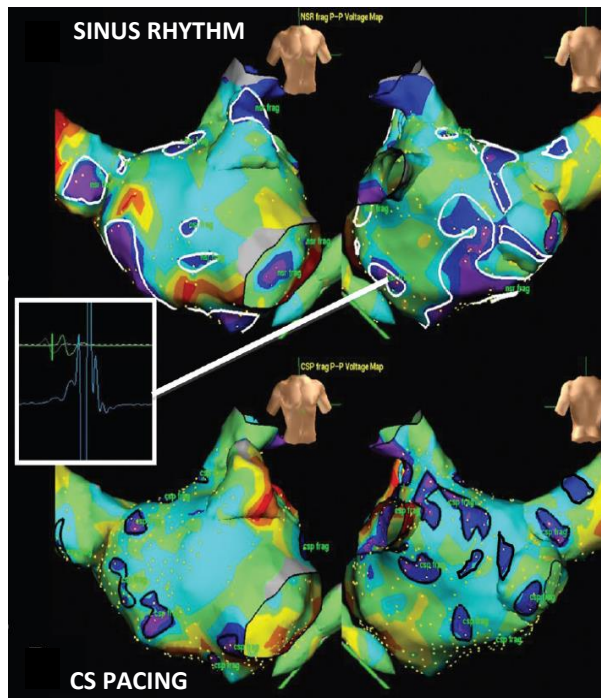
FUNDAMENTAL  
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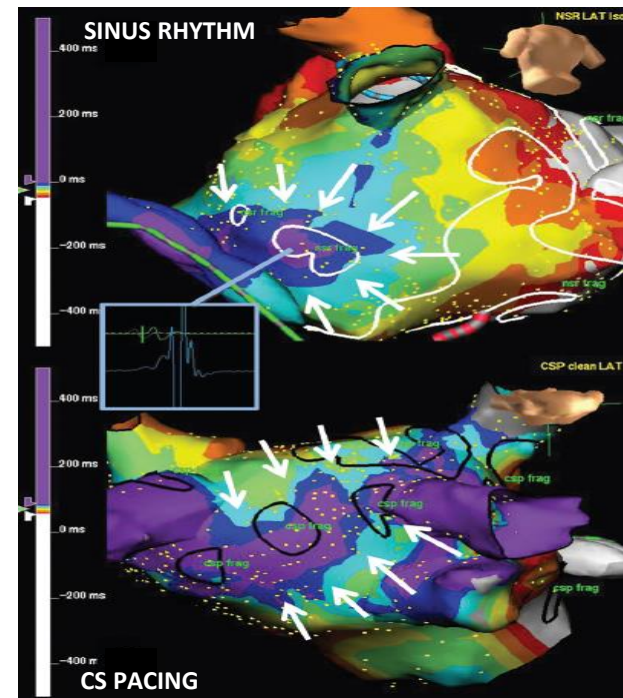
PRACTICAL  
APPLICATION

STRATEGY  
REFINEMENT

FRACTIONATED-EGM DISTRIBUTION  
HIGHLY DEPENDS ON WAVEFRONT  
DIRECTION AND MOSTLY RESULTS  
FROM WAVES COLLISION



Fractionated-EGM location did not match  
between SR and CS pacing at  $70 \pm 10\%$  of the sites

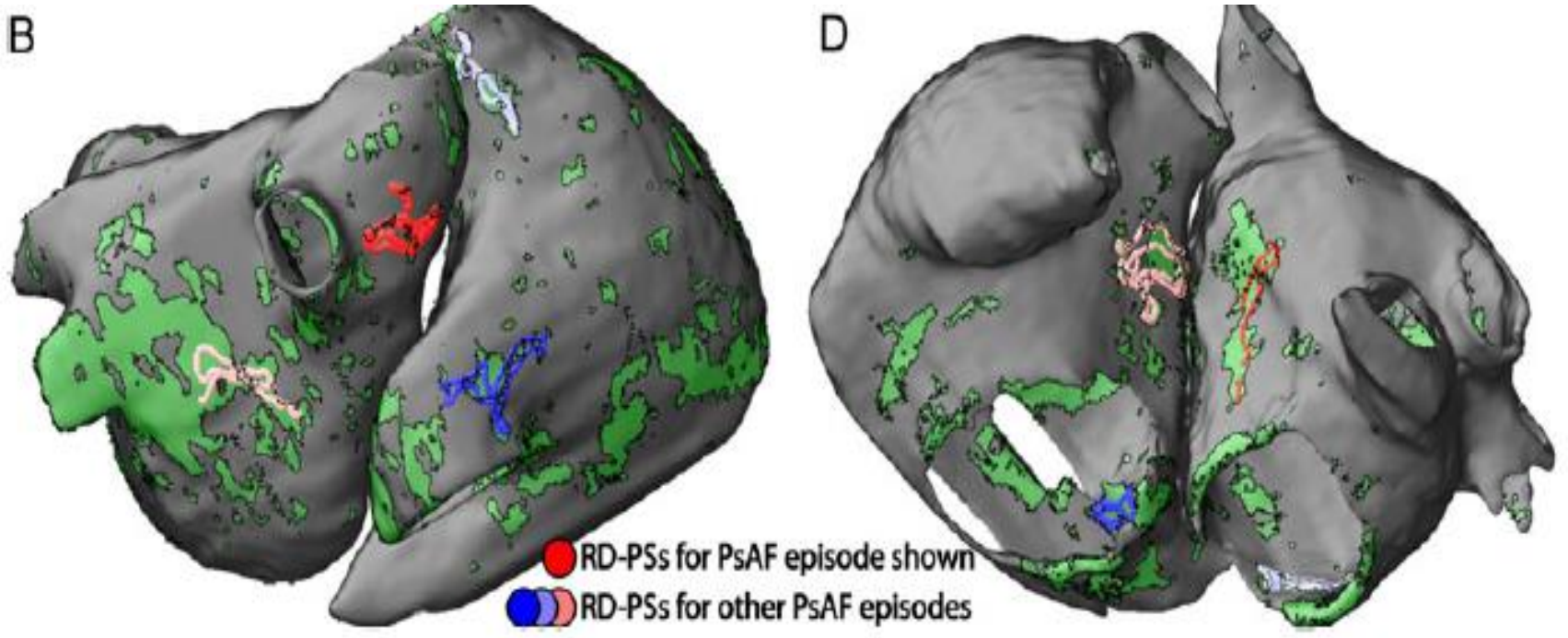


Activation maps in SR and CS pacing showed that  
wave collision caused 71% of fractionated-EGM

### Patient-derived models link re-entrant driver localization in atrial fibrillation to fibrosis spatial pattern

Sohail Zahid<sup>1†</sup>, Hubert Cochet<sup>2,3†</sup>, Patrick M. Boyle<sup>1†</sup>, Erica L. Schwarz<sup>1</sup>, Kaitlyn N. Whyte<sup>1</sup>, Edward J. Vigmond<sup>2</sup>, Rémi Dubois<sup>2</sup>, Méléze Hocini<sup>2,3</sup>, Michel Haïssaguerre<sup>2,3</sup>, Pierre Jaïs<sup>2,3</sup>, and Natalia A. Trayanova<sup>1,4\*</sup>

Cardiovascular Research (2016) 110, 443–454



## Ablation of Persistent Atrial Fibrillation Targeting Low-Voltage Areas With Selective Activation Characteristics

Amir S. Jadidi, MD; Heiko Lehrmann, MD; Cornelius Keyl, MD; Jérémie Sorrel, MD;  
Viktor Markstein, BSc; Jan Minners, MD; Chan-Il Park, MD; Arnaud Denis, MD;  
Pierre Jaïs, MD; Méléze Hocini, MD; Clemens Potocnik, MD; Juergen Allgeier, MD;  
Willibald Hochholzer, MD; Claudia Herrera-Sidloky, MD; Steve Kim, MSEE;  
Youssef El Omri, MD; Franz-Josef Neumann, MD; Reinhold Weber, MD;  
Michel Haïssaguerre, MD; Thomas Arentz, MD

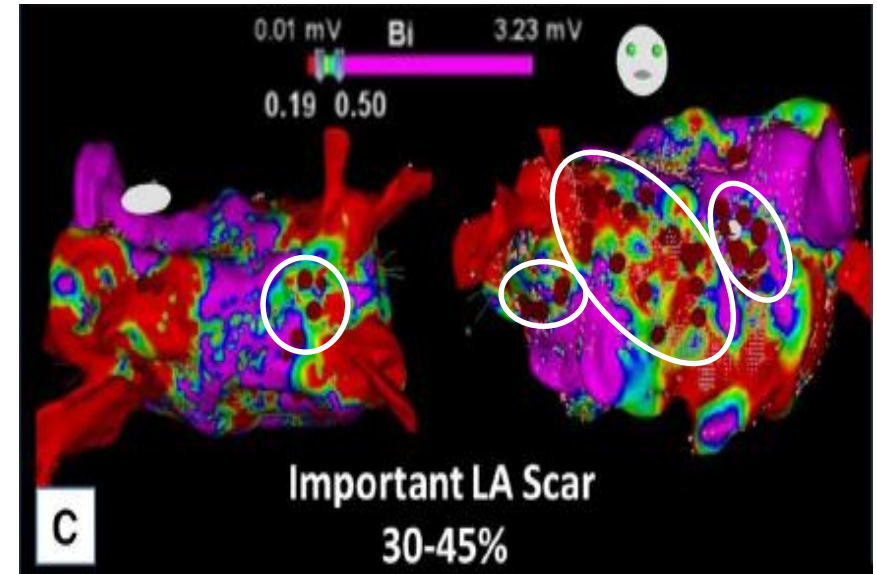
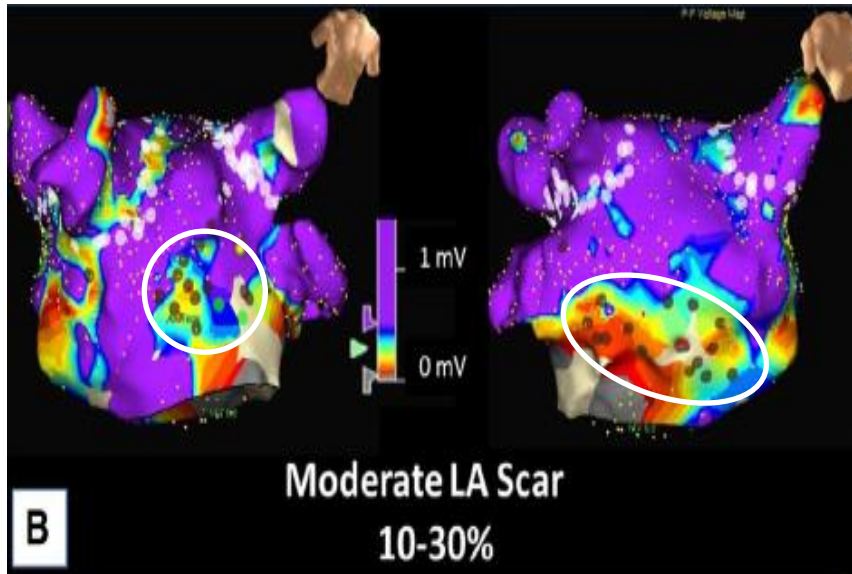
(*Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol.* 2016;9:e002962. DOI: 10.1161/CIRCEP.115.002962.)

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**CUT-OFF VALUE < 0,5 mV**



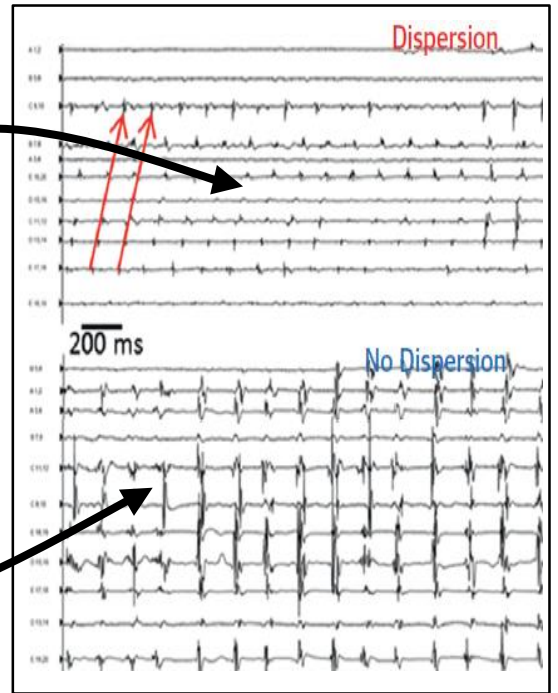
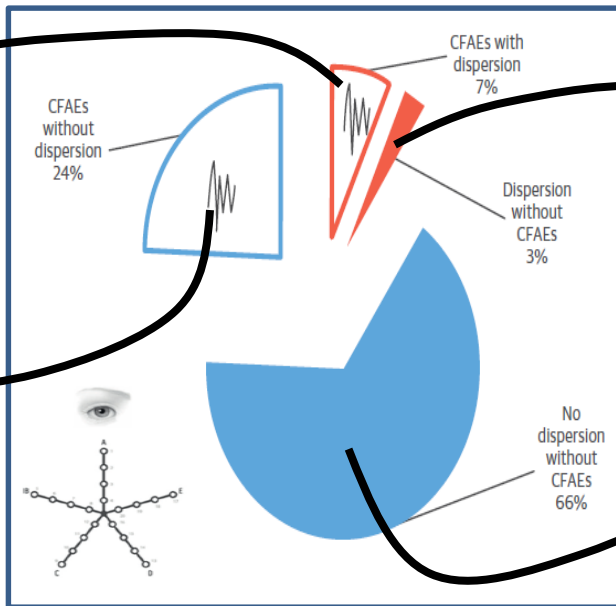


## AF Ablation Guided by Spatiotemporal Electrogram Dispersion Without Pulmonary Vein Isolation

### A Wholly Patient-Tailored Approach

Julien Seitz, MD, Clément Bars, MD, Guillaume Théodore, MD, Sylvain Beurtheret, MD, Nicolas Lellouche, MD, PhD, Michel Bremond, MD, Ange Ferracci, MD, Jacques Faure, MD, Guillaume Penaranda, Masatoshi Yamazaki, MD, PhD, Uma Mahesh R. Avula, MD, Laurence Curel, MS, Sabrina Siame, Omer Berenfeld, PhD, André Pisapia, MD, Jérôme Kalifa, MD, PhD

JACC VOL. 69, NO. 3, 2017 JANUARY 24, 2017:303-21





**THANK YOU**