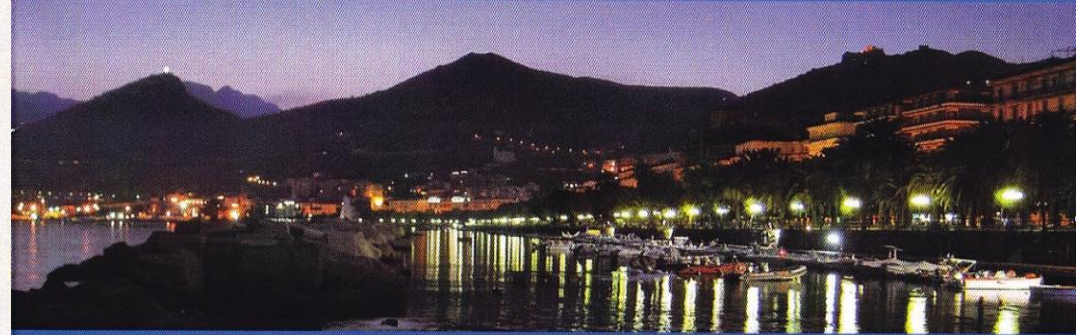


**CONGRESSO  
REGIONALE**  
CAMPANIA 2014



**AIAC**

Associazione Italiana Aritmologia e Cardioritmo



**14 - 15 Febbraio**  
**Grand Hotel Salerno**

# **Fibrillazione atriale: strategie ablative e nuove tecnologie**

**Francesco Solimene**

# AF Mechanisms

## Initiation:

PV Foci

Non PV triggers

Degeneration of other arrhythmias

## Maintenance:

Anisotropy

Focal drivers

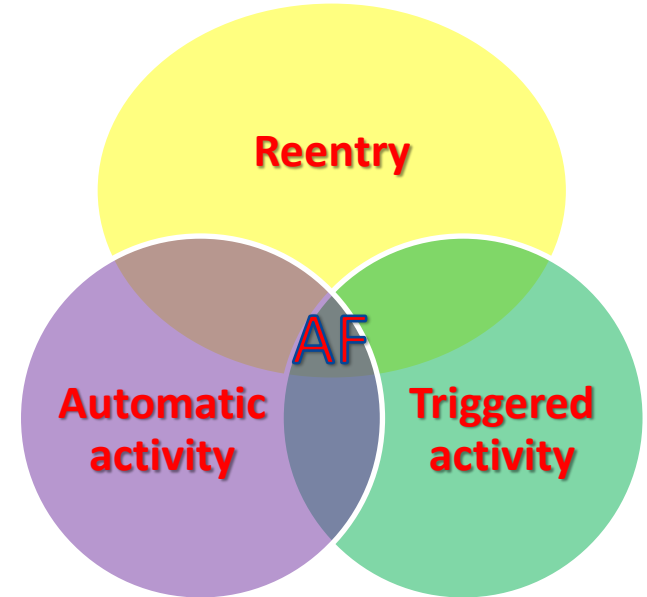
Rotors

Mother waves and Daughter Wavelets

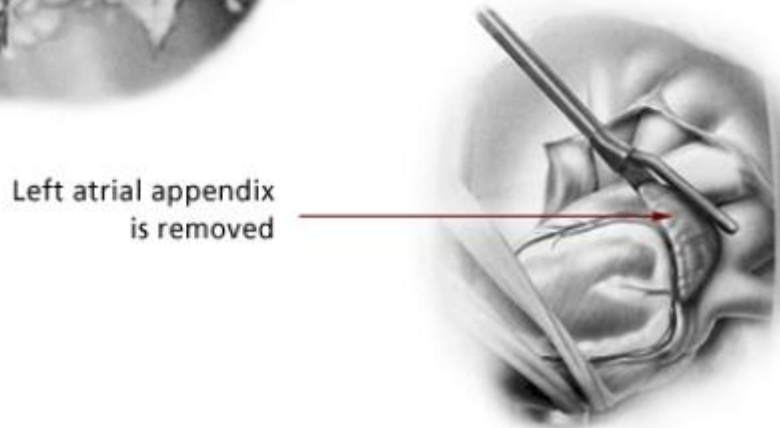
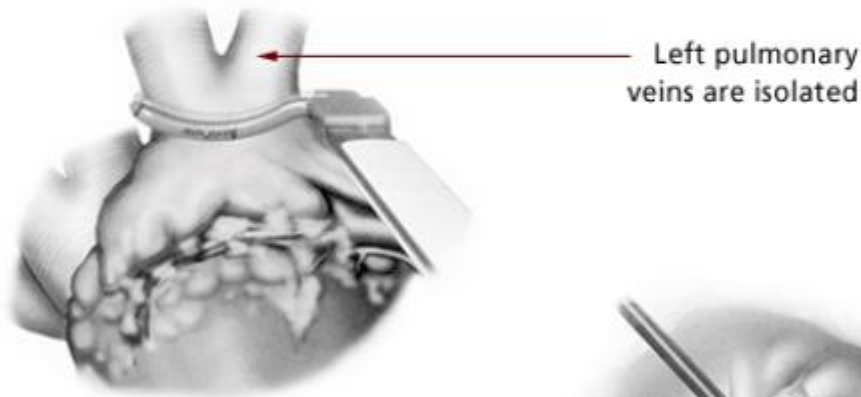
## Miscellanea:

Adrenergic stress

Vagal tone



MAZE PROCEDURE  
USING ATRICURE HAND PIECE

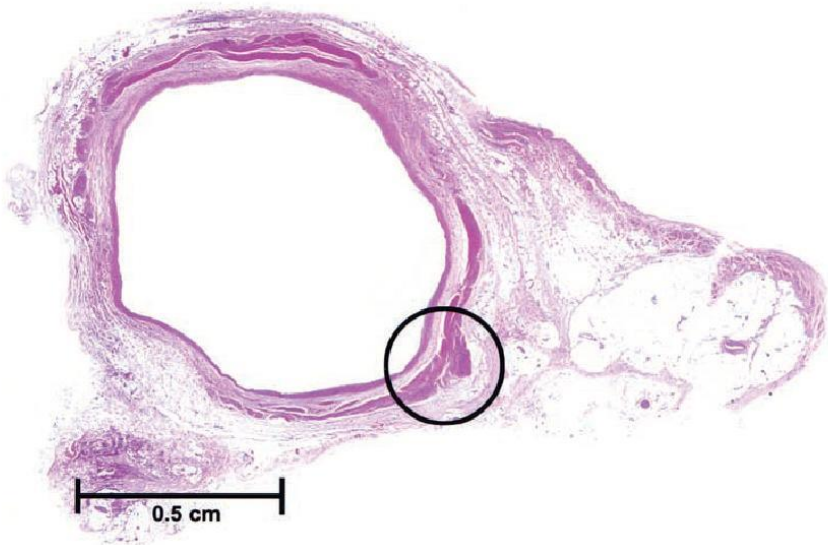


I primi tentativi di ablazione consistevano nell'eseguire lunghe linee mediante RF per riprodurre le linee della tecnica chirurgica Maze

# AF Initiation

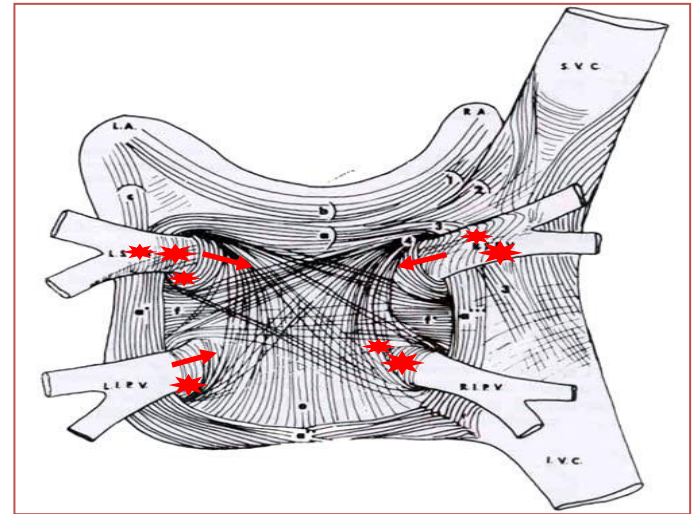
## PV Foci

**Pale Cells: AP with a conspicuous phase 4 depolarization and slow rate of phase 0**

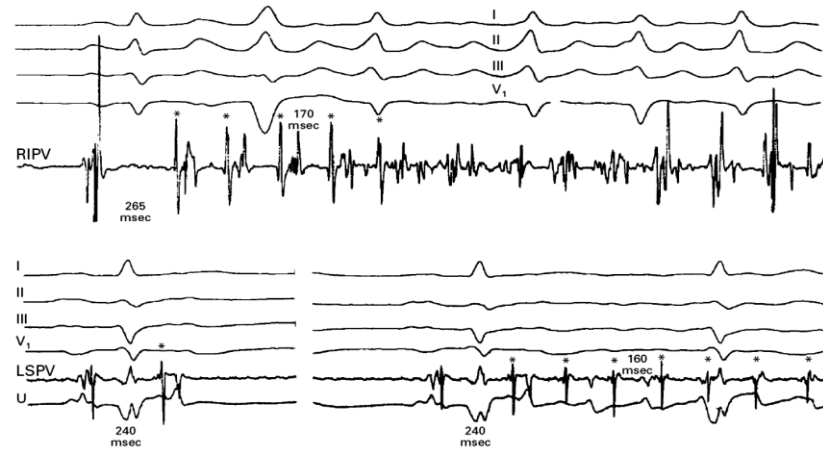


**These cells are mostly present in PVs of AF subjects**

**Shih-Ann Chen  
JCE 2003**



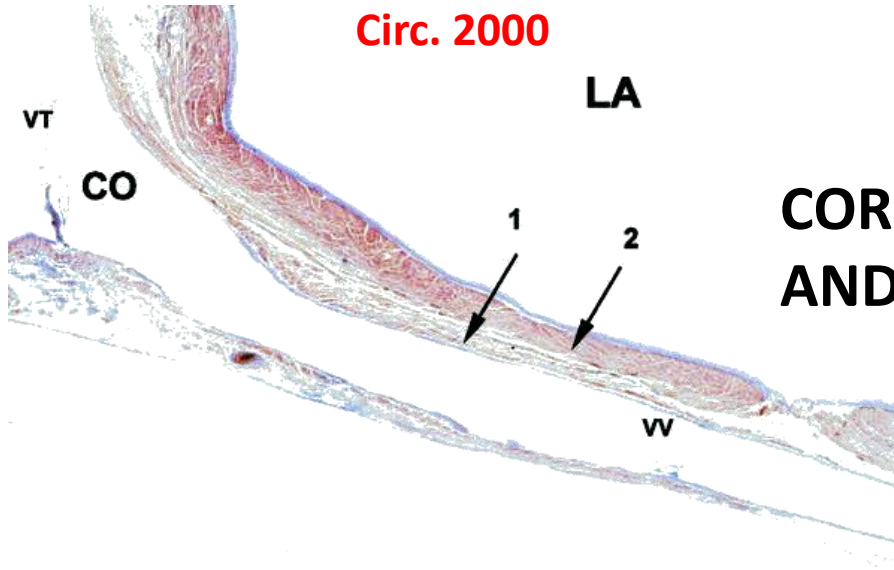
**Haissaguerre  
NEJM 1998**



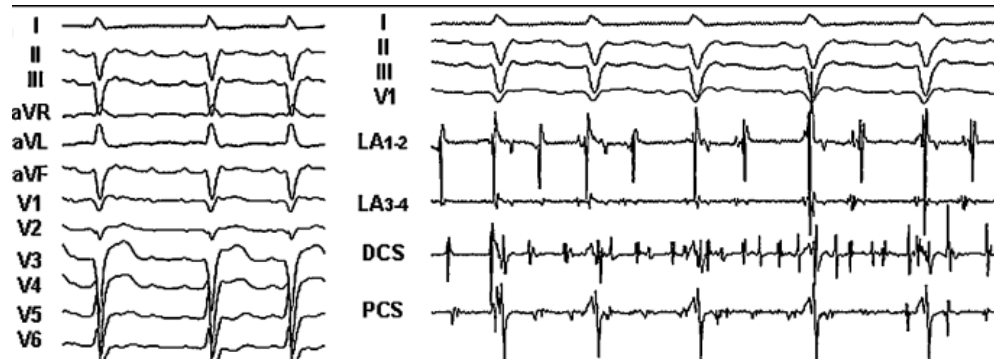
# AF Initiation

## NON PV Triggers

Chauvin M  
Circ. 2000

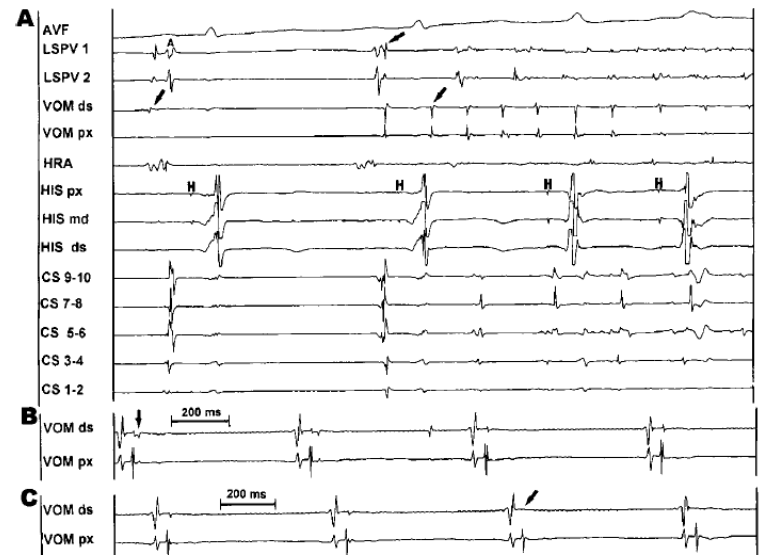


## MARSHALL LIGAMENT ROLE IN ATRIAL FIBRILLATION ONSET



SANDERS et Al. JCE 2004

## CORONARY SINUS CONNECTIONS AND DRIVER ACTIVITY

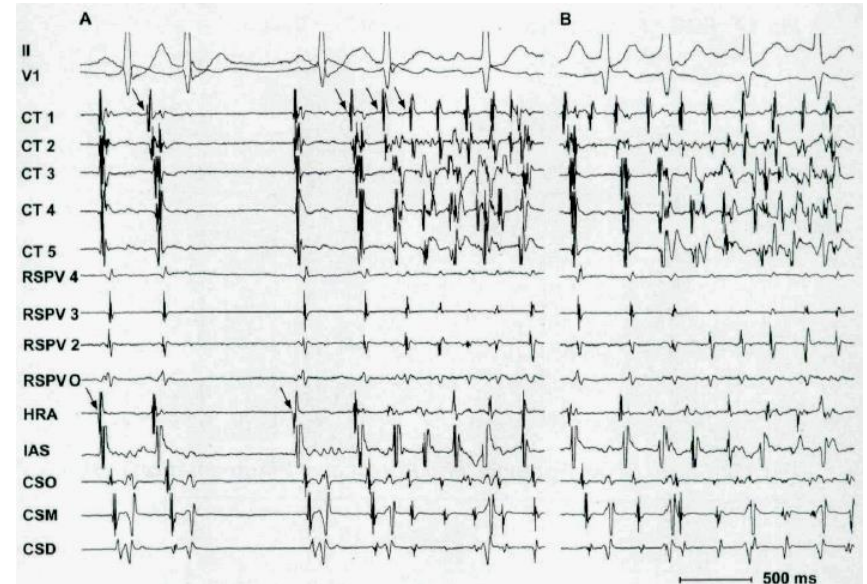
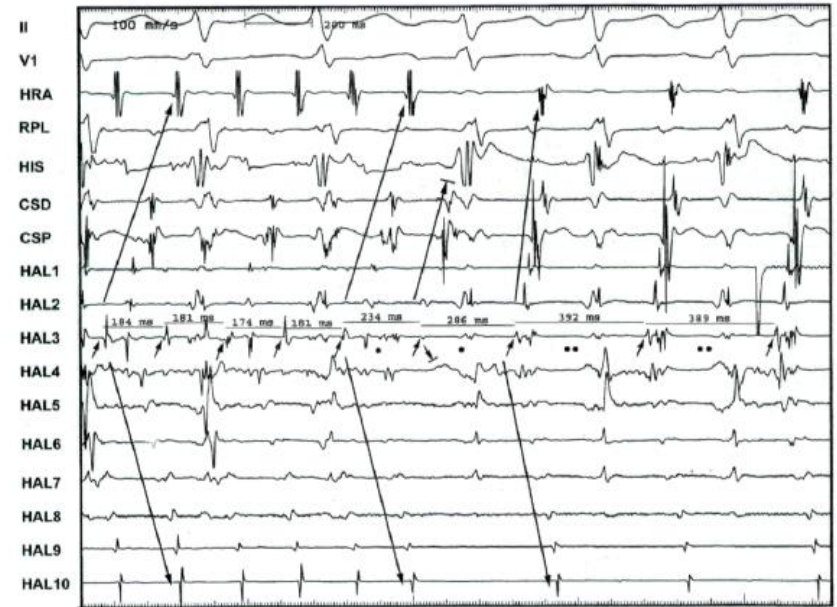


Hwang  
Circulation 2000

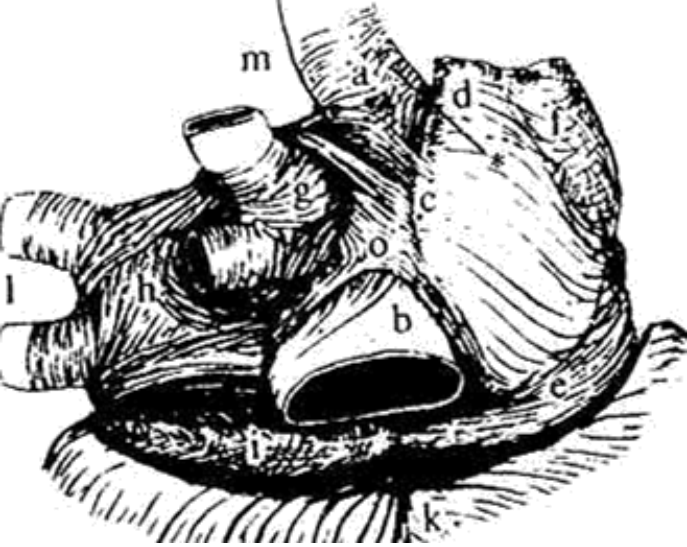
# AF Initiation

## NON PV Triggers

### Right atrial trigger of Atrial fibrillation



HAL - Halo catheter placed from the right atrial free wall (1) to interatrial septum (10) Hal 3 corresponds to the CT; CT - **Crista terminalis**; RSPV-0 — ostium of right superior pulmonary vein; RSPV-2, 3, 4 — the second, third, and fourth pair of electrodes in the RSP



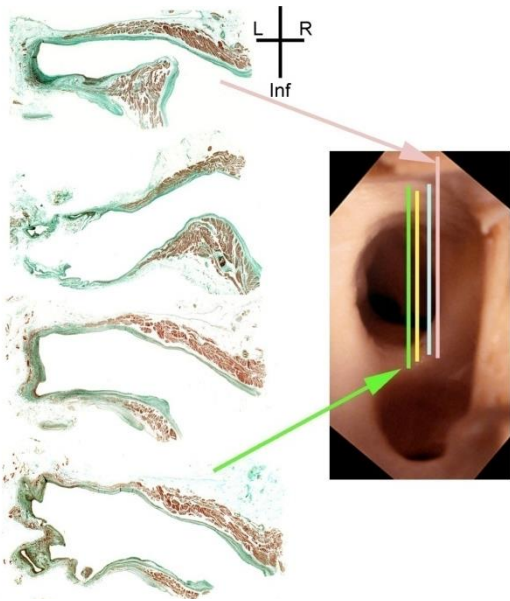
# AF Maintenance

## Muscular sleeves and Anisotropism

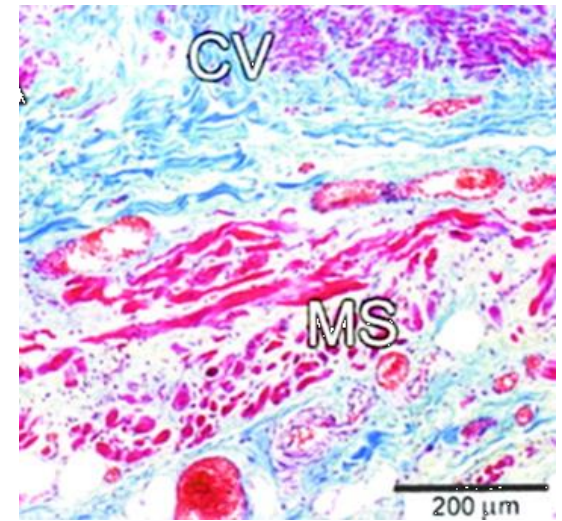
The form and nature of the muscular connections between the primary divisions of the vertebrate heart

*A. Keith, M. Flack*

*J Anat Physiol. 1907;41:172-189*



**Myocardial Sleeves onto Left Atrial (PVs, CS, Marshall Ligament and IAS) and Right Atrial structures (SVC, IVC, Terminalis Crista and CS ostium)**



**Ivana Kholová and Josef Kautzner, Circulation 2004**

**Left Atrial Myocardial Extension onto Pulmonary Veins in Humans: Anatomic Observations Relevant for Atrial Arrhythmias**

# SUBSTRATE MAPPING

Journal of the American College of Cardiology  
© 2004 by the American College of Cardiology Foundation  
Published by Elsevier Inc.

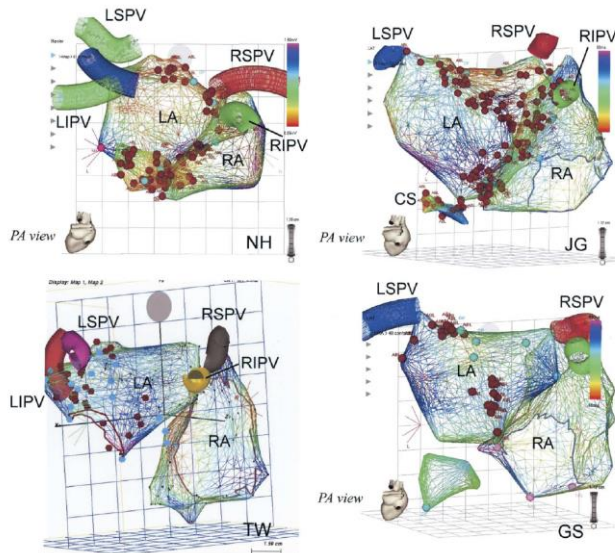
Vol. 43, No. 11, 2004  
ISSN 0735-1097/04/\$30.00  
doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2003.12.054

## Electrophysiology

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

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

*Inglewood, California; and Bangkok, Thailand*

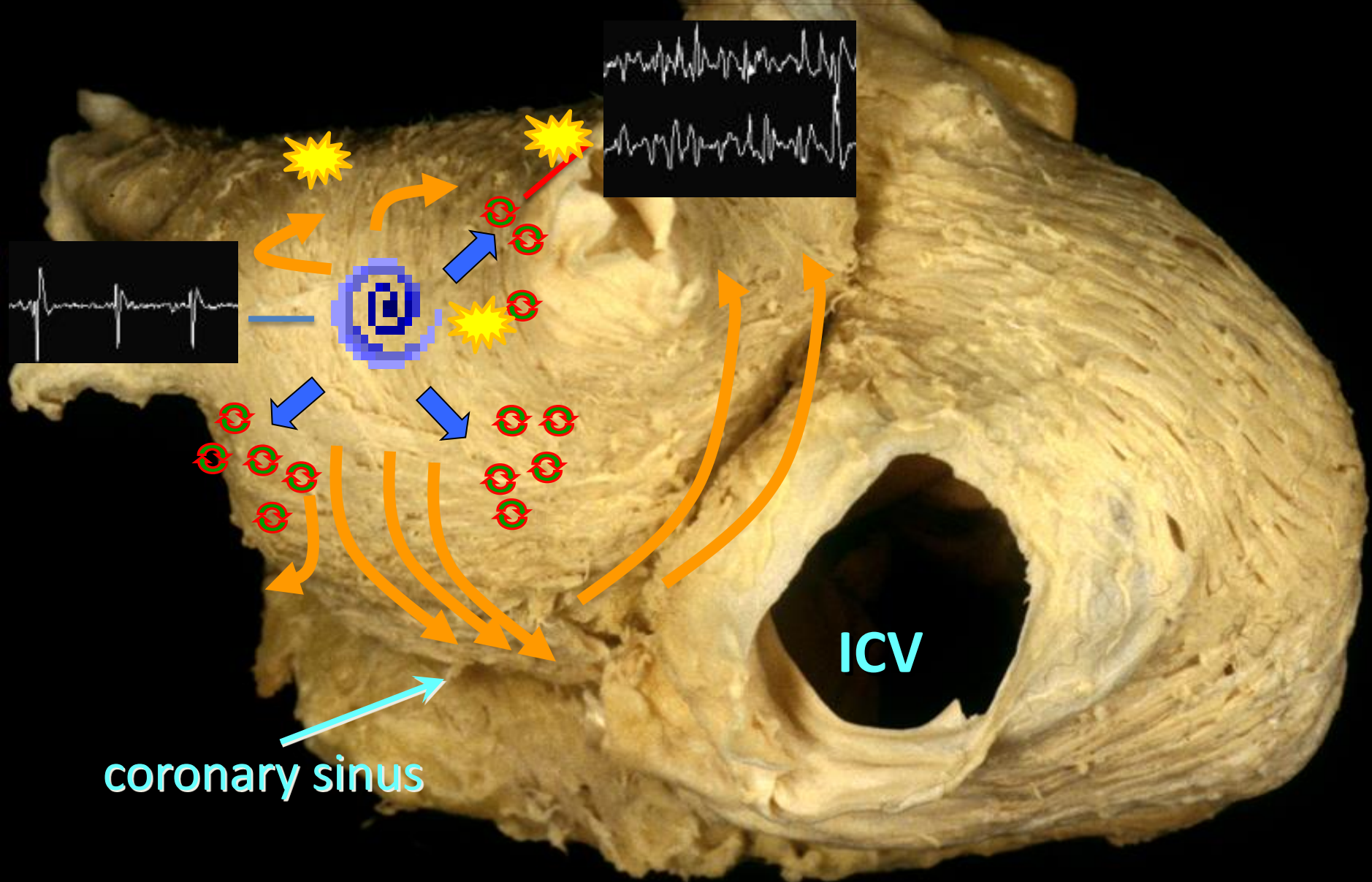


## CAFE = ROTORS ?

**Complex atrial fractionated electrograms (CAFE)** were mainly confined to the interatrial septum, pulmonary veins, roof of left atrium, left postero-septal mitral annulus and coronary sinus ostium.



# Stable rotors at PV-LA junction



# CPVA-M a Modified Approach Enhances Successes

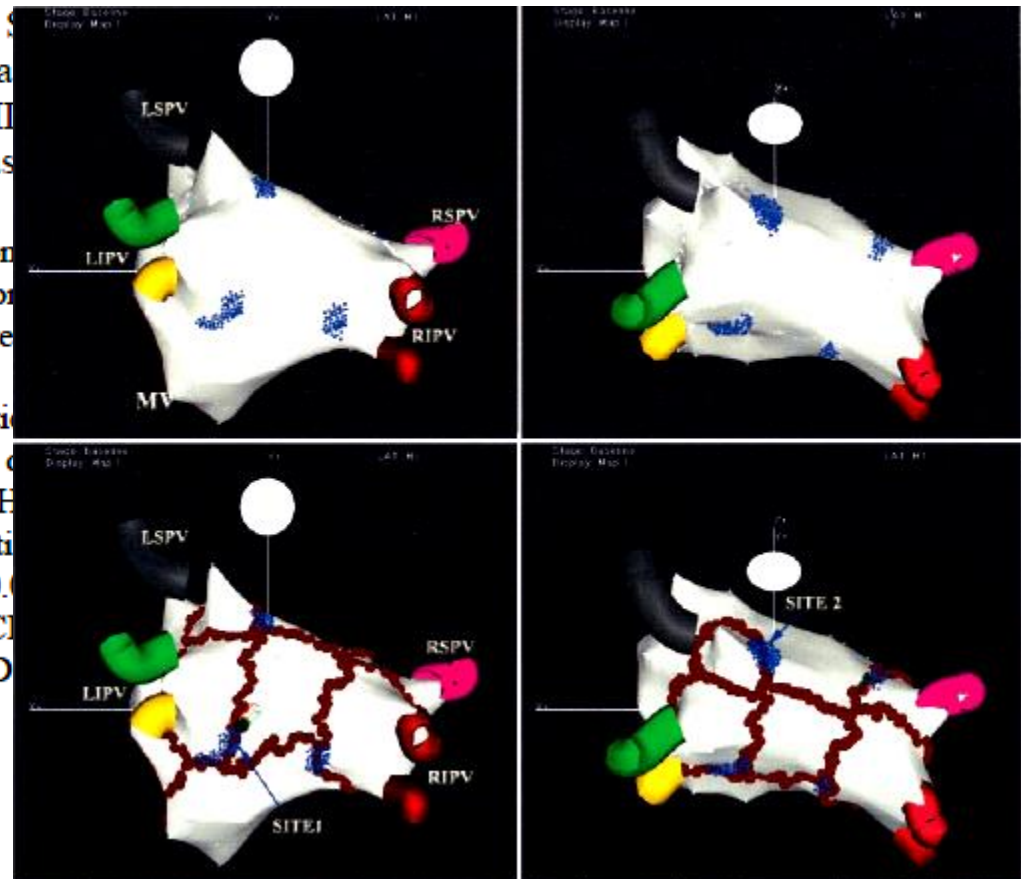
## Pulmonary Vein Denervation Enhances Long-Term Benefit After Circumferential Ablation for Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation

Carlo Pappone, PhD, MD; Vincenzo Santoro, MD; Vincenzo Vercellotti, MD; Gabriele Vicedomini, MD; Filippo Gugliotta, MD; Valter Tortoriello, MD; Giovanni Landoni, MD; Takeshi Tomita, MD, PhD; César Mesas

**Background**—There are no data to evaluate the relation between pulmonary vein denervation and atrial fibrillation (AF) after circumferential pulmonary vein ablation. The long-term benefit of vagal denervation by radiofrequency in preventing AF recurrence after CPVA for paroxysmal AF.

**Methods and Results**—Data were collected on 297 patients who underwent CPVA. The presence of vagal reflexes around all pulmonary vein ostia was assessed. The long-term benefit of vagal denervation by radiofrequency in preventing AF recurrence after CPVA was assessed. The presence of vagal reflexes was detected in 34.3% of patients. Follow-up ended at 12 months. The presence of vagal reflexes was detectable for up to 3 months after CPVA, partially preventing AF recurrence. Patients with vagal reflexes had a higher rate of recurrent AF than those without reflexes ( $P=0.001$ ). Age, sex, and CVD were predictors of AF recurrence after CPVA.

**Conclusions**—This study suggests that adjunctive CVD after CPVA may enhance the long-term benefit of CPVA. (*Circulation*. 2004;109:327-334.)



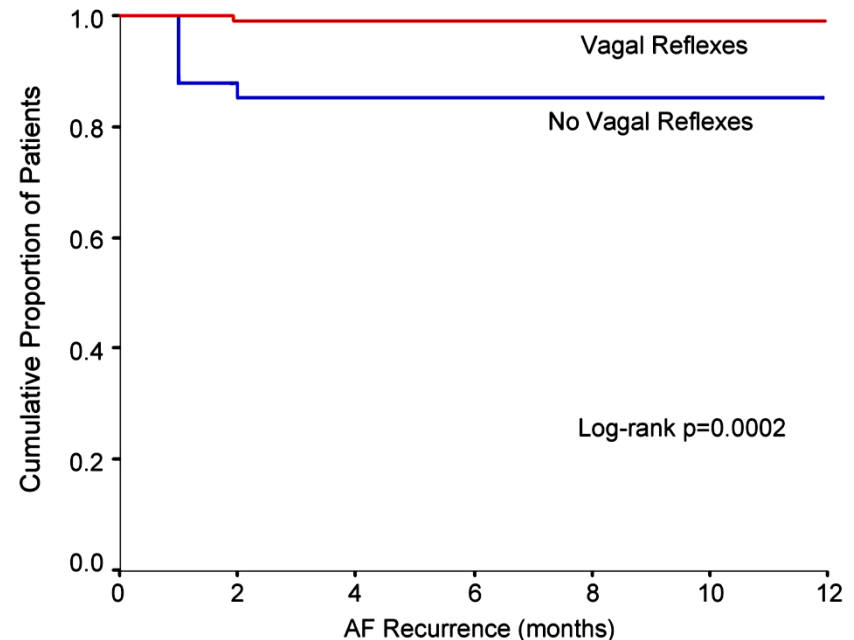
# Vagal Denervation and substrate modification enhances CPVA success rate

- Better Long term outcome after Vagal denervation
- PV isolation is crucial for AF ablation

**TABLE 3. Results of Cox Regression in the 297 Patients With Paroxysmal AF**

Covariates	Regression Coefficient	P	Adjusted Hazard Ratio	95% CI
Age	0.037	0.214	1.038	0.979–1.100
Gender (0/1 = F/M)	−0.071	0.852	0.931	0.440–1.971
AF duration	−0.088	0.267	0.916	0.784–1.070
EF	0.034	0.488	1.035	0.940–1.139
LAD	0.108	0.100	1.114	0.980–1.266
% LA isolation	−0.324	<0.001	0.723	0.657–0.796
CVD (0/1 = no/yes)	−2.289	0.025	0.101	0.014–0.750
SHD (0/1 = no/yes)	−0.489	0.234	0.613	0.274–1.374

EF indicates ejection fraction; LAD, left atrium diameter; and SHD, structural heart disease.

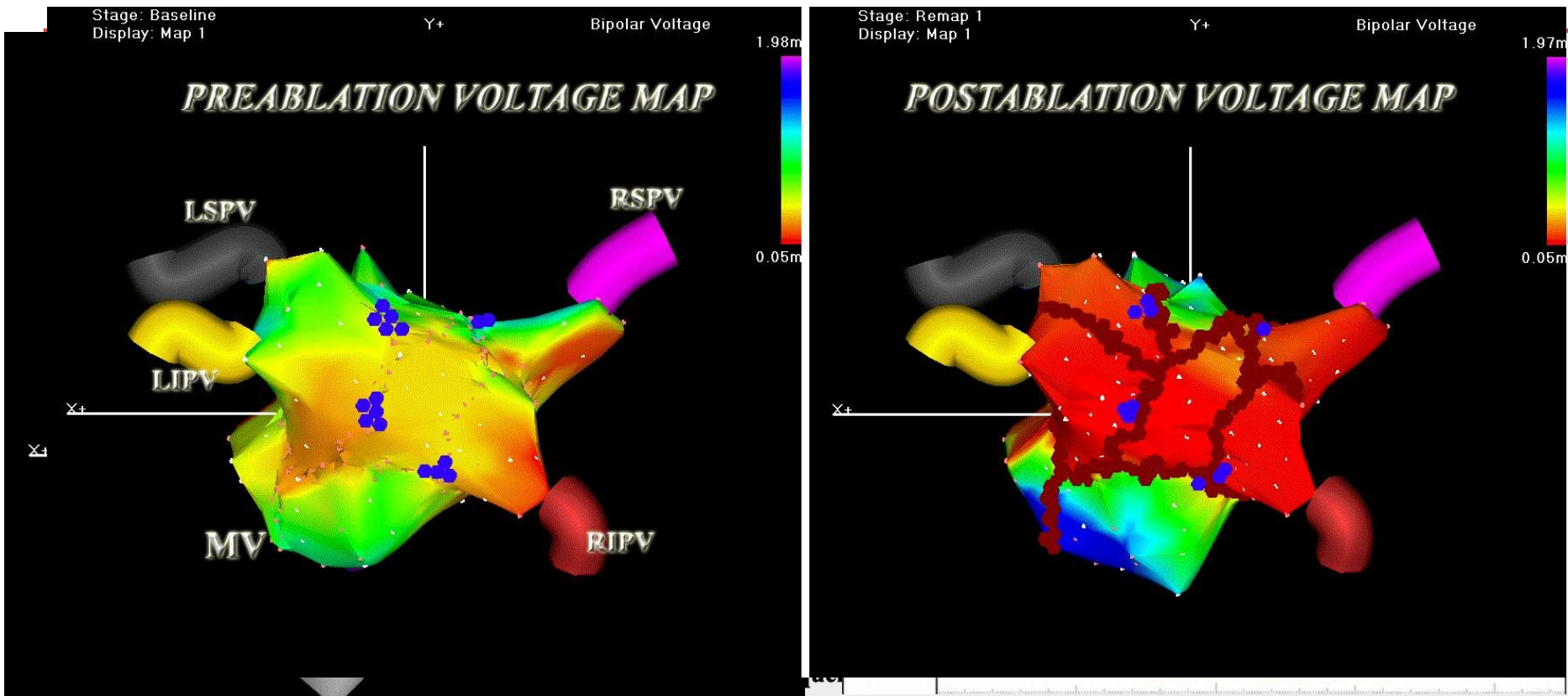


Number at risk

Vagal Reflexes:	102	101	101	101	101	101	101
No Vagal Reflexes:	195	166	166	166	166	166	166

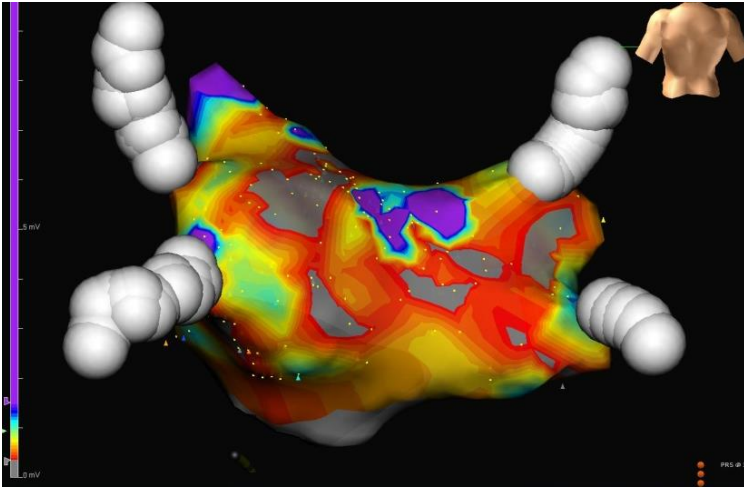
# Empirical observations

Maya et al. (2008) observed a strong preference of “high speed” atrial wall for the formation of re-entrant circuits after extensive ablation



# CPVA-M

## The Substrate Modification



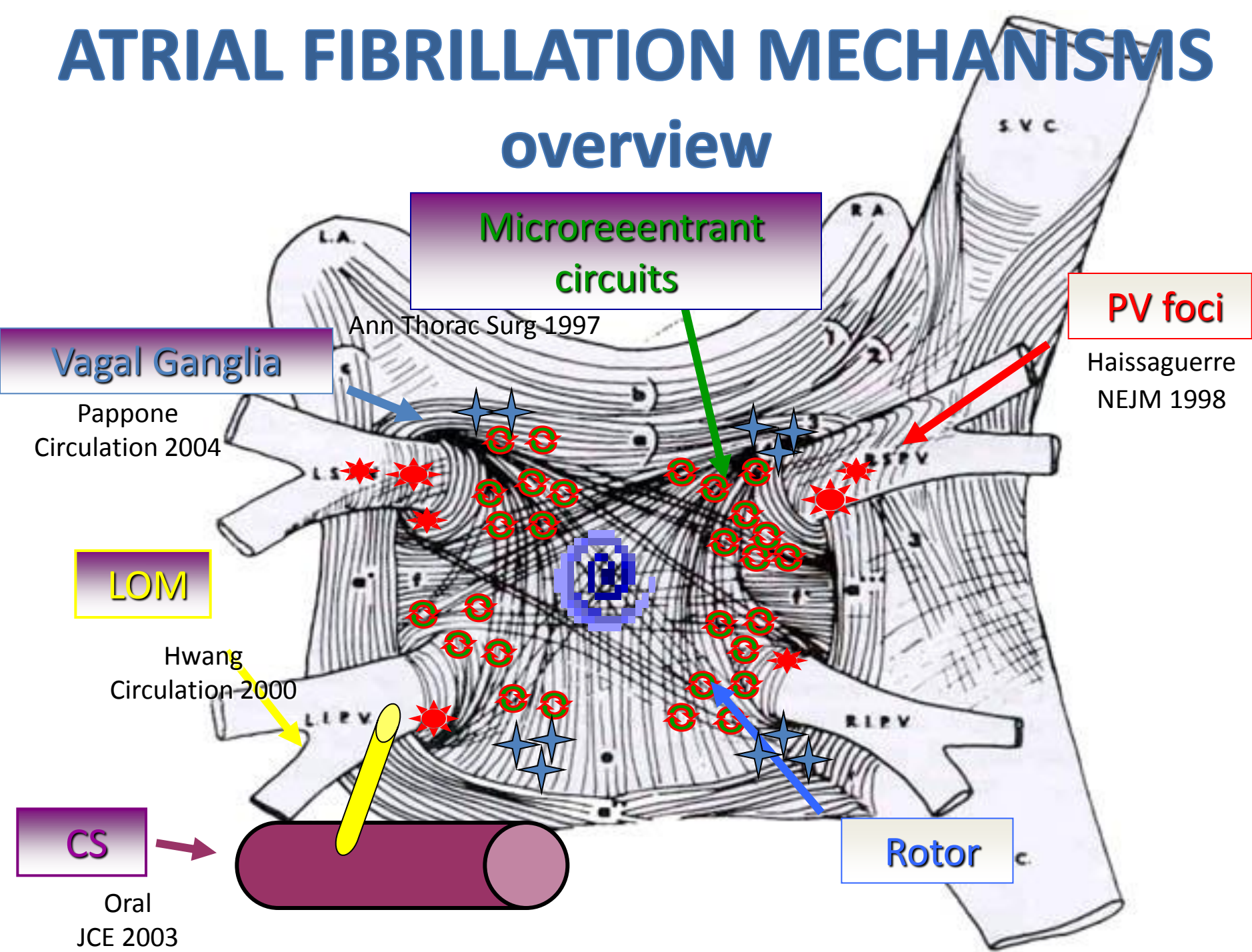
### **CPVA only was not enough:**

- AF is not a PV disease
- Electrophysiological targets are crucial for good outcomes
- Complex tailored strategies are needed to modify the natural history of the disease

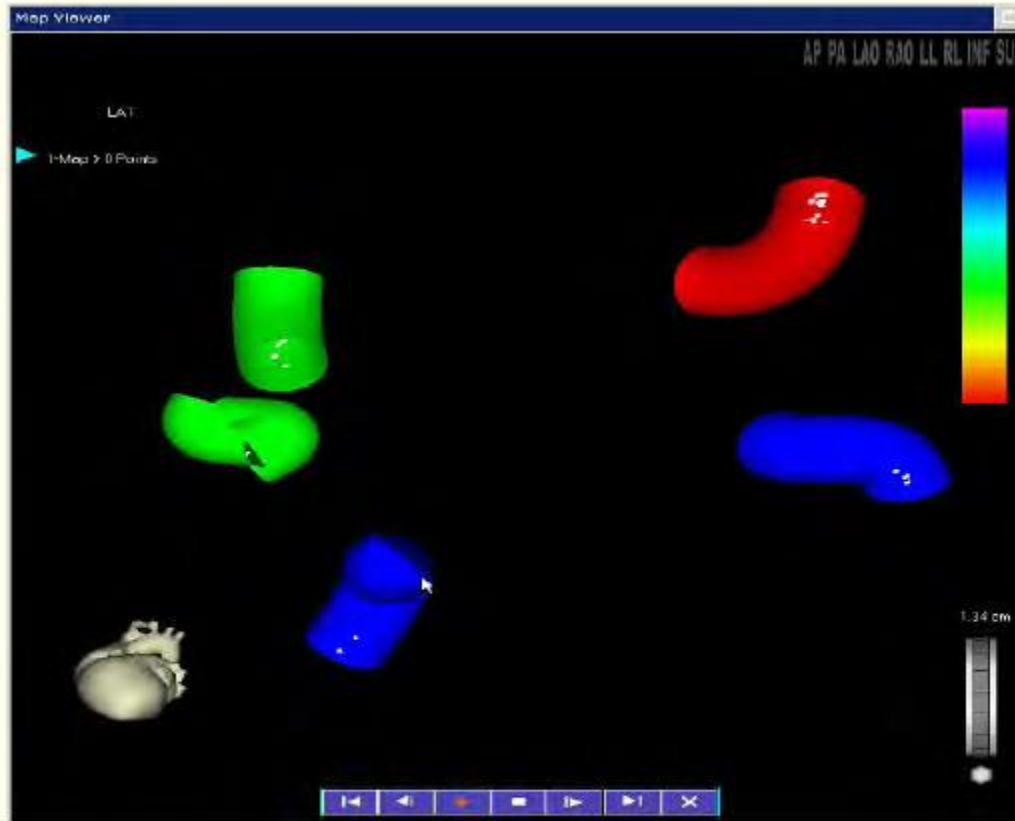
Even if not effective in acute sinus rhythm conversion CPVA is still useful for debulking and substrate elimination.

# ATRIAL FIBRILLATION MECHANISMS

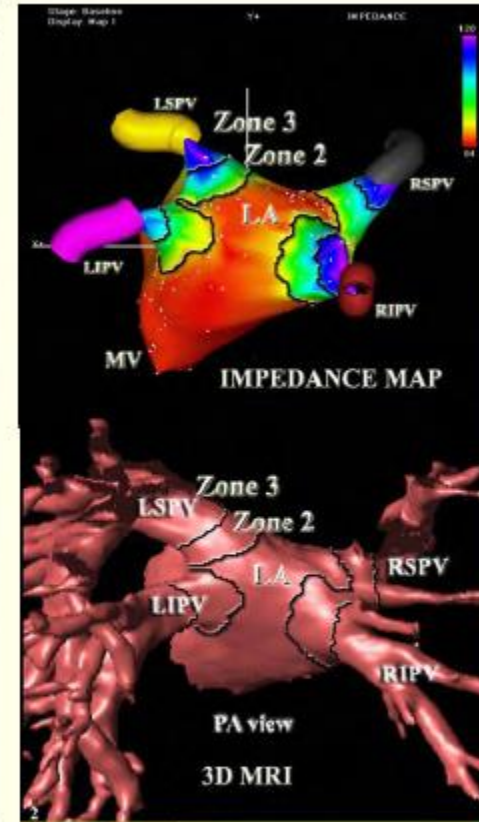
## overview



# ABLATION STEP: 1 - ANATOMY

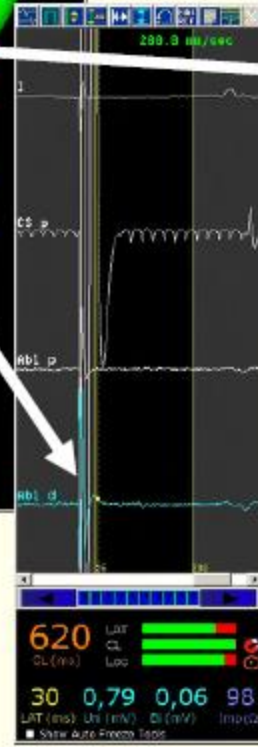
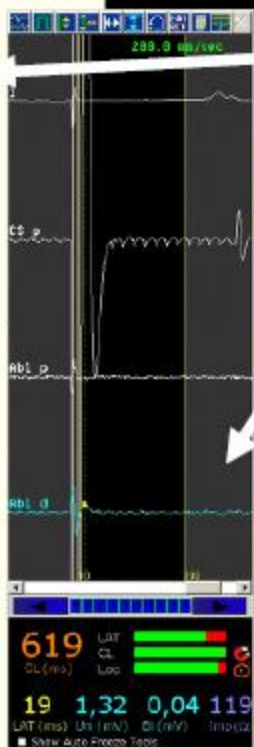
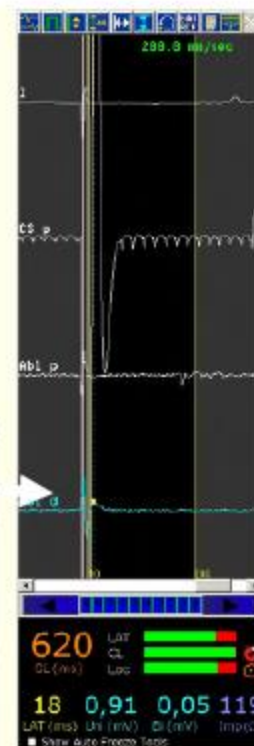
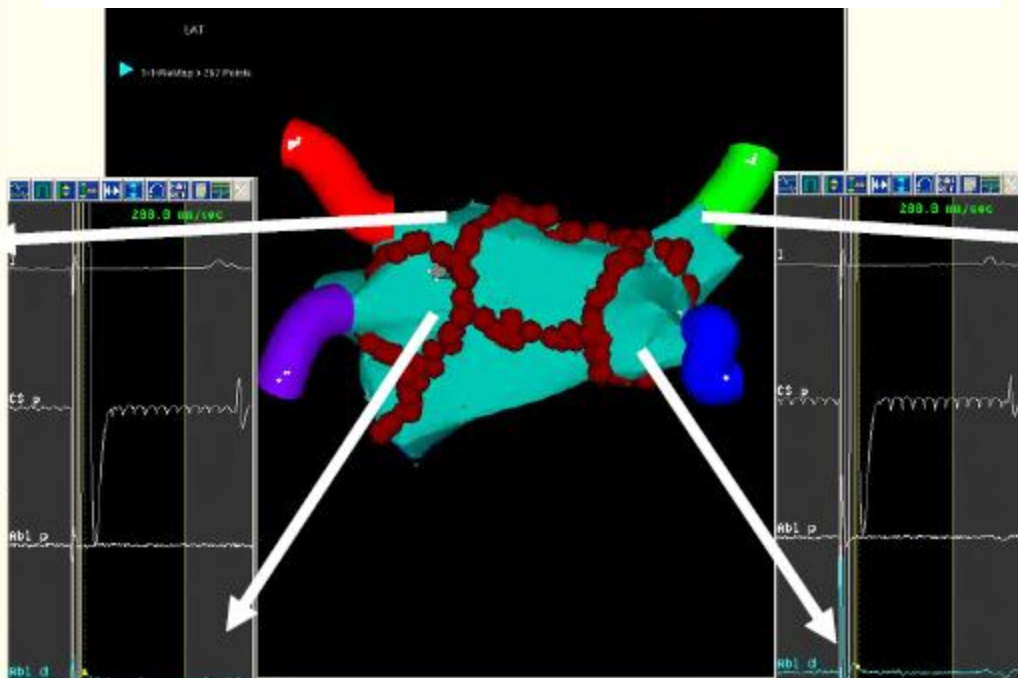
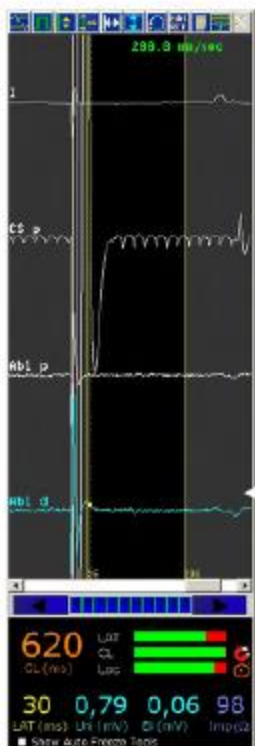


*Pappone et al, Heart Rhythm 2006*



***Impedance map***

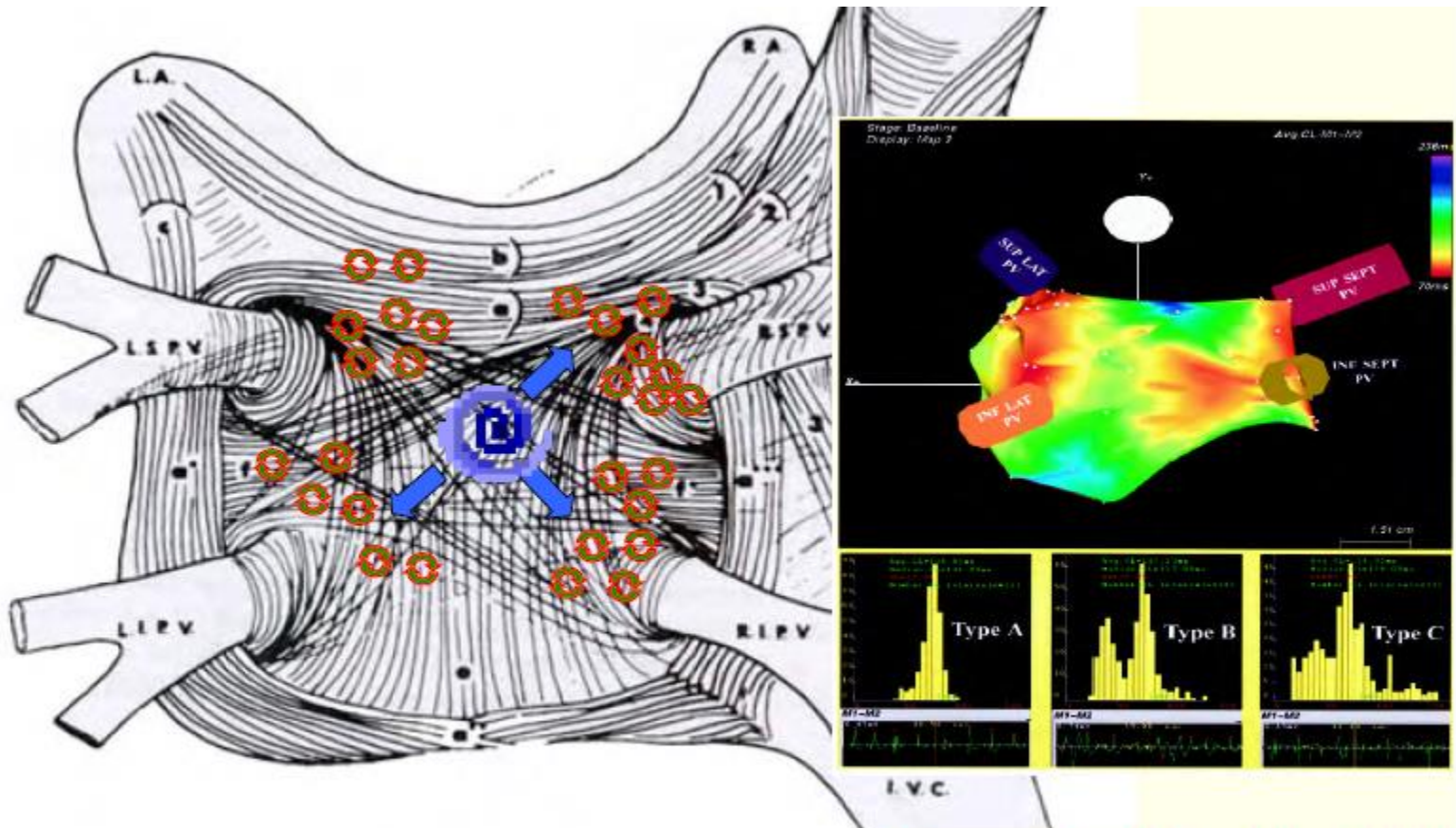
# ABLATION STEP: 2 – ISOLATE PV



**PV Isolation  
3D-guided**

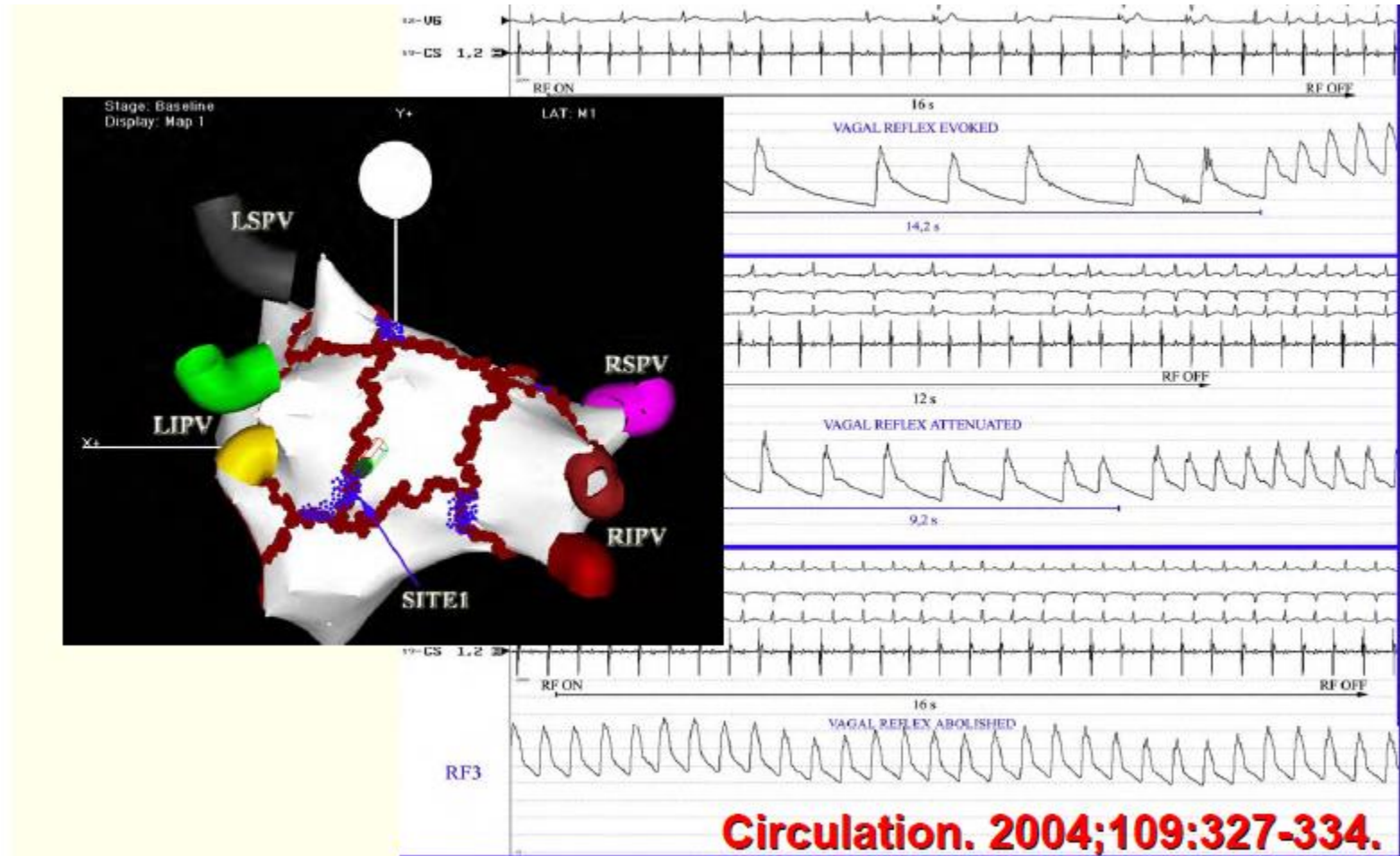


# ABLATION STEP: 3 – MODIFY THE SUBSTRATE



Pappone et al. Circulation 2001

# ABLATION STEP: 4 – DENERVATE WHEN POSSIBLE



# ABLATION STEP: 5 – TEST YOUR JOB



# OUTCOMES

	No. Pts	F/u (mo.)	Efficacy
<b>NATALE<sup>1</sup></b>	ablation	12	87%
	drugs	12	56%
<b>FDA study<sup>2</sup></b>	ablation	12	64%
	drugs	12	26%
<b>JAIS<sup>3</sup></b>	ablation	12	89%
	drugs	12	23%
<b>NADEMANEE<sup>4</sup></b>	CFE ablation	12	91%
<b>PAPPONE<sup>1</sup></b>	ablation	60	87%
	drugs	60	22%

<sup>1</sup> JAMA 2005; <sup>2</sup>JAMA 2010; <sup>3</sup>Circulation 2008; <sup>4</sup>JACC 2004; <sup>5</sup>JACC 2003

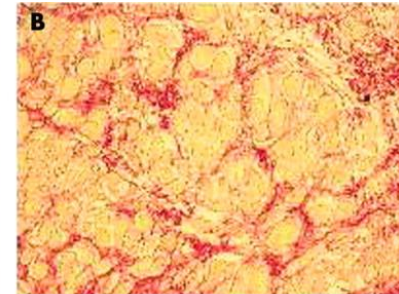
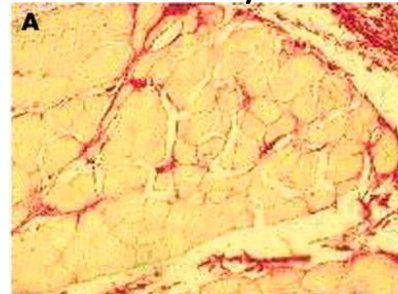
# AF PROGRESSION

AF is associated with an increase of about 100% in collagen I, an increase of about 50% in collagen III (which was confined to MVD+AF), and a smaller non-significant increase in fibronectin in left atrial tissue samples .

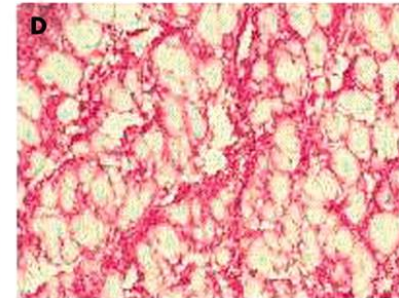
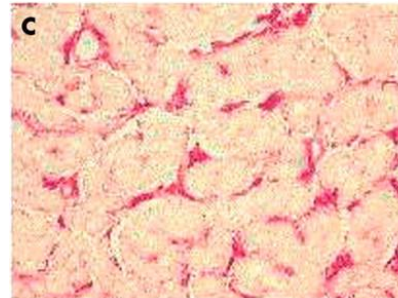
Sirius Red Staining

sinus rhythm

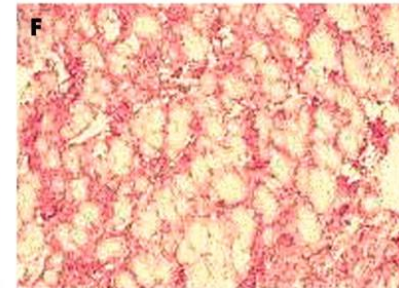
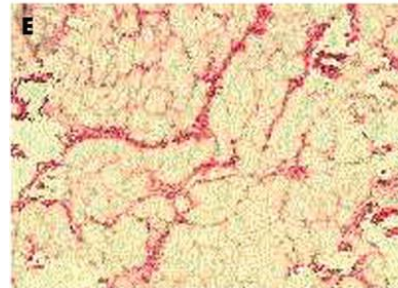
lone CAF



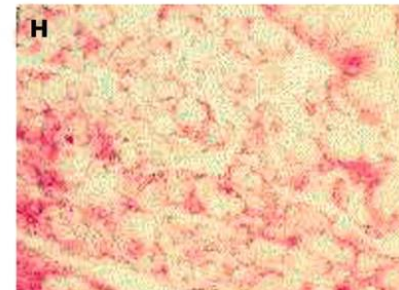
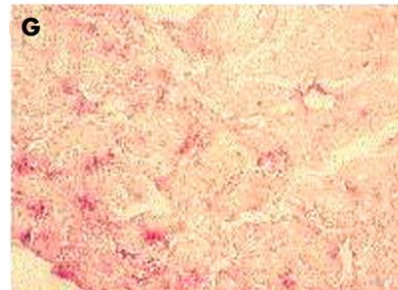
collagen type I



collagen type III



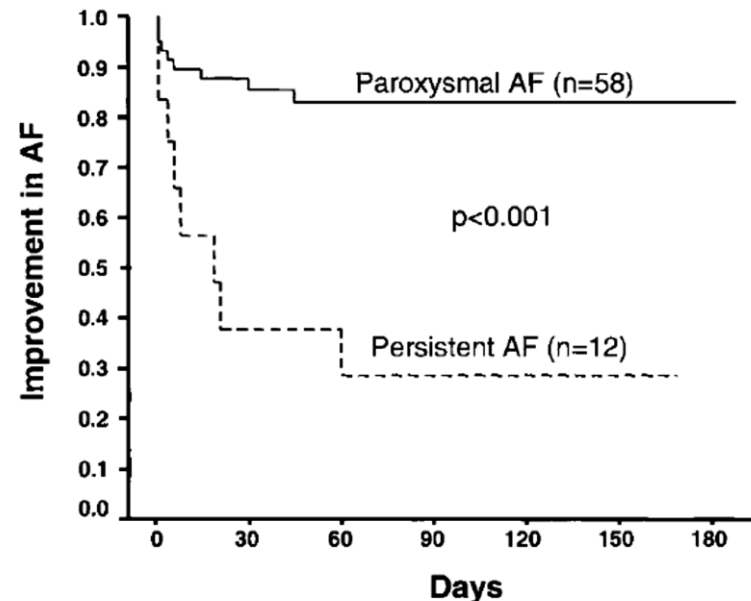
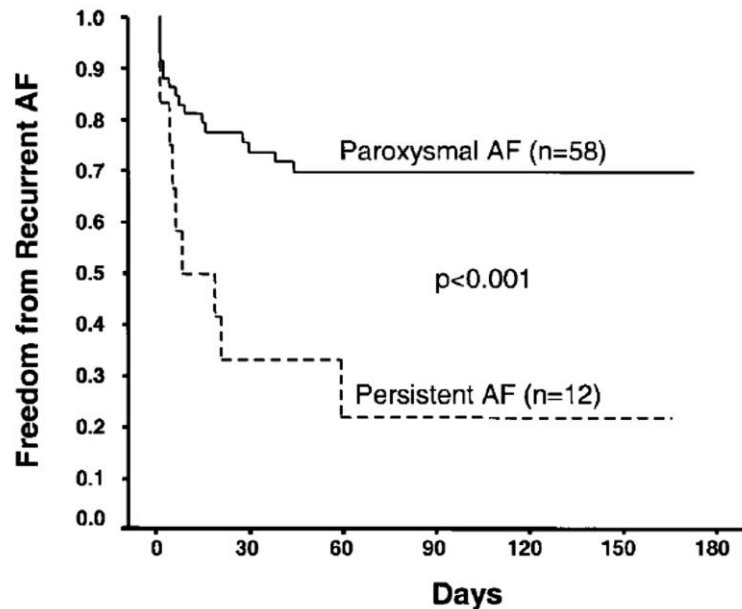
fibronectin



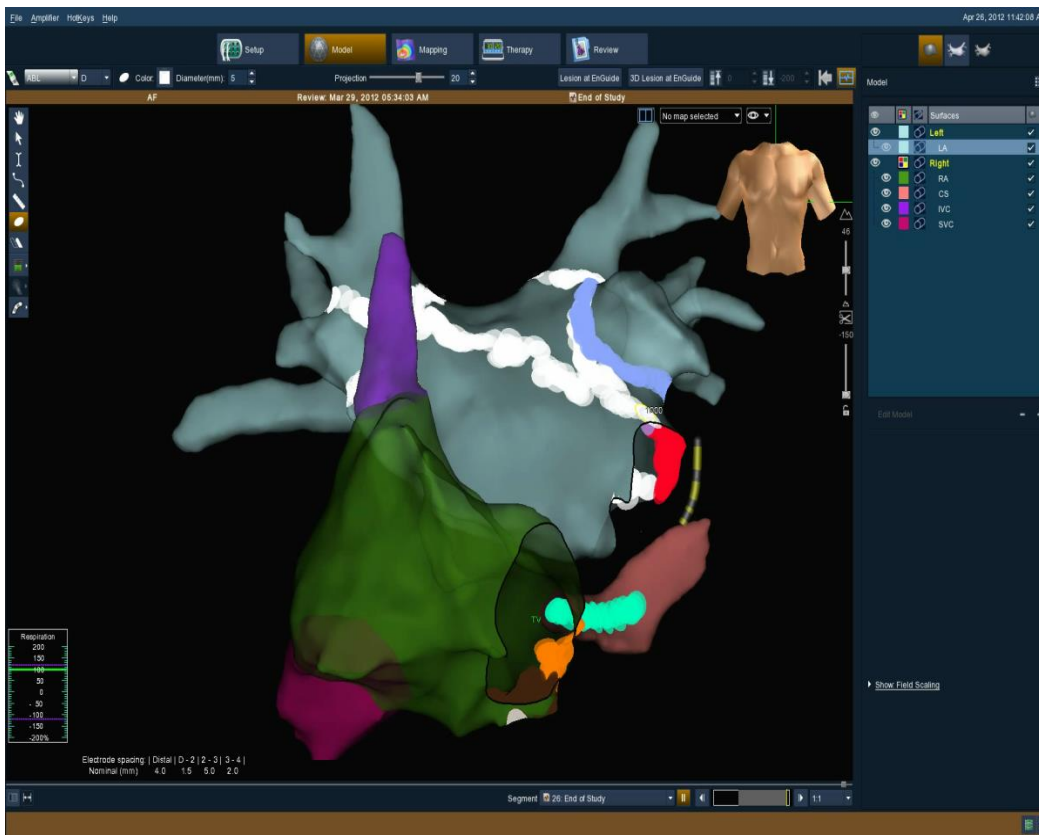
# PVI IS NOT ENOUGH

## Pulmonary Vein Isolation for Paroxysmal and Persistent Atrial Fibrillation

Hakan Oral, MD; Bradley P. Knight, MD; Hiroshi Tada, MD; Mehmet Özaydın, MD; Aman Chugh, MD; Sohail Hassan, MD; Christoph Scharf, MD; Steve W.K. Lai, MD; Radmira Greenstein, MD; Frank Pelosi Jr, MD; S. Adam Strickberger, MD; Fred Morady, MD



# PERSISTENT-PERMANENT AF ABLATION SCHEMA



## ***ABLATION STEPS***

1. CPVA
2. **ENDO CS**
3. **LEFT** aspect of the IAS
4. LAA
5. **EPI CS**
6. **RIGHT** aspect of the IAS
7. **CS OSTIUM**
8. CFE

# WHAT IS SUBSTRATE MODIFICATION?

- **Conversion to SR (55%)**
  - *Direct FA to SR conversion (30%)*
  - *Intermediate AT (70%)*
- **Atrial activity organization (45%)**



# PERMANENT AF

## SHORT- MID-TERM RESULTS

	No. Pts	F/u (mo.)	Efficacy
ORAL	CAFE <sup>3</sup>	12	33%
PAPPONE <sup>1</sup>	CPVA <sup>4</sup>	12	74%
HAISSAGUERRE <sup>2</sup>	PVI; CAFE; SVC and IVC ablation	12	60% after single abl 95% after repeated abl
NADEMANEE <sup>3</sup>	PVI CAFE	12	58%
PAPPONE <sup>4</sup>	Biatial Ablation	36	87%

<sup>1</sup> NEJM 2006

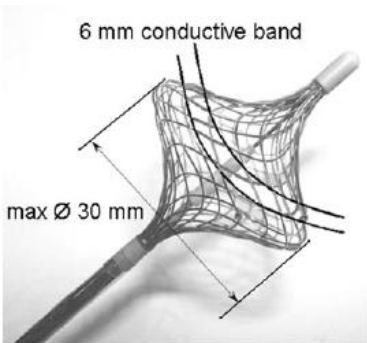
<sup>2</sup> JACC 2005

<sup>3</sup> JACC 2004

<sup>4</sup> In Press

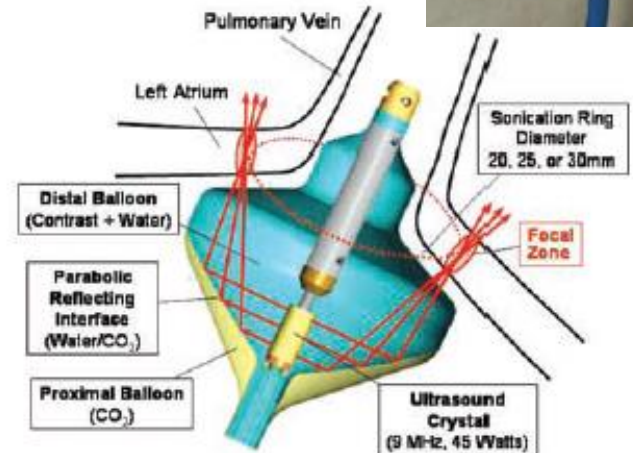
# NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Despite advances in AF mechanisms comprehension  
preshaped catheters are considered as a new era in AF  
ablation



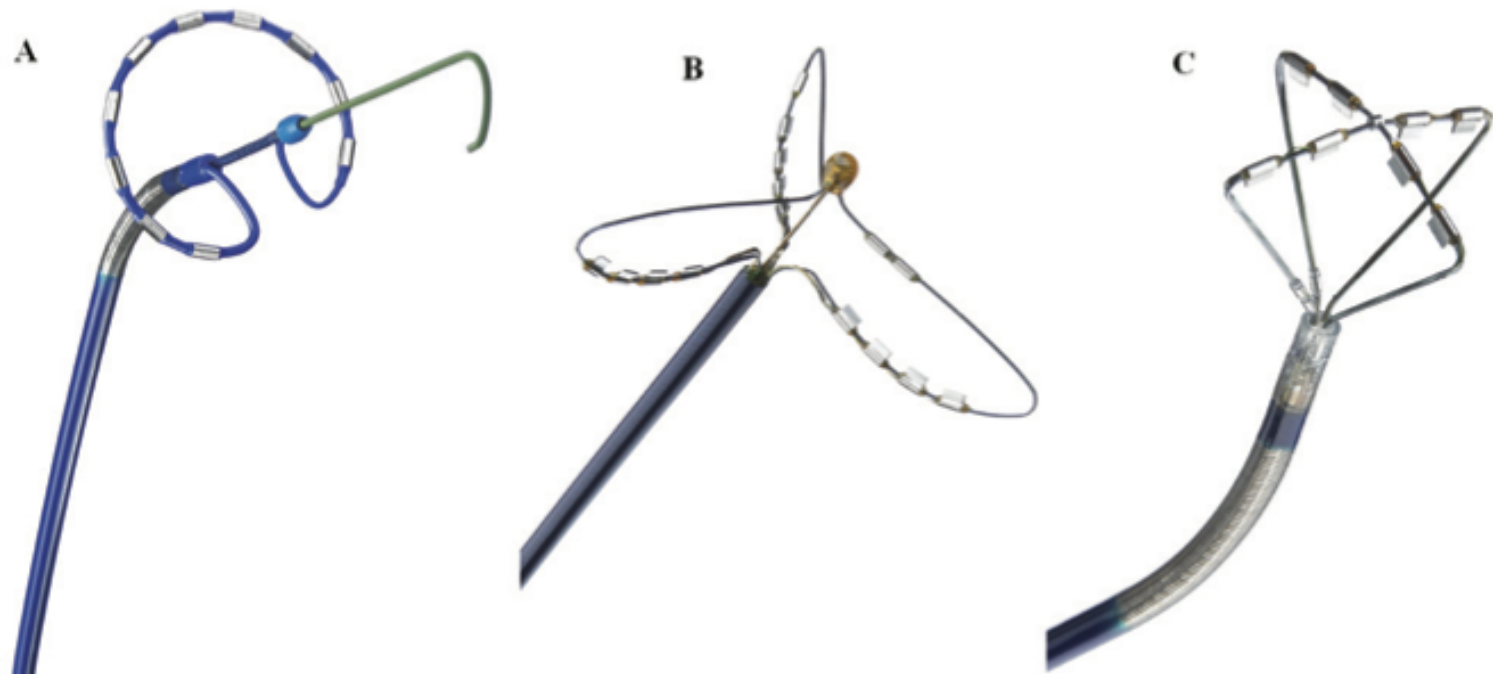
## ARE THEY REALLY

EXPANDING YOUR POSSIBILITIES



# Ablation Tools

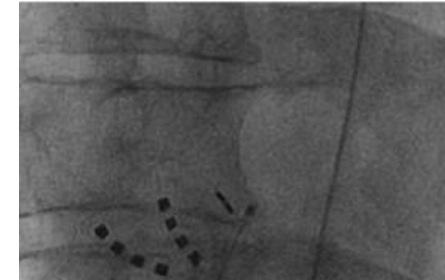
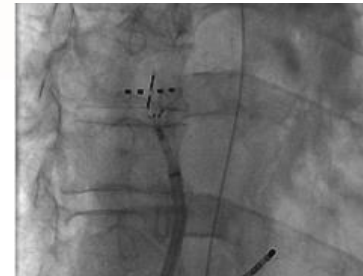
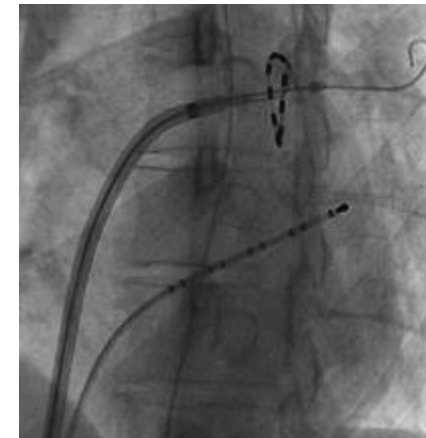
## DUTY-CYCLED RFA



**Figure 1.** Multi-electrode mapping and ablation catheters. (A) Pulmonary Vein Ablation Catheter (PVAC™). (B) Multi-Array Septal Catheter (MASC™); (C) Multi-Array Ablation Catheter (MAAC™). Reproduced with permission of Medtronic, Inc.

# Ablation Tools

## DUTY-CYCLED RFA



## Ablation of Persistent Atrial Fibrillation Using Multielectrode Catheters and Duty-Cycled Radiofrequency Energy

Heart Rhythm, No. 8, 2011

**61% of long term success rate after PVI (Duty Cycled RF)**

Christoph Scharf, MD,\* Lucas Boersma, MD,† Wyn Davies, MD,‡ Prapa Kanagaratna Nicholas S. Peters, MD,‡ Vince Paul, MD,§ Edward Rowland, MD,§ Andrew Grace, Simon Fynn, MD,|| Lam Dang, PHD,\* Hakan Oral, MD,¶ Fred Morady, MD¶

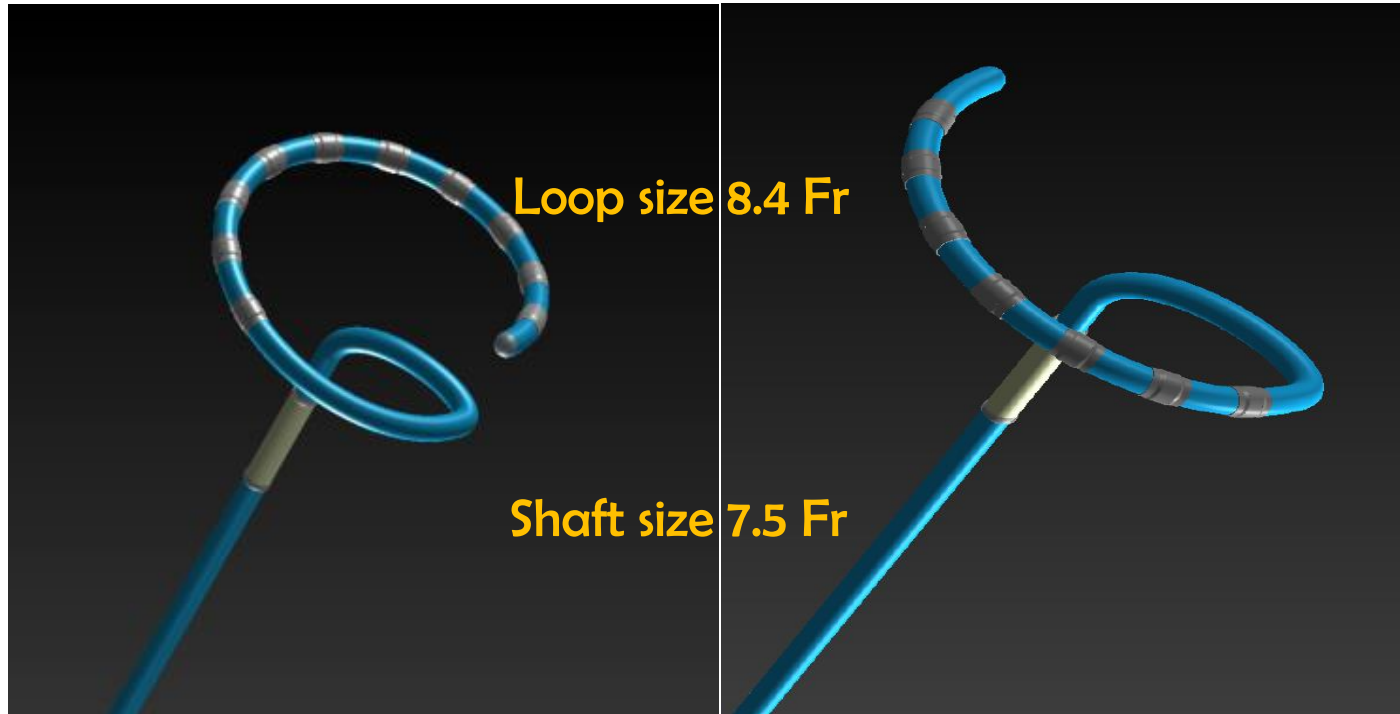
*Zurich, Switzerland; Nieuwegein, the Netherlands; London and Cambridge, United Kingdom and Ann Arbor, Michigan*



# Ablation Tools

## DUTY-CYCLED RFA

### nMARQ™ - Product Overview



Loop size 8.4 Fr

Shaft size 7.5 Fr

Circular Ablation Catheter

Crescent Ablation Catheter



Efficiency to the **n<sup>TH</sup>** power.



IRRIGATE



NAVIGATE

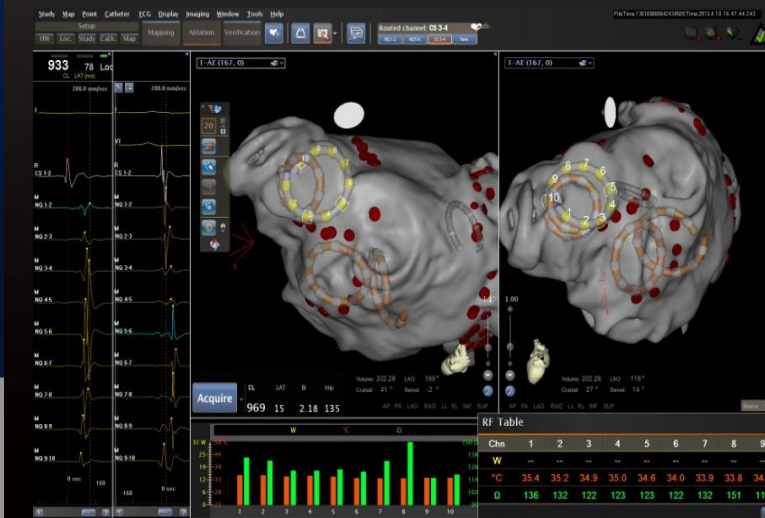


MULTI-ABLATE

# Ablation Tools

## DUTY-CYCLED RFA

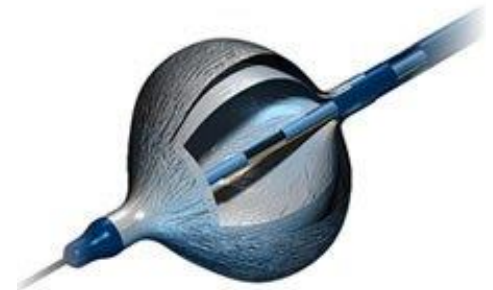
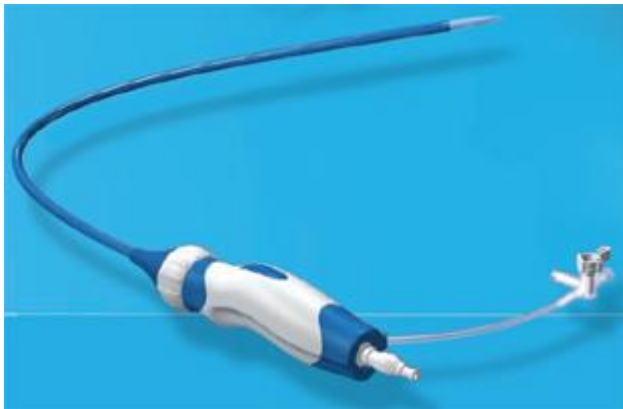
nMARQ™ System  
is the only  
**Multi-Ablation** Technology  
combining  
**irrigation & navigation**



# Ablation Tools

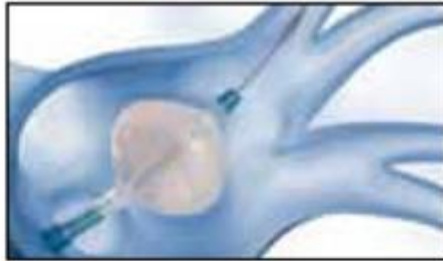
## CryoBalloon

- Two balloon diameters: 23 mm and 28 mm
- Double balloon safety system
- Bi-directional deflection (45 degrees maximum)
- Compatible with 12F Steerable Sheath
- 102 cm working length

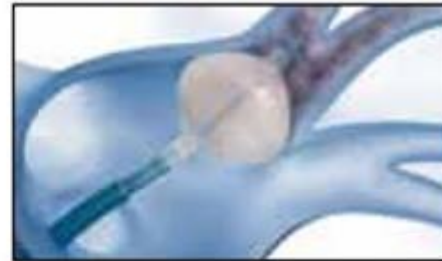


# Ablation Tools

## CryoBalloon

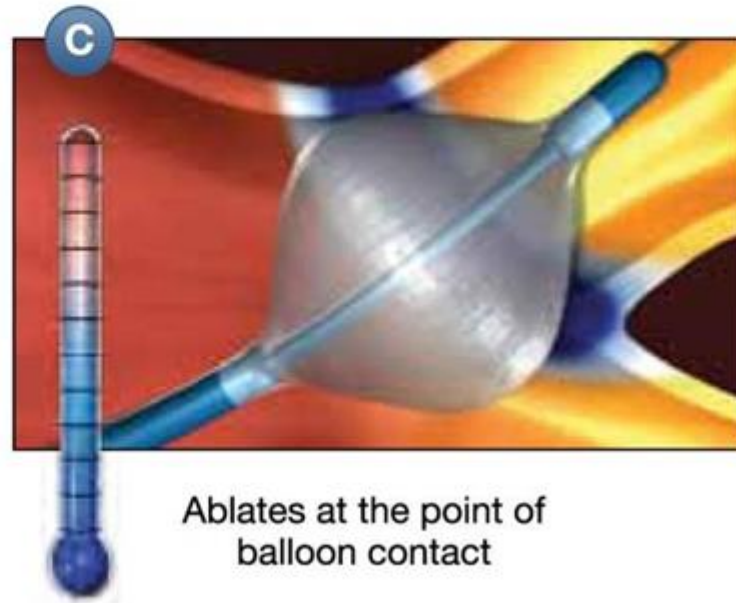
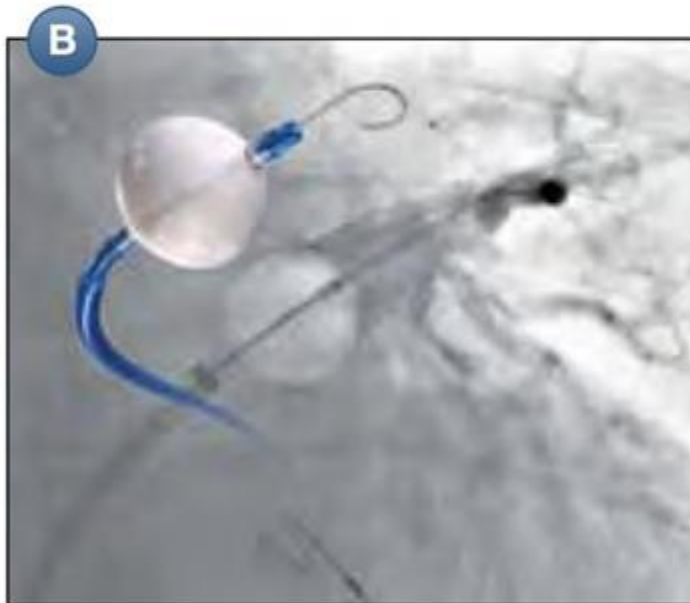


1. Wire Targeted Vein



2. Inflate and Position

3. Occlude and Ablate



Ablates at the point of  
balloon contact



# Ablation Tools

## CryoBalloon



### Circumferential Pulmonary Vein

## Comparison of Cryoballoon and Radiofrequency Ablation of Pulmonary Veins in 40 Patients with Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation: A Case-Control Study

MARKUS LINHART, M.D., BARBARA BELLMANN, ERICA MITTMANN-BRAUN, M.D., JAN W. SCHRICKEL, M.D., ALEXANDER BITZEN, M.D., RENÉ ANDRIÉ, M.D., ALEXANDER YANG, M.D., GEORG NICKENIG, M.D., LARS LICKFETT, M.D. and THORSTEN LEWALTER, M.D.

From the Medizinische Klinik und Poliklinik II, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany

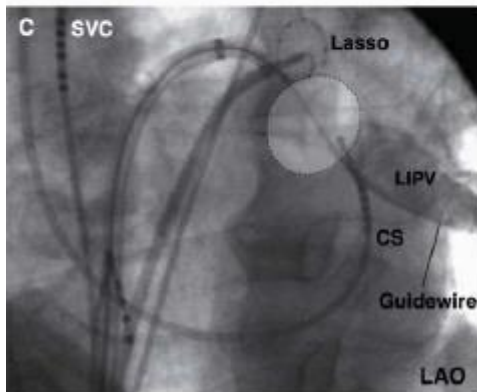
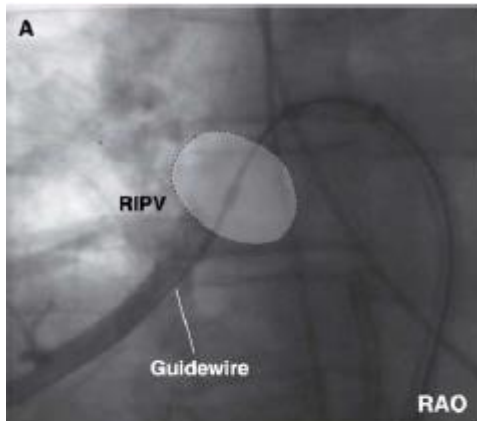
**Comparison of Cryoballoon and RF Ablation of PV.** *Introduction:* Ablation of pulmonary vein (PV) is an established therapeutic option for patients with symptomatic drug-refractory paroxysmal atrial fibrillation (AF). Radiofrequency (RF) is currently the most widespread energy source for PV ablation. Cryothermal energy applied with a cryoballoon technique as an alternative has recently evolved.

*Methods and Results:* In a case-control setting, we compared 20 patients with paroxysmal AF who underwent their first PV ablation with the cryoballoon technique to 20 matched patients with conventional RF ablation. In the case of persistent electrical potentials after cryoballoon ablation, it was completed with a conventional cryocatheter. All patients performed daily event recording for 3 months.

**55% of success rate after 6 months**

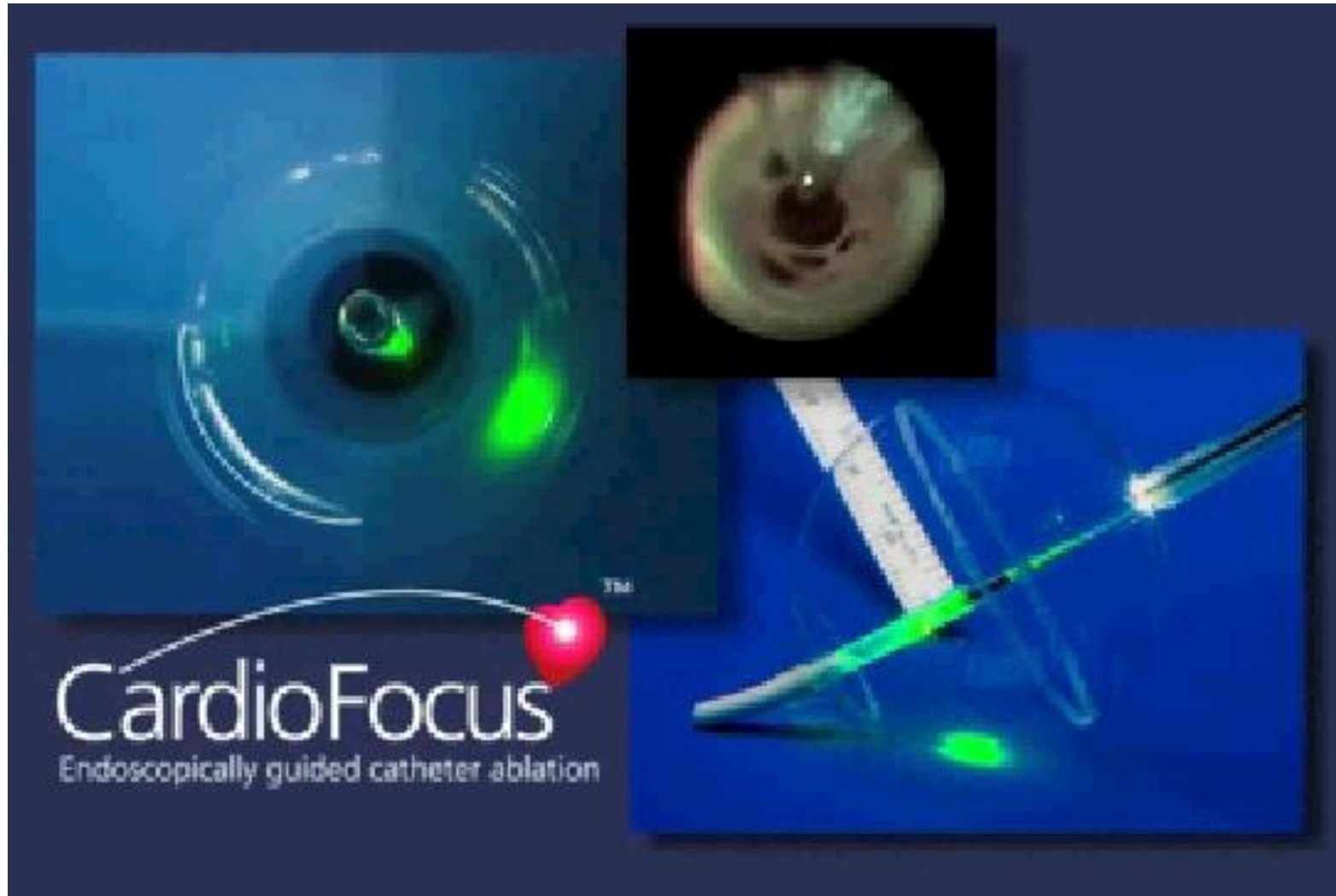
pared. In the patients] and e burden was lower after cryoballoon ablation. There was no significant difference between cryoballoon and RF ablation regarding procedure parameters. In the cryoballoon group, 3 phrenic nerve palsies occurred using the 23 mm balloon that resolved spontaneously.

*Conclusion:* PV ablation with the cryoballoon technique is feasible and seems to have a similar success rate in comparison to RF ablation. Procedure- and fluoroscopy duration are not longer than in conventional RF ablation. (*J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol*, Vol. 20, pp. 1343-1348, December 2009)



# Ablation Tools

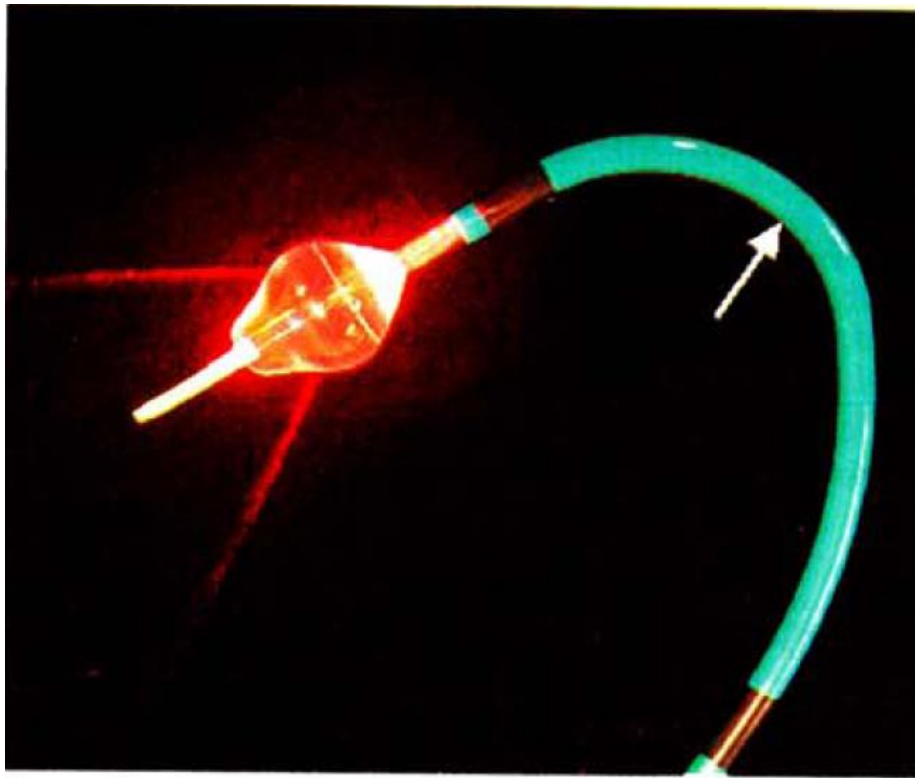
## CardioFocus Balloon



# Ablation Tools

## CardioFocus Balloon

### Endoscopic light ring balloon catheter



Tecnologia di ablazione che incorpora un endoscopio per la visualizzazione diretta e un catetere a palloncino regolabile e progettato per un migliore contatto con l'ostio delle VP

# Ablation Tools

## CardioFocus Balloon

JACC Vol. 54, No. 15, 2009



### One-year clinical outcome after pulmonary vein isolation using the novel endoscopic ablation system in patients with paroxysmal atrial fibrillation

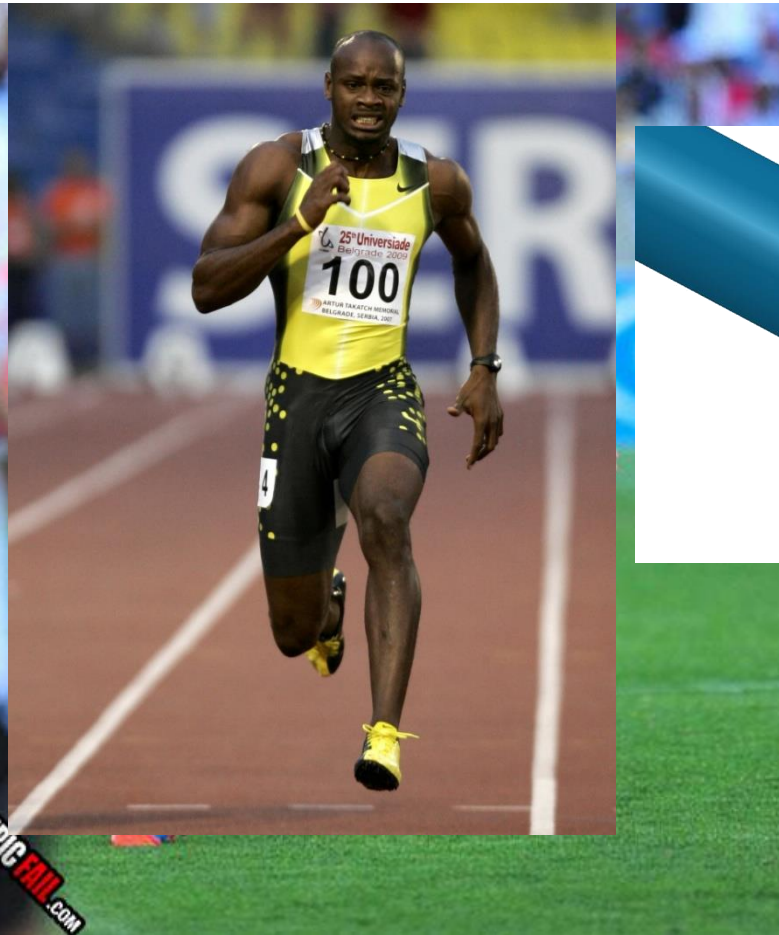
Andreas Metzner, MD, Boris Schmidt, MD, Alexander Fuernkranz, MD, Erik Wissner, MD, Roland R. Tilz, MD, K. R. Julian Chun, MD, Kars Neven, MD, Melanie Konstantinidou, MD, Andreas Rillig, MD, Yazuhiko Yoshiga, MD, Shibu Mathew, MD, Ilka Koester, MD, Feifan Ouyang, MD, Karl-Heinz Kuck, MD

*From the Asklepios Klinik St. Georg, Department of Cardiology, Hamburg, Germany.*

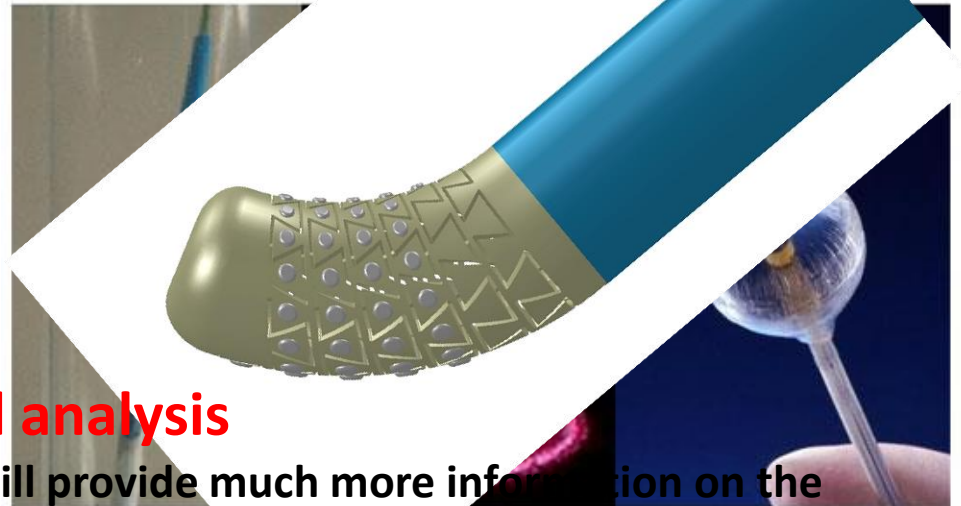
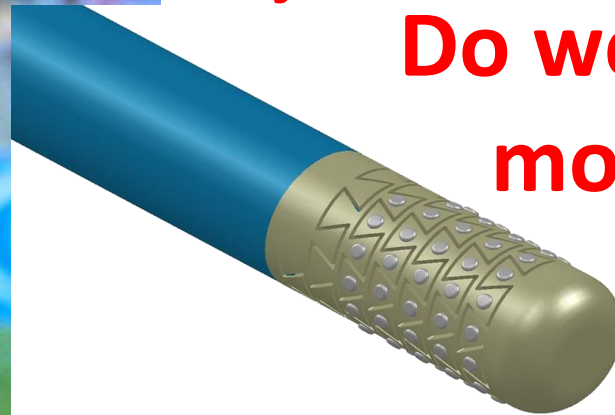
**69% of PVs were isolated successfully using exclusively the novel EAS.**



# Where are we running?



We just need accurate mapping of  
**Do we really need  
more power?**



**HD (High Density) electrical signal analysis**

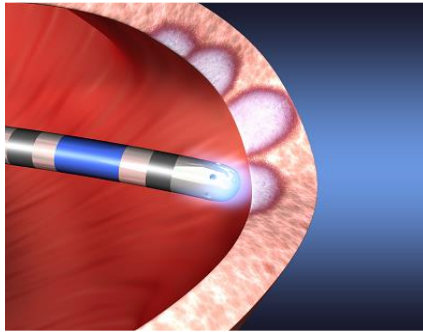
Made with multi micro electrode 7 Fr Cath will provide much more information on the  
Electrical activity of ROTORS and WAVELETS

Cryo-Balloon

Laser-Balloon

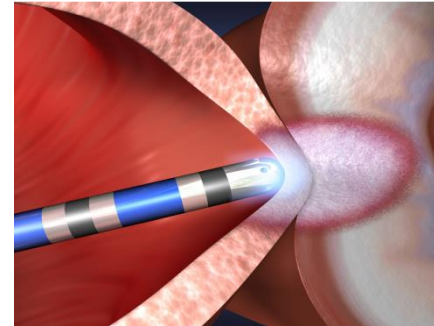
Focused Ultrasound-  
Balloon

# Perchè misurare l'intensità del contatto?



## Contatto a volte Insufficiente

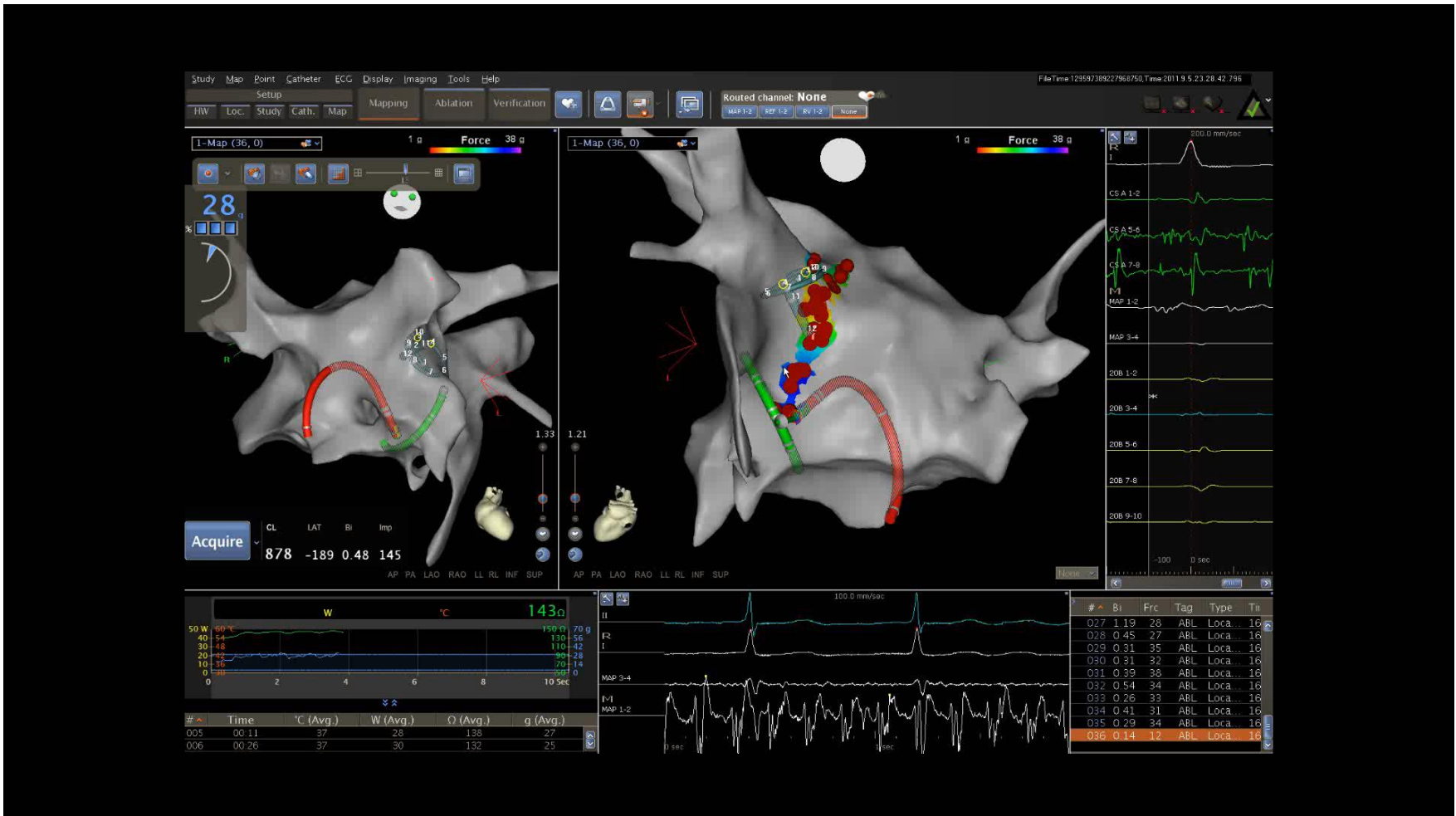
- *Mappaggio inaccurato*
- *Bassa Efficacia di Ablazione*
- *Tempi di procedura allungati*
- *Recidive*



## Contatto Eccessivo

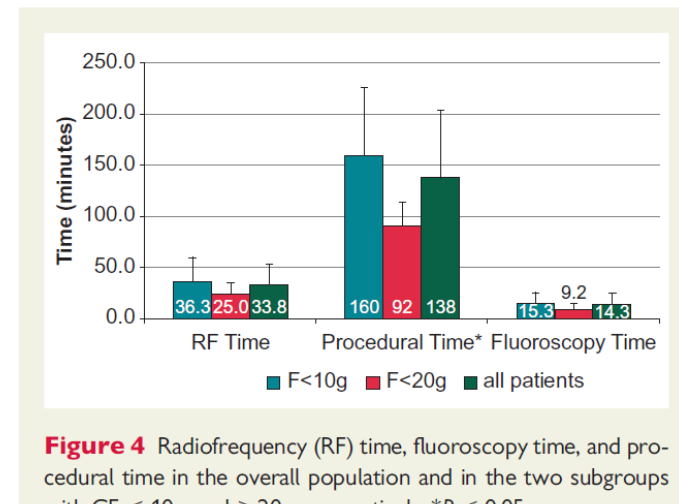
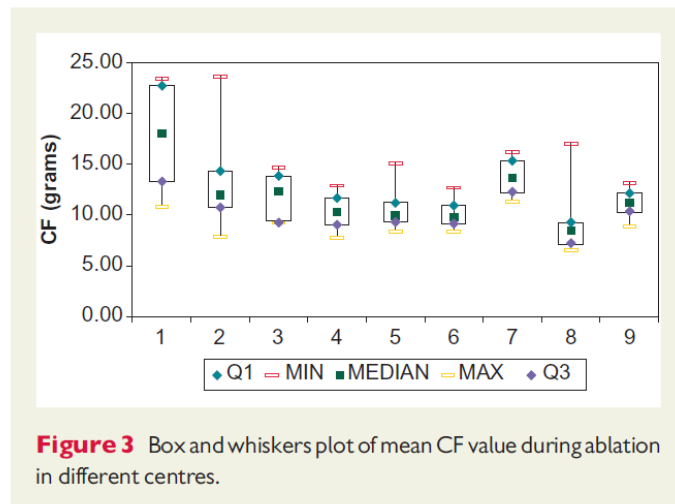
- *Mappaggio Inaccurato*
- *Rischio di Perforazione*
- *Danni a tessuti/organi adiacenti*

# THERMOCOOL® SMARTTOUCH™ Catheter



# Catheter–tissue contact force for pulmonary veins isolation: a pilot multicentre study on effect on procedure and fluoroscopy time

Giuseppe Stabile<sup>1\*</sup>, Francesco Solimene<sup>2</sup>, Leonardo Calò<sup>3</sup>, Matteo Anselmino<sup>4</sup>, Antonello Castro<sup>5</sup>, Claudio Pratola<sup>6</sup>, Paolo Golia<sup>7</sup>, Nicola Bottoni<sup>8</sup>, Giuseppe Grandinetti<sup>9</sup>, Antonio De Simone<sup>10</sup>, Roberto De Ponti<sup>11</sup>, Serena Dottori<sup>12</sup>, and Emanuele Bertaglia<sup>13</sup>



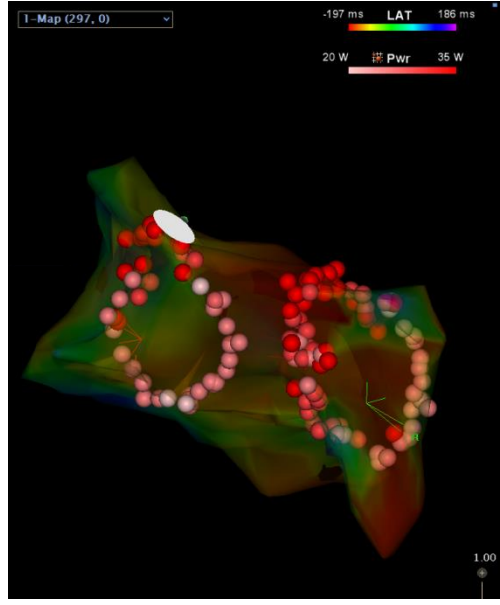


SMARTTOUCH Approved Region Only

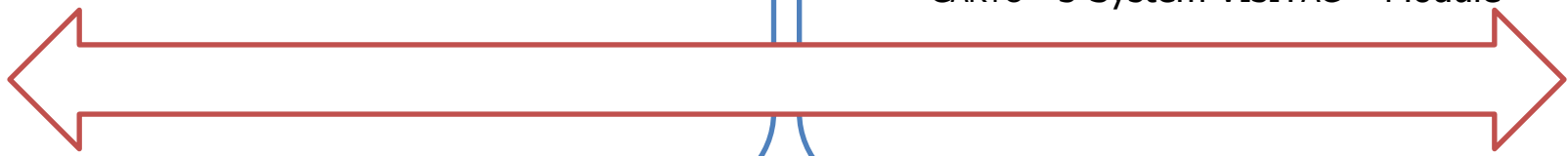
# The Biosense-Webster Solution



THERMOCOOL® SMARTTOUCH™ Catheter



CARTO® 3 System VISITAG™ Module



A Completely Seamless Integration within the CARTO® 3 System Environment

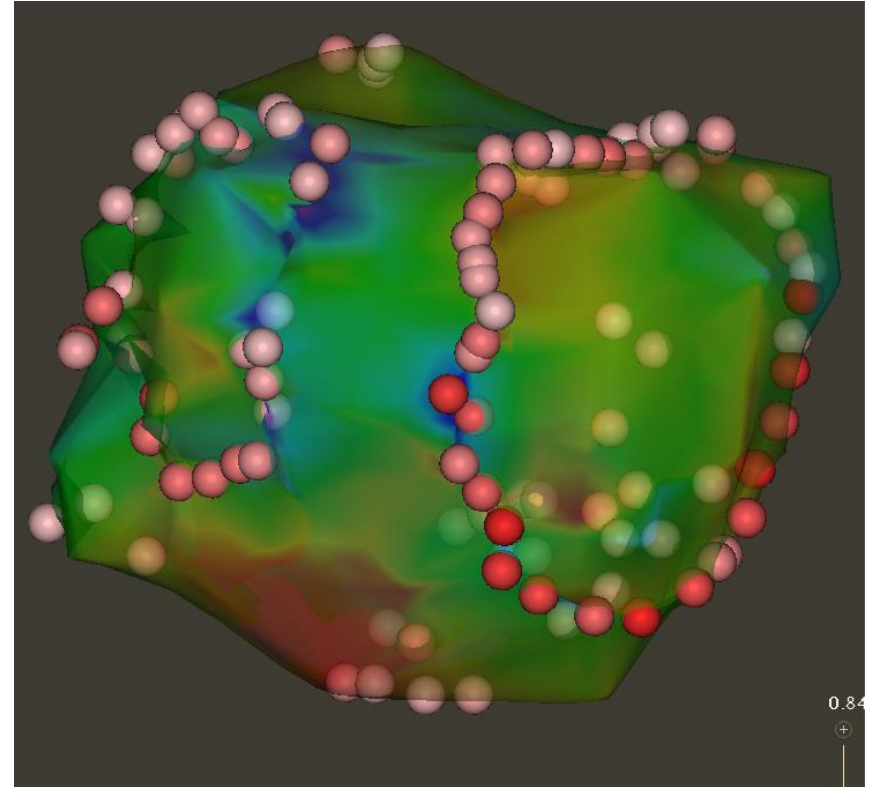
The VISITAG™ Module provides access to data collected during the application of RF energy. The data does not indicate the effectiveness of RF energy application.  
\*Where THERMOCOOL® SMARTTOUCH™ Catheter is approved

# How the VISITAG™ Module Works

## 1. Insert desired RF Parameters

- Location stability
- Temperature
- Impedance drop
- Total time
- Force time interval (FTI)
- Force over time (FOT)

## 2. Automated RF Tag Display determined by parameters



Define the parameters

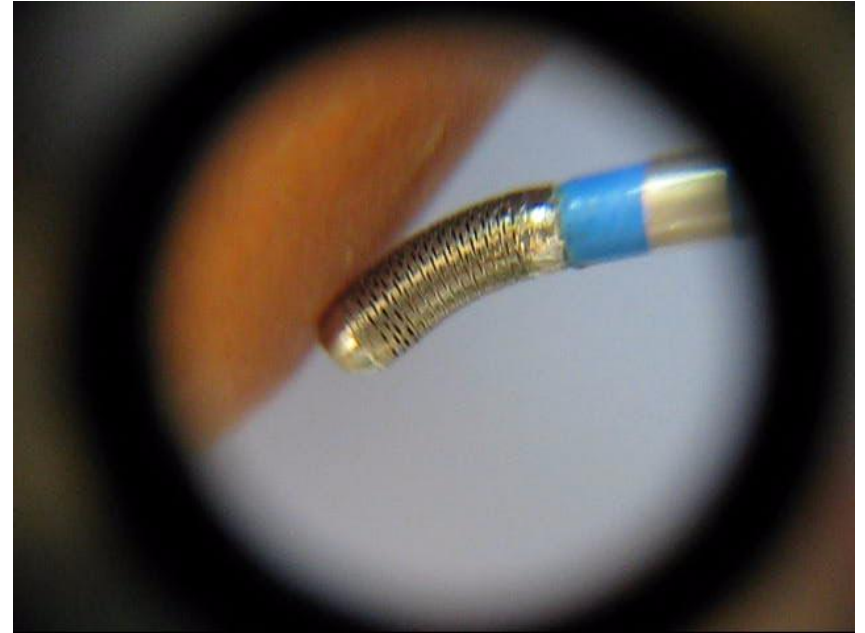
\*Where THERMOCOOL® SMARTTOUCH™ Catheter is approved

# Therapy™ Cool Flex™

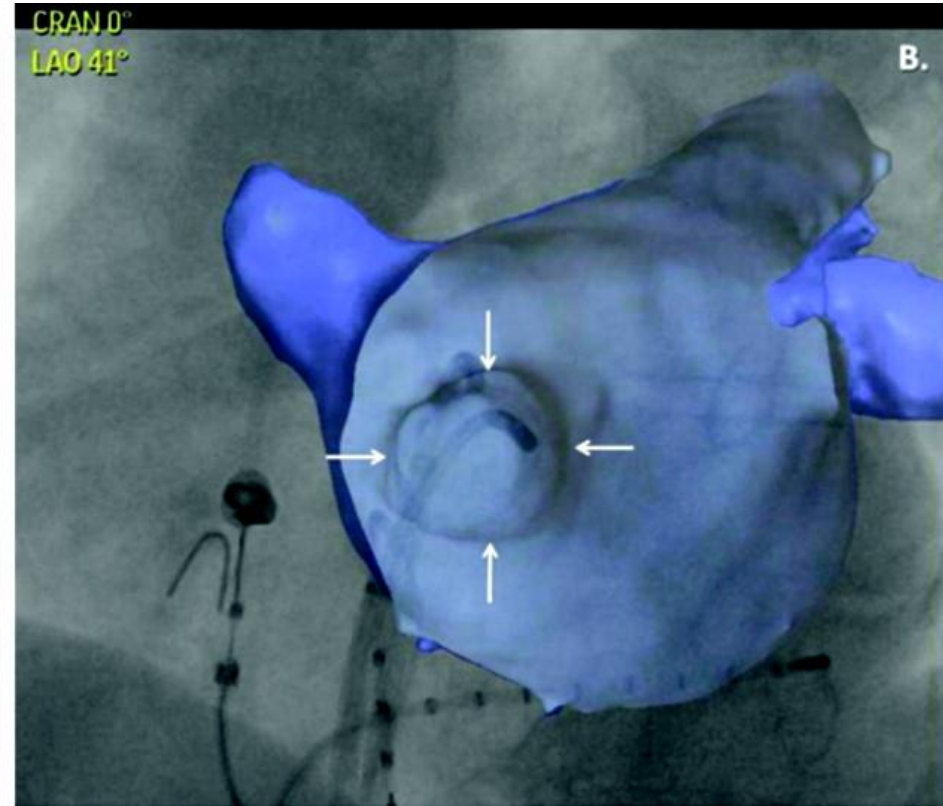
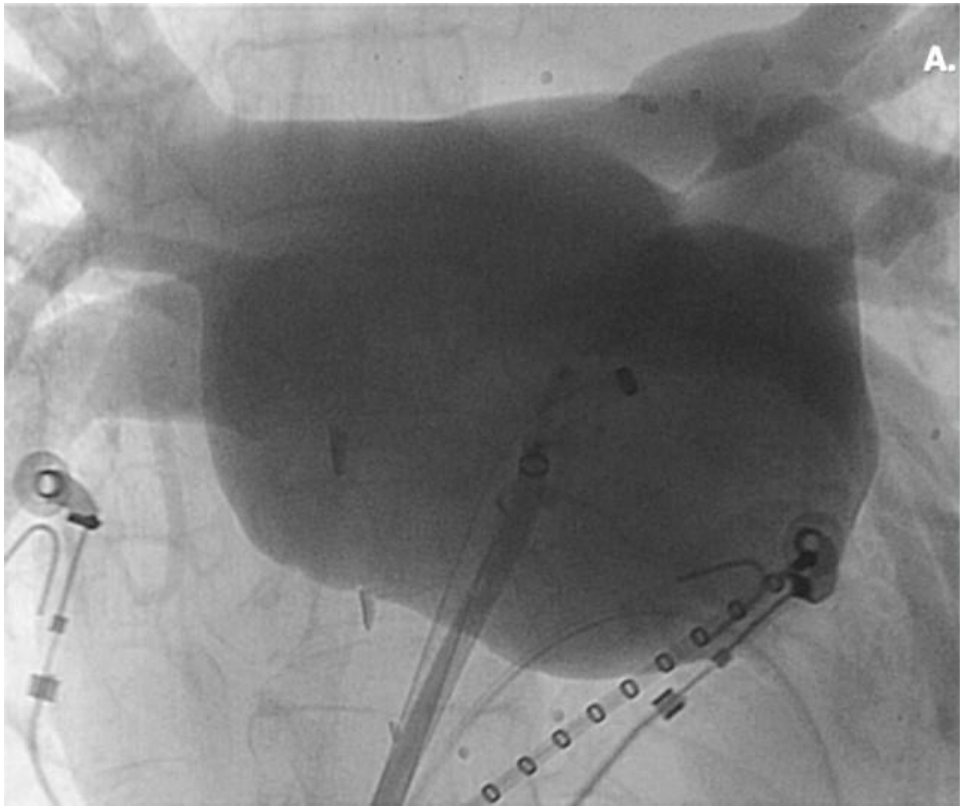
Flexible tip can reduce operator transmitted force into tissue

68% fewer Steam Pops and 50% Charring reduction

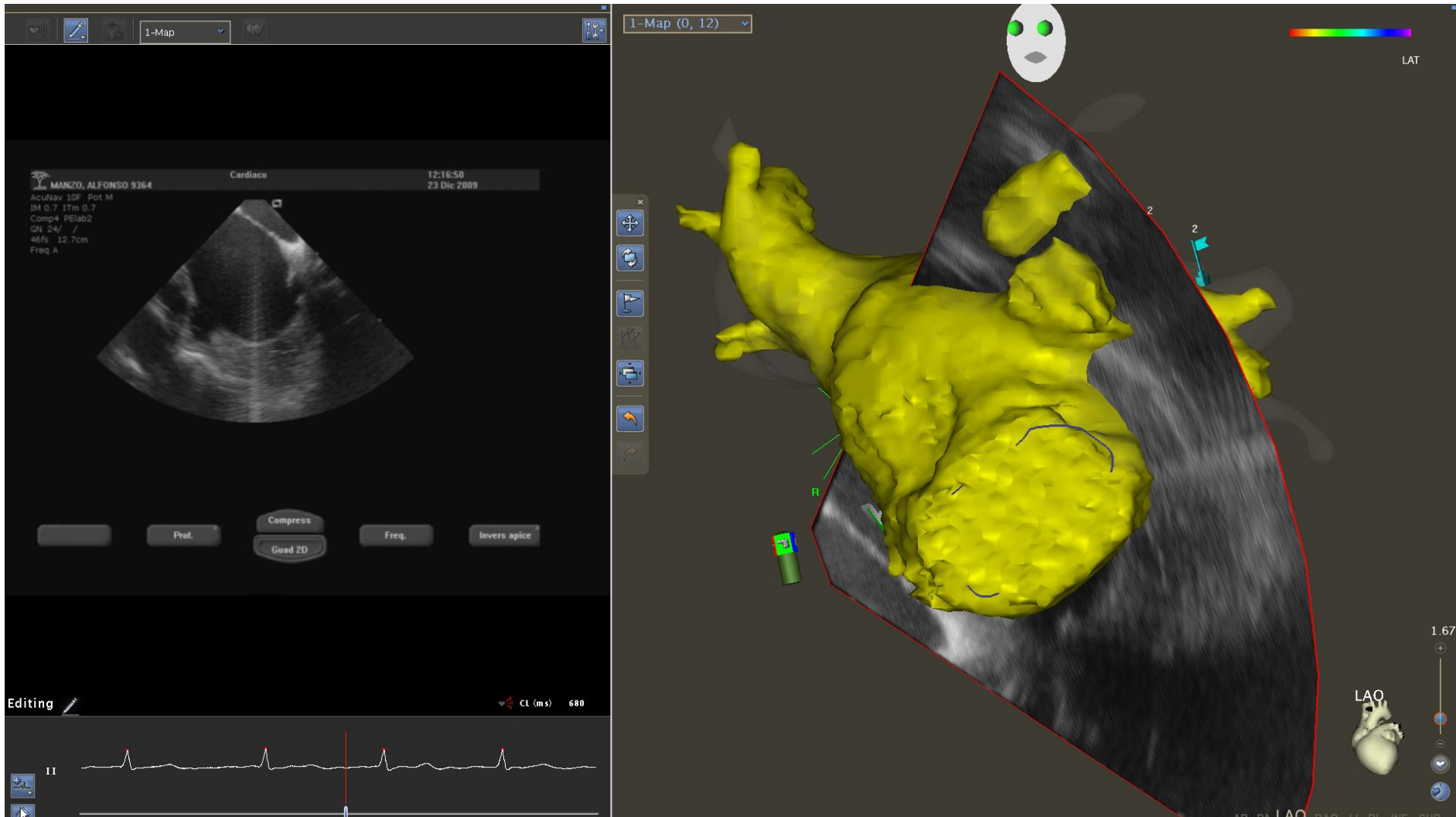
The Flexible tip improves flow distribution throughout the tissue



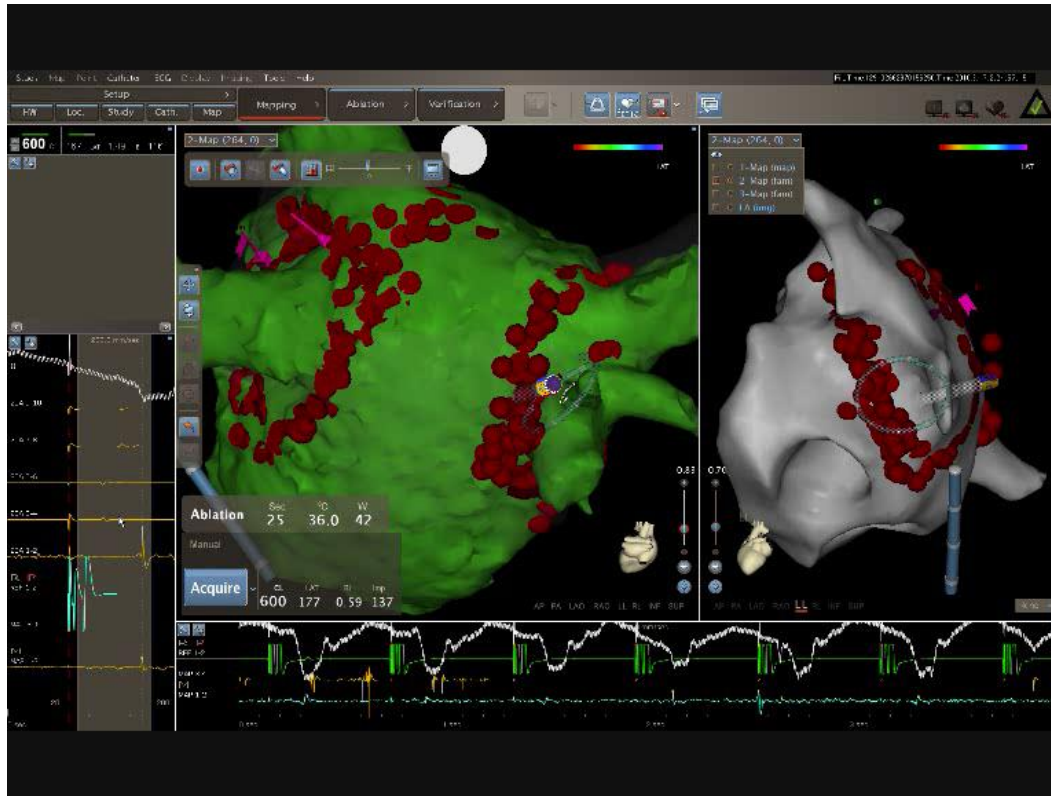
# Angiografia rotazionale



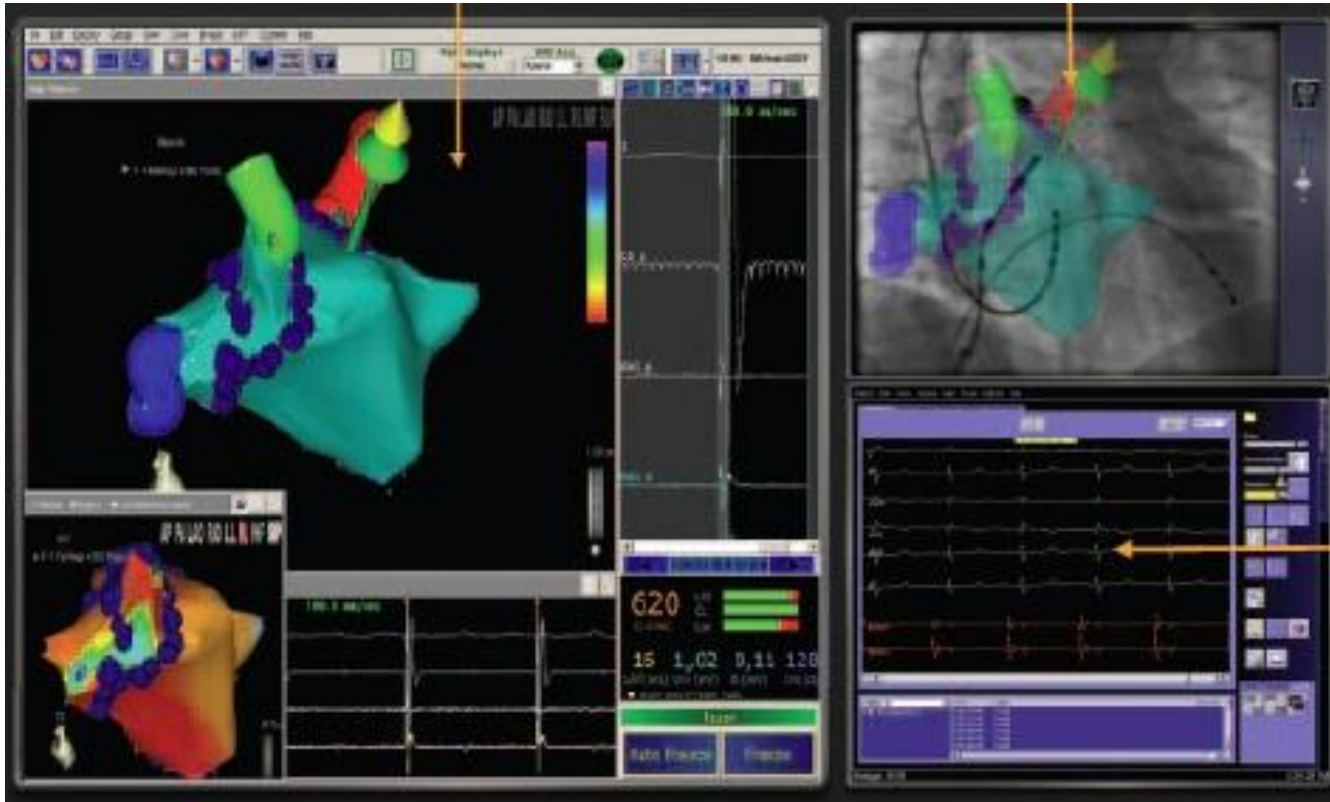
# CartoSound



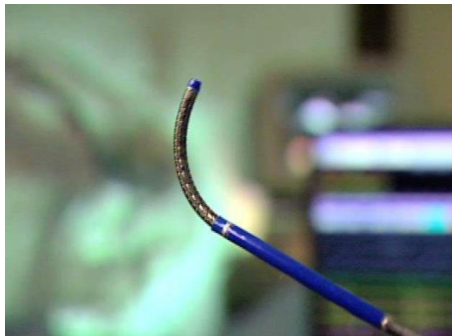
# CartoMERGE



# Remote navigation: Stereotaxis



# Robotic Catheter System™







# Conclusioni

**Le nuove tecnologie permettono di:**

- Aumentare la sicurezza in molte fasi della procedura
- Aumentare l'efficacia e il successo
- Ridurre i tempi di scopia e procedurali

**Qual'è la migliore?**