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Anatomie atypique des veines pulmonaires droites et cryo-ablation de fibrillation atriale

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THÈSE D'EXERCICE / UNIVERSITÉ DE RENNES 1
sous le sceau de l'Université Bretagne Loire

Thèse en vue du
DIPLÔME D'ÉTAT DE DOCTEUR EN MÉDECINE

présentée par

Camille Pichard

Née le 9 Août 1990 à Rennes (35)

**Anatomie atypique
des veines
pulmonaires droites
et cryo-ablation de
fibrillation atriale.**

**Thèse soutenue à Rennes
Le Mardi 10 Septembre 2019**

devant le jury composé de :

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SERMENT D'HIPPOCRATE

Au moment d'être admis à exercer la médecine, je promets et je jure d'être fidèle aux lois de l'honneur et de la probité.

Mon premier souci sera de rétablir, de préserver ou de promouvoir la santé dans tous ses éléments, physiques et mentaux, individuels et sociaux.

Je respecterai toutes les personnes, leur autonomie et leur volonté, sans aucune discrimination selon leur état ou leurs convictions. J'interviendrai pour les protéger si elles sont affaiblies, vulnérables ou menacées dans leur intégrité ou leur dignité. Même sous la contrainte, je ne ferai pas usage de mes connaissances contre les lois de l'humanité.

J'informerai les patients des décisions envisagées, de leurs raisons et de leurs conséquences. Je ne tromperai jamais leur confiance et n'exploiterai pas le pouvoir hérité des circonstances pour forcer les consciences.

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Cryoballoon ablation of atrial fibrillation in patients with atypical right pulmonary vein anatomy using a standard approach and neglecting accessory veins: a safe and efficient technique

Abstract

Background: Cryoballoon (CB) ablation is widely used for pulmonary vein (PV) isolation in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF). There are no data regarding clinical efficacy of CB ablation in patients with atypical right PV anatomy. We aimed to evaluate the impact of right PV anatomy on safety and efficacy of CB ablation.

Methods: Patients referred for CB ablation of paroxysmal AF were prospectively enrolled. A left atrial computed tomography was performed prior to CB ablation to determine whether right PV anatomy was “normal” or “atypical”. For patients with atypical anatomy, CB ablation was only performed for right superior (RSPV) and right inferior PV (RIPV), neglecting accessory PVs.

Results: 303 patients were included, 254 (83.8%) with normal and 49 (16.2%) with atypical right PV anatomy. First freeze isolation for RSPV and RIPV occurred in 44 (89.8%) and 37 (75.5%) and in 218 (85.8%) and 217 (85.4%) patients with atypical and typical PV anatomy, respectively ($p=NS$). Phrenic nerve palsies (PNPs) were only observed in patients with normal anatomy (0 vs. 26, 8.6%, $p=0.039$). Mid-term survival free from atrial arrhythmia was similar, regardless of right PV anatomy.

Conclusion: A significant proportion of patients have atypical right PV anatomy. Procedural characteristics, acute PV isolation success, and mid-term procedural efficacy are similar, regardless of right PV anatomy. In addition to left-side PVs isolation, cryoballoon ablation of RSPV and RIPV only, neglecting accessory PVs, is sufficient to obtain acute right-side PV isolation and mid-term sinus rhythm maintenance in patients with atypical anatomy.

Abbreviations:

AF: atrial fibrillation

CB: cryoballoon

CT: computed tomography

LA: left atrium

PNP: phrenic nerve palsy

PV: pulmonary vein

RIPV: right inferior pulmonary vein

RMPV: right middle pulmonary vein

RSPV: right superior pulmonary vein

Introduction

Cryoballoon (CB) ablation has become a widely used technique to achieve pulmonary vein (PV) isolation in patients with symptomatic atrial fibrillation (AF). Similar mid- and long-term results compared to radiofrequency ablation have been reported. (1,2) However, PV isolation using the CB is critically dependent on a circumferential and homogeneous freezing all around PV ostia, and anatomical factors may affect catheter stability, ablation efficacy and long-term sinus rhythm maintenance. Thus, PV anatomy is an important factor influencing CB ablation. Indeed, the efficacy of CB ablation in patients with a left common trunk was analyzed in few studies, reporting either a similar (3,4) or lower long-term efficacy (5,6) compared to patients with a normal left PV drainage.

A considerably more variable anatomy has been described for right PV drainage, since up to 26% of patients may present a middle lobe vein directly connected to the left atrium. (7) However, to the best of our knowledge, there are no studies analyzing the efficacy of CB ablation in such patients. Thus, in this study, we prospectively evaluated mid-term efficacy and procedural characteristics of CB ablation in patients with typical and atypical PV anatomy, and hypothesize that an ablation of the right superior (RSPV) and right inferior PV (RIPV), neglecting accessory PVs, is sufficient to obtain acute PV isolation and mid-term sinus rhythm maintenance.

Methods

Patients and Design

Consecutive patients referred in our tertiary center from January 1, 2015 to October 31, 2018 for a CB ablation of paroxysmal AF were prospectively enrolled. Patients were included if they presented symptomatic drug refractory AF with at least one recurrence on antiarrhythmic drug therapy. Patients were not included if left atrial (LA) computed tomography (CT) scan could not be realized prior to the procedure. This study was approved by institutional ethics committee and all patients provided informed consent.

Cardiac computed tomography acquisition and analysis of right PV anatomy

A left atrial CT scan was performed the day prior to CB ablation to analyze PV anatomy. Image acquisition was performed on a 64-row multidetector CT scanner (GE discovery CT

750 HD, GE Healthcare, Milwaukee, WI, USA) during a single breath-hold, without ECG gating. Typical acquisition parameters were: field of view 20-25 cm, tube voltage 100-120 kV, tube current 350 mAs with a dose modulation protocol, slice thickness 0.625 mm, pitch 0.984. Z-axis coverage was limited to the cardiac volume, from the carina to the caudal part of the left atrium. A bolus of 60-100 mL of iobiditridol (Xenetix 350, Guerbet, Roissy, France) was injected at 4 mL/s, followed by a 40-mL saline chaser bolus. An automated bolus tracking system was used to synchronize the arrival of the contrast material with the initiation of the scan, with a threshold set at 150 Hounsfield units in the LA.

A blind analysis of right PV anatomy was performed by two independent observers (1 thoracic radiologist and 1 cardiologist) using Telemis PACS-software, version 4.7 (Telemis SA, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium) and through a post-processing 3D reconstruction using CARTO-Merge software (Biosense Webster, Diamond Bard, CA, USA). Discordance between readers was adjudicated by a third reader to determine the exact type of anatomy. Ostial architecture using both external and endoluminal projections were analyzed, identifying PV drainage pattern. For each patient, PV drainage pattern, number of PV ostia and maximal and minimal right PV ostial diameter were assessed. To classify right PV anatomy, the classification proposed by Marom et al. (7) was used (Figure 1). Thus, R1, R2, R3, R4 and R5 types of right PV anatomy were used to describe patients with a single, 2, 3, 4 or 5 right PV ostia draining to the LA, respectively. Then, each pattern was differentiated depending on the draining pattern of the middle pulmonary lobe (e.g. R2a, R2b or R2c, as shown in Figure 1). In our study, a “normal” PV anatomy was defined as patients having two PV ostia (i.e. R2a, R2b, R2c patterns), while “atypical” PV anatomy was defined as those having 1, 3, 4 or 5 PV ostia (i.e. R1, R3a, R3b, R3c, R4a, R4b and R5 patterns).

Cryoballoon ablation procedural characteristics

Before the procedure, a transesophageal echocardiography was performed to exclude the presence of a LA thrombus. Vitamin K antagonists were continued (international normalized ratio of 2-3) if prescribed, while non-vitamin K antagonist oral anticoagulation were discontinued and replaced by intravenous heparin prior to ablation. Procedures were performed under conscious sedation using midazolam and fentanyl as necessary.

Venous access was obtained via the femoral vein. A 6F Xtrem[®] quadripolar catheter (Sorin SPA, Milan, Italy) was placed in the coronary sinus via the right femoral vein. A single transseptal puncture was performed under fluoroscopic and pressure guidance without use of peri-procedural transesophageal or intracardiac echocardiography. A “single big cryoballoon”

approach, using a 28-mm balloon (Medtronic, Minneapolis, MN) was performed, as previously described. (8)

The CB catheter was introduced into the LA through a steerable, 12-F inner diameter FlexCath[®] sheath (Medtronic, Minneapolis, MN) constantly flushed with heparinized saline. An Achieve[™] mapping catheter (Medtronic, Minneapolis, MN) was advanced over the CB to the PV orifice and positioned inside the PV. The CB was inflated and advanced to the ostium of each PV. The quality of vein occlusion was assessed by the injection of diluted iodinated contrast agent into the PV using a semi-quantitative grading, as previously described, from grade 4 (excellent with full retention of contrast medium) to grade 1 (very poor occlusion leading to rapid leakage from the PV) (9). Ablation duration was decided depending on the time-to-PV isolation: 180 or 240 seconds if PV isolation was documented prior to or after 30 seconds of freezing, respectively; if the Achieve catheter was pushed into the PV to obtain a better stability of the CB, leading to the inability to observe real time PV isolation, a 240 seconds freezing was performed.

Ablation was first performed for the left superior and then the left inferior PVs. Before ablation of right-sided PVs, the quadripolar catheter was relocated to the superior vena cava to constantly pace the right phrenic nerve at a 1,500-2000 ms cycle length and 10 mA/2ms output during freezing. The pacing was started 30 seconds after the initiation of freezing in order to avoid CB dislodgment due to the intense right hemi-diaphragmatic contractions. In case of cessation or weakening of the contraction, freezing was immediately discontinued and the CB deflated.

For patients with atypical right PV anatomies, CB ablation was only performed for the RSPV and the RIPV. Indeed, since a 28mm CB was used, and to avoid increasing the risk of phrenic nerve palsy (PNP), we assumed that the RSPV and RIPV applications would have isolated these supplementary PVs.

At all, the accessory right PVs were eventually catheterized with the Achieve catheter to assess PV isolation prior CB removal.

Post ablation management and follow-up

After the procedure, all antiarrhythmic drugs were stopped and patients underwent a continuous in-hospital ECG monitoring for 48 hours. First out-patient clinic visit was 4-6 weeks after the procedure. Subsequent follow-up visits consisted of a clinical interview, surface-ECGs and 24-hours Holter monitoring at 3, 6 and 12months. Recurrence of atrial arrhythmia was defined as any AF, atrial tachycardia or flutter lasting longer than 30 seconds

recorded, after 3 months of blanking period, according to the latest guidelines. (10) Procedural success was defined as freedom from any documented arrhythmia recurrence without administration of any antiarrhythmic drugs.

Endpoints

The primary endpoint was the survival free from any documented atrial arrhythmia. The secondary endpoints were procedural characteristics during first freezing application (minimal temperature, time to PV isolation, number of pulmonary vein potentials recorded during freezing), in both groups (normal and atypical right PV anatomy), and the occurrence of PNP.

Statistical analysis

Normally distributed variables were expressed as means \pm standard deviation and compared using Student's *t*-test. Non-normally distributed variables were expressed as median and interquartile ranges and compared using Mann-Whitney's U-test. Categorical variables were expressed as counts and percentages and were compared using the Chi-square test or exact Fisher test when needed. A *p* value <0.05 was considered statistically significant. The analyses were performed with the SPSS statistical package, version 11.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL).

Results

Population characteristics

From January 1, 2015 to October 31, 2018, 303 consecutive patients had a CB ablation for symptomatic paroxysmal AF and were prospectively included. Clinical characteristics are described in Table 1. Patients were mainly men, aged 61.0 (53.8-67.9) years old, and had rare comorbidities reflected by the low CHA₂DS₂-VASc score of the overall population (66.0% of all patients had a score of 0 or 1). Left ventricular ejection fraction was 62.0% (60.0-65.0). A median of 2.0 (1.0-2.0) antiarrhythmic drugs were tested before the ablation was scheduled.

Anatomical considerations

Right PV drainage pattern were classified as stated above (Figure 1). As shown in Table 2, most patients (n= 254, 83.8%) had the expected normal right PV anatomy consisting of two right atrial ostia for upper and lower lobe veins, respectively, with the middle lobe vein

joining the superior lobe vein. The remaining 49 (16.2%) patients had an atypical right PV anatomy. The most common atypical drainage was a R3a pattern (n=40, 81.6%) i.e. three atrial ostia for the superior, middle and lower lobe veins, respectively. R3b and R4 anatomies were found in 3 patients, R3c anatomy in 2 patients and one patient had R5 anatomy. None of the patients presented a R1 anatomy. Examples of atypical right PV anatomies are depicted in Figure 2.

RSPV short and long axis diameters of patients with “atypical” right PV anatomy were significantly smaller than those with R2 pattern ($p<0.001$). For patients with R3 anatomy, the right middle pulmonary vein (RMPV) long and short axis were 10.3 ± 2.3 mm and 7.9 ± 2.2 mm respectively, and its distance to the RSPV and the RIPV was 3.7 ± 2.1 and 5.3 ± 2.7 mm, respectively.

Procedural characteristics

After ablating left-side PVs, CB applications were performed in the RSPV and RIPV only, neglecting accessory right PVs. First freeze isolation for RSPV occurred in 44 (89.8%) and 218 (85.8%) patients with atypical and typical right PV anatomy, respectively ($p=0.606$, Table 3). Similar results were observed for the RIPV, with 37 (75.5%) and 217 (85.4%) inferior veins isolated during the first freeze ($p=0.130$). There was no difference in terms of occlusion degree during freezing. Minimal temperature was lower in both RSPV and RIPV in normal anatomy group (-47.6 ± 5.7 vs -49.5 ± 9.5 , $p=0.006$ and 46.2 ± 7.2 vs -47.7 ± 8.1 , $p=0.046$), and more real-time PV potentials recording were observed in the RSPV for patients with normal anatomy. Lastly, there was no difference in procedure duration between both groups.

To note, once RSPV and RIPV isolation were performed, the accessory right PV isolation was assessed and found to be isolated in all patients with a R3 pattern anatomy. Catheterization of accessory PVs in patients with R4 and R5 anatomies could not be obtained due to their small diameter.

Complications

Twenty nine transient PNP occurred in 26 patients (8.6%), including 20 PNP during RSPV isolation, 3 PNP during RIPV isolation and 3 PNP during both superior and inferior CB isolation. Interestingly, all PNPs occurred in patients with normal right PV anatomy, while none of the patients with atypical anatomy had this complication ($p=0.039$). To note, all the PNPs resolved before the end of the procedure. No other major complication occurred.

Follow-up

After a follow-up of 12.6 ± 0.2 months, 42 (13.9%) patients had symptomatic documented recurrences of atrial arrhythmias, including 37 (14.6%) and 5 (10.2%) patients with normal and atypical right PV anatomy, respectively ($p=0.560$). Kaplan-Meier curves of survival free from atrial arrhythmias are shown in Figure 3. No difference was observed among groups (Log rank $p=0.428$). Among these patients, 22 and 4 patients were referred for a redo ablation, respectively. The localization of gaps encountered during redo cases are detailed in Table 4. Among the 4 patients with atypical anatomy, only 1 had a gap in the RSPV, in its' postero-superior region, i.e. not close to the accessory PV.

Discussion

Main results

The main findings of the study are: 1) A significant proportion of patients have atypical right PV anatomy (16.2% in our study); 2) Procedural characteristics and acute PV isolation success are similar in all patients, regardless of their right PV anatomy, although a less negative temperature was observed in patients with atypical anatomy; 3) The isolation of RSPV and RIPV, neglecting accessory PVs, is sufficient to obtain acute right-side PV isolation and mid-term sinus rhythm maintenance in patients with atypical anatomy; 4) PNPs were only observed in patients with normal anatomy.

Variations in pulmonary vein anatomy

Normal PV anatomy is defined as the presence of four PVs presenting well-defined ostia. The RSPV usually drains the right upper and middle pulmonary lobes while the left superior PV drains the left upper lobe, including the lingula. Inferior PVs drain their respective lower lobes. This configuration is observed in 57-82% of the population. (7,11–16) Anatomical variants of this typical drainage have been described in 18-53% (11,12,14,17,18) of the patients, the most common being the presence of a left common trunk (8-59%) (3,4,6,7,12,17–19). Anatomical variants on the right PVs are less common (6-32%) (7,12–15,17,18) but tend to be more complex because of the presence of a third PV coming from the middle pulmonary lobe, draining either in the superior or the inferior PV, or directly in the LA through a separated ostium. The presence of a RMPV has been described in 11-26% of

individuals (7,13–15,17,20). Tsao et al. (21) reported that the RMPV might drain directly into the LA in 23% of patients. In our study, 16.2% of the patients had an atypical right PV drainage, mainly a R3a pattern, consisting on a separate PV coming from the middle lobe and draining directly into the LA. Other types of atypical right PV anatomy were less common, and only 4 patients had 4 or 5 PV ostia.

Cryoballoon ablation in patients with atypical pulmonary vein anatomy

Data regarding the efficacy of CB ablation in patients with a left common trunk are controversial. Some studies have demonstrated a similar AF free-survival rate compared to patients with normal left PV anatomy (3,4) whereas some others have reported a worse arrhythmia free-survival (5,6). Shigeta et al have (6) demonstrated that the presence of a left common trunk was an independent predictor of atrial tachyarrhythmia recurrence after a follow up of 454 ± 195 days (hazard ratio 3.0, 95% confidence interval 1.32-6.83, $p < 0.01$). Further studies will be needed to investigate whether a critical size of the common trunk may impair CB ablation efficacy.

However, to the best of our knowledge, there are currently no reports regarding specifically the efficacy of CB ablation in patients with atypical right PV anatomy. In our study, we did not find any difference in terms of mid-term arrhythmia-free survival, although some procedural parameters differed among groups. Indeed, there was no difference in terms of degree of PV occlusion, successful first freeze and total number of applications per PV. However, the nadir temperature was significantly more negative in those patients with normal PV anatomy, probably explained by their larger short and long-axis diameters compared to patients with atypical drainage. Indeed, the middle lobe vein is usually connected to the RSPV, which drains the blood coming from the upper and the middle pulmonary lobes. In patients with a middle lobe vein directly connected to the LA, the RSPV only drains the upper pulmonary lobe, explaining its smaller size, and subsequently, the less negative nadir temperatures. Surprisingly, more applications with PV potentials were recorded in patients with normal right PV drainage during RSPV isolation compared to those with atypical PV anatomy ($p=0.005$). This observation can possibly be explained by a difference in terms of myocardial PV sleeve anatomy or to a more distal positioning of the Achieve catheter during ablation.

Interestingly, as previously stated, since a 28mm CB was used, and to avoid increasing the risk of PNP, we decided to not perform a freezing application specifically for the accessory PVs, assuming that the proximity to RSPV and RIPV ostia (3.7 ± 2.1 and 5.3 ± 2.7 mm,

respectively) would have led to an isolation of these supplementary PVs. Despite their smaller size ($10.3\pm 2.3\text{mm} \times 7.9\pm 2.2\text{mm}$ for RMPV in R3 patients), accessory PVs could be catheterized in R3 patients to prove PV isolation, demonstrating that a specific freezing application is unnecessary for these PVs, and that they can be neglected without compromising ablation outcome. Indeed, the similar mid-term efficacy observed in our study, regardless of the right PV pattern, is a plea to avoid performing supplemental freezing applications in patients with atypical PV drainage. As described, none of the two patients requiring a redo ablation had a conduction gaps in region close to the supplemental PV.

Clinical impact of pre-procedural imaging

The aim of this study was to show whether a difference in clinical outcomes after CB ablation of paroxysmal AF was observed between patients with normal and atypical right PV anatomy, ablating RSPV and RIPV only and neglecting ablation of accessory PVs. Indeed, some studies (22) have showed that CB ablation efficacy was critically dependent on venous occlusion degree, suggesting that it would be more difficult to obtain a perfect occlusion in patients with atypical PV drainage. Conversely, in this study, we did not show any difference in terms of clinical outcomes depending on PV anatomy, and patients with atypical right PV drainage should not be denied a CB ablation only based on this anatomical pattern. However, we believe that this finding should not weaken the value of pre-procedural 3D imaging of PV anatomy. Indeed, many studies have demonstrated the benefit of cardiac CT scan or Magnetic Resonance Imaging prior to AF ablation (11,15,23), allowing the recognition of anatomical variants and providing an indication about PV orientation, shape and size. Furthermore, as described above, the efficacy of CB ablation in patients with a left common trunk is still a matter of debate (3–6). Thus, we believe that 3D reconstruction is essential for procedural planning and may help to decide whether a CB- or a radiofrequency-based ablation should be performed in a given patient.

Impact of pulmonary vein anatomy on phrenic nerve palsy

PNP is one of the most common complications during CB ablation, occurring in 1.5-13.6% of patients (24–29). A similar proportion of 8.6% of PNP was observed in our study. Several predictors of PNP occurrence have been described, including the presence of a right common ostium, large PV dimensions, early branching pattern originating from the same ostium, or shorter distance from PV to superior vena cava (25,26). More precisely, these studies described predictors of PNP occurrence for RSPV freeze (RSPV area, RSPV-LA angle) and

RIPV freeze (temperature drop velocity from basal to -20°C). Saitoh et al. (30) have found that the strongest predictor for phrenic nerve injury at RSPV was the position of the balloon $\geq 1/3$ outside the cardiac shadow ($p=0.001$, OR 119.9, 95%CI 11.6-1234.7). Interestingly, in our study, all PNPs occurred in patients with a normal PV anatomy and none of the patients with atypical right PV drainage had this complication. Different hypotheses may explain such finding. First, one may hypothesize that atypical right PV anatomy may be associated with an atypical phrenic nerve position, located further from PV ostia, making it less prone to freezing. This hypothesis was not specifically analyzed in this study and would require further investigations. Second, as demonstrated in our study, patients with normal PV anatomy have larger RSPVs, and cryoenergy may be delivered further inside the PV ostium, closer to the phrenic nerve position. Indeed, Casado-Arroyo et al (31) showed that a less vigorous wedging maneuver in the RSPV ostia might reduce the occurrence of PNP. Authors recommended in their study to slightly retrieve the inflated CB until a small leak is observed before repositioning it at the beginning of the cryoenergy application to create a more proximal lesion without compromising the quality of the occlusion. Patients with a typical anatomy, having smaller RSPVs, are probably at less risk since the lesion created by a big 28-mm CB is possibly more proximal. Lastly, the nadir temperature was less negative in patients with atypical anatomy, a parameter possibly explaining why no PNPs were observed in this group. Further studies will be needed to analyze the effect of PV shape, orientation and anatomy on PNP occurrence.

Limitations

This study has several limitations that must be considered. First, it is a single center study. The clinical endpoint of sinus rhythm maintenance evaluates the global efficacy of CB ablation for both right and left PVs, and AF recurrence in a given patient with typical or atypical right PV anatomy may be due to a reconnection of left PVs while right PVs remain disconnected. Most of the patients with atypical anatomy had a R3 pattern, only a limited number of patients had a R4/R5 anatomy, and none had a R1 pattern, somehow limiting the results observed to patients with this type of anatomy. Lastly, PV reconnection was only assessed in those patients referred for a redo ablation, and one may argue that reconnection rate could differ between asymptomatic or symptomatic patients non-referred for a second procedure. However, Miyazaki et al proved that regardless of clinical recurrences, the incidence and characteristics of PV reconnections were similar between both groups (32).

Conclusion

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first study specifically reporting the safety and efficacy of CB ablation in patients with atypical right PV drainage. In addition to the isolation of left-side PVs, the isolation of RSPV and RIPV, neglecting accessory PVs, is sufficient to obtain acute right-side PV isolation and mid-term sinus rhythm maintenance in patients with atypical anatomy. To note, the risk of PNP seems to be negligible in these patients, and further studies will be needed to explain whether anatomical or procedural characteristics explain such finding.

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Table 1: Patients' characteristics

	All patients n=303	Atypical right PV anatomy n=49	Normal right PV anatomy n=254	p
Age, years	61.0 (53.8-67.9)	56.9 (50.7-66.8)	61.5 (54.5-68.3)	0.090
Gender, Male/Female	212/91	36/13	176/78	0.679
Hypertension	94 (31.0%)	11 (22.4%)	83 (32.7%)	0.212
Diabetes mellitus	9 (3.0%)	2 (4.1%)	7 (2.7%)	0.967
Current smoker	33 (10.9%)	10 (20.4%)	23 (9.05%)	0.037
Dyslipidemia	49 (16.2%)	7 (14.3%)	42 (16.5%)	0.866
History of stroke	20 (6.6%)	5 (10.2%)	15 (5.9%)	0.426
Body mass index, kg.m ²	25.9 (23.5-28.7)	25.8 (22.8-27.8)	26.0 (23.5-28.7)	0.240
CHA₂DS₂-VASc score				
0	128 (42.2%)	20 (40.8%)	108 (42.5%)	0.965
1	72 (23.8%)	13 (26.5%)	59 (23.2%)	
2	67 (22.1%)	11 (22.5%)	56 (22.0%)	
3	23 (7.6%)	4 (8.2%)	19 (7.5%)	
4	7 (2.3%)	1 (2%)	6 (2.4%)	
5	5 (1.7%)	0 (0%)	5 (2.0%)	
6-9	1 (0.3%)	0 (0%)	1 (0.4%)	
AF episodes duration				
<12h	196 (64.7%)	27 (55.1%)	169 (66.5%)	0.473
12-24h	51 (16.8%)	10 (20.5%)	41 (16.1%)	
24-48h	26 (8.6%)	6 (12.2%)	20 (7.9%)	
>48h	30 (9.9%)	6 (12.2%)	24 (9.5%)	
Number of antiarrhythmic drugs tested before ablation	2.0 (1.0-2.0)	2.0 (1.0-2.0)	2.0 (1.0-2.0)	0.747
Left ventricular ejection fraction, %	62.0 (60.0-65.0)	62.0 (55.7-65.0)	62.0 (60.0-65.0)	0.589

Table 2: Anatomical considerations. RSPV: right superior pulmonary vein; RIPV: right inferior pulmonary vein; RMPV: right middle pulmonary vein

	Atypical right PV anatomy N=49	Normal right PV anatomy N=254	p
Right PV size, mm			
RSPV long axis	17.6±3.3	20.3±3.0	<0.001
RSPV short axis	14.2±3.2	17.2±3.2	<0.001
RIPV long axis	17.5±3.3	18.1±3.1	0.233
RIPV short axis	15.0±3.1	15.8±2.9	0.088
RMPV anatomy			
R1	0 (0%)	NA	
R2a	NA	182 (71.6%)	
R2b	NA	53 (20.9%)	
R2c	NA	19 (7.5%)	
R3a	40 (81.6%)	NA	NA
R3b	3 (6.1%)	NA	
R3c	2 (4.1%)	NA	
R4a	3 (6.1%)	NA	
R4b	0 (0%)	NA	
R5	1 (2.1%)	NA	
For R3 (n=28):			
RMPV long axis, mm	10.3±2.3	NA	
RMPV short axis, mm	7.9±2.2	NA	
Distance to RSPV	3.7±2.1	NA	NA
Distance to RIPV	5.3±2.7	NA	

Table 3: Procedural characteristics. PNP: Phrenic nerve palsy; LIPV: left inferior pulmonary vein; LSPV: left superior pulmonary vein; RIPV: right inferior pulmonary vein; RSPV: right superior pulmonary vein.

	Atypical right PV anatomy N=49	Normal right PV anatomy N=254	p
RSPV			
Occlusion 4/4	48 (98.0%)	248 (97.6%)	0.702
Applications with PVP recording	34 (69.4%)	220 (86.6%)	0.005
Minimal temperature, °C	-47.6±5.7	-49.5±9.5	0.006
PNP	0 (0%)	23 (9.05%)	0.058
Successful 1 st freeze	44 (89.8%)	218 (85.8%)	0.606
Total number of applications	1.2±0.5	1±.20.5	0.939
RIPV			
Occlusion 4/4	43 (87.7%)	232 (91.3%)	0.601
Applications with PVP recording	13 (26.5%)	74 (29.1%)	0.844
Minimal temperature, °C	-46.2±7.2	-47.7±8.1	0.046
PNP	0 (0%)	6 (2.4%)	0.598
Successful 1 st freeze	37 (75.5%)	217 (85.4%)	0.130
Total number of applications	1.2±0.5	1.2±0.5	0.422
Procedure duration, minutes	75.0 (67.5-87.5)	75.0 (70.0-90.0)	0.742
Fluoroscopy time, minutes	16.3 (12.0-22.0)	16.9 (13.1-22.7)	0.349

Table 4: Localization of conduction gaps during redo procedures. LIPV: left inferior pulmonary vein; LSPV: left superior pulmonary vein; RIPV: right inferior pulmonary vein ; RSPV: right superior pulmonary vein.

	Patient	LSPV	LIPV	RSPV	RIPV
Normal anatomy	1	0	Postero-inferior	0	Postero-inferior
	2	Antero-superior	Postero-superior	Antero-superior	0
	3	0	0	Antero-inferior	0
	4	Superior	0	0	0
	5	0	0	Antero-superior	0
	6	0	Anterior & Inferior	0	0
	7	Anterior	0	Antero-inferior	0
	8	0	Postero-median	Antero-inferior	0
	9	Posterior & Antero-superior	0	Antero-inferior	Postero-median
	10	0	0	0	Posterior & Inferior
	11	Posterior	0	0	0
	12	0	0	0	0
	13	0	0	Anterior-inferior	0
	14	Postero-superior & Postero-inferior	Postero-superior & Postero-inferior	Antero-inferior	0
	15	0	0	Inferior	Postero-inferior
	16	0	0	Antero-inferior, Antero-superior & Superior	0
	17	0	0	Antero-inferior	0
	18	0	0	Antero-inferior	0
	19	0	0	0	0
	20	0	0	0	0
	21	0	0	Antero-inferior	0
	22	0	0	0	0
Atypical anatomy	1	0	0	Postero-superior	0
	2	Superior & Posterior	Posterior	0	0
	3	0	0	0	0
	4	0	0	0	0

Figure 1: Right pulmonary drainage pattern. Adapted from Marom et al (7)

RLL: right lower lobe; RML: right middle lobe; RUL: right upper lobe; SSRLL: superior segment right lower lobe; BSRLL: basilar segment right lower lobe.

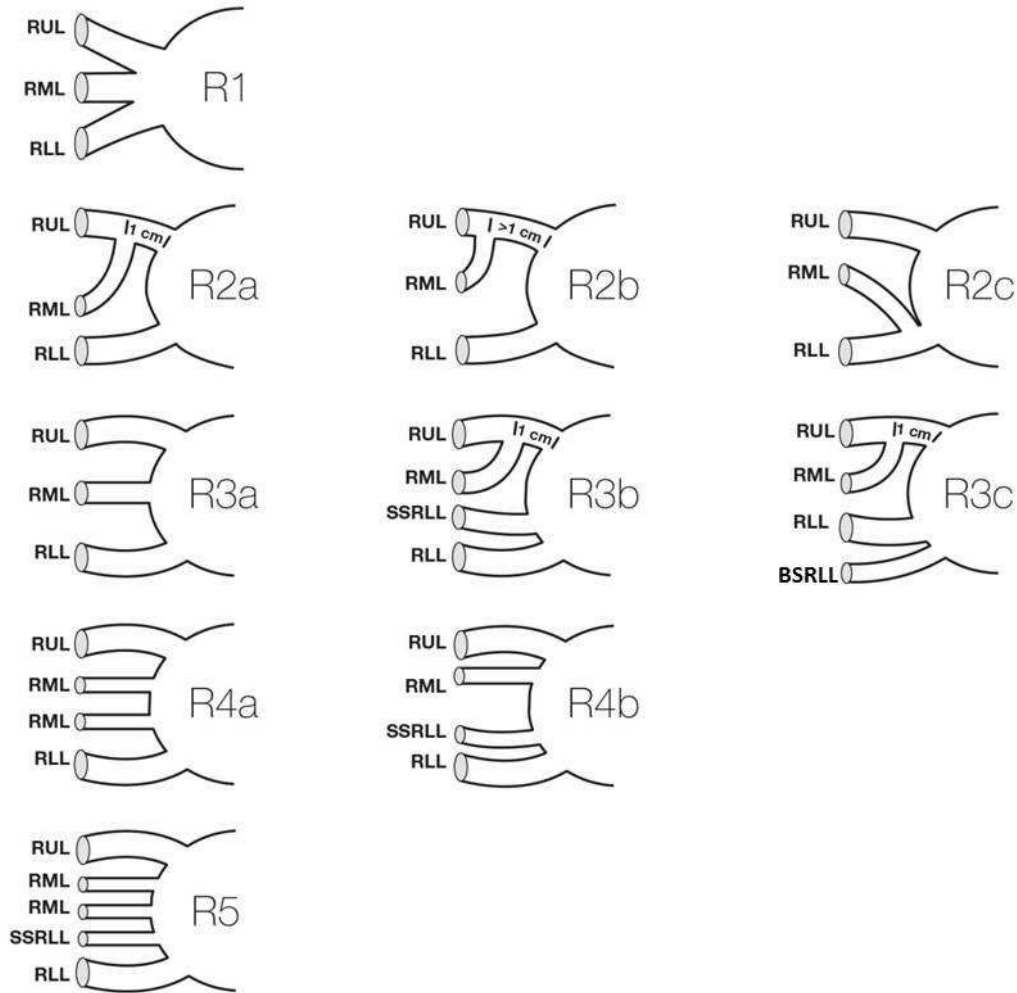


Figure 2: Cardiac CT scan reconstructions of LA (postero-anterior view and endoluminal view) showing: panel A: R3a, panel B: R3b, panel C: R3c, panel D: R4 and panel E: R5 patterns.

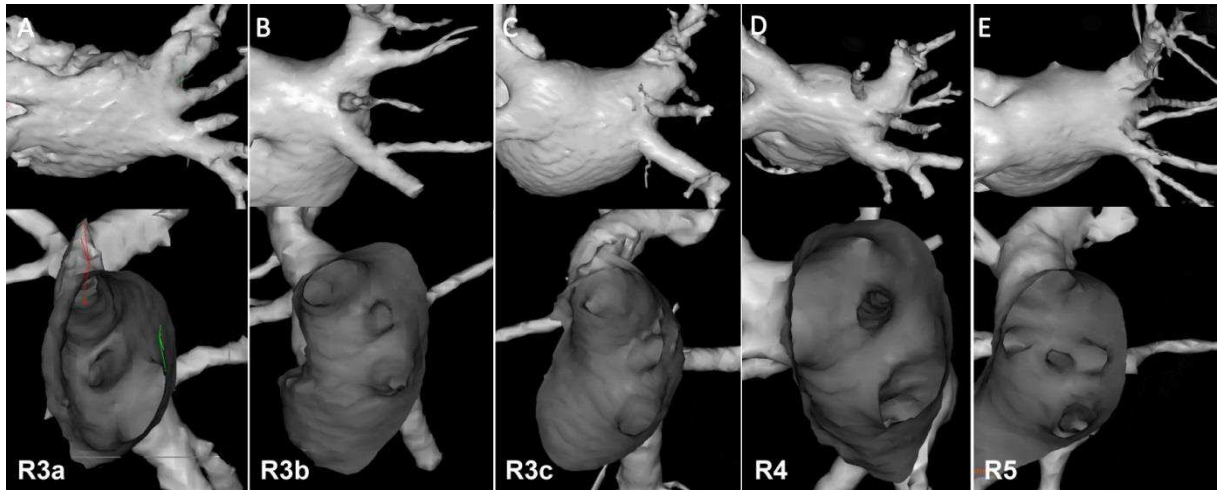
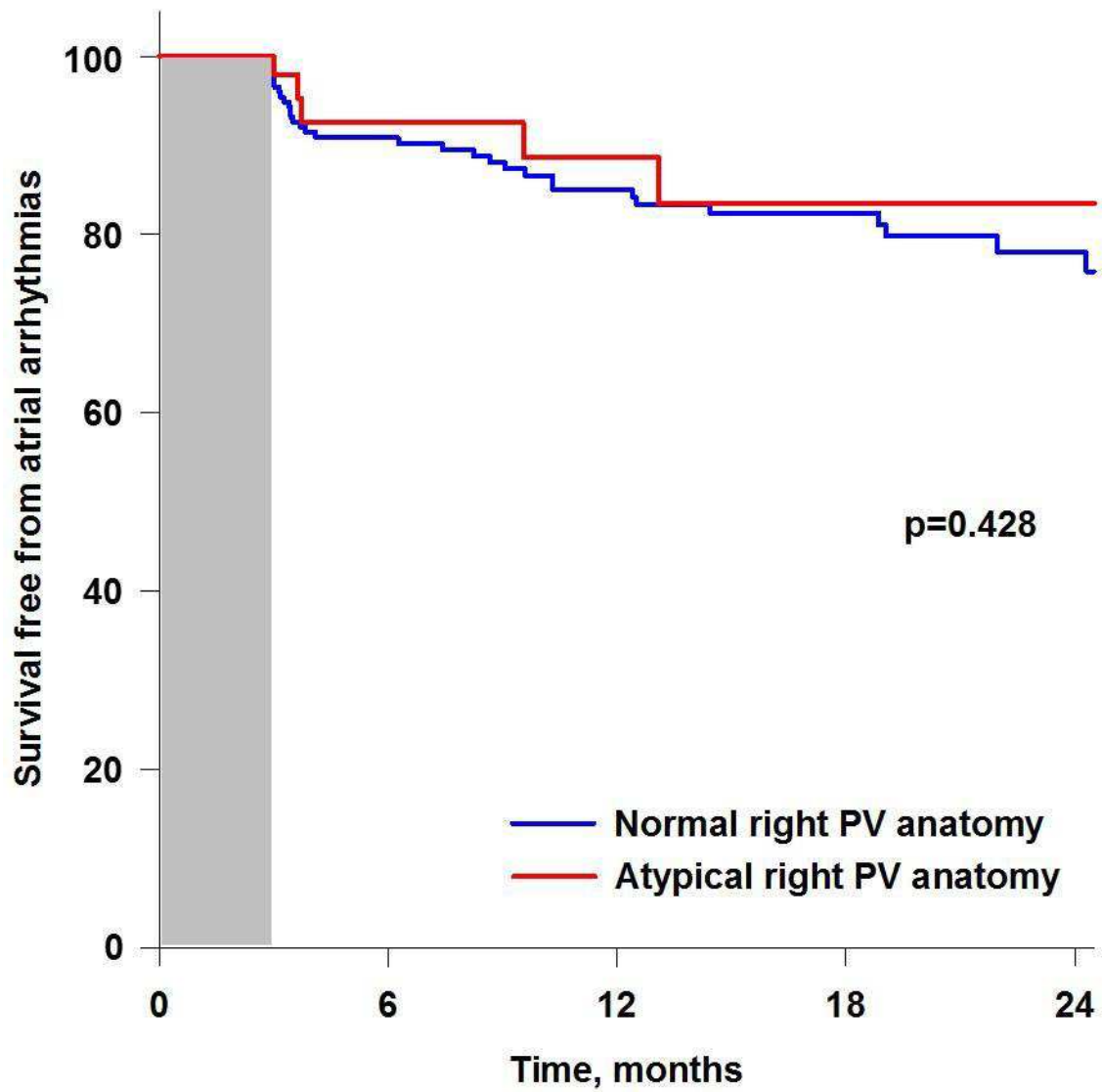


Figure 3: Kaplan-Meier curves for cumulated survival free of atrial arrhythmias in patients with normal and atypical right PV anatomy.



U.F.R. DE MEDECINE DE RENNES		N°
PICHARD Camille - Titre de la thèse : Anatomie atypique des veines pulmonaires droites et cryo-ablation de fibrillation atriale. 39 pages, 3 illustrations, 4 tableaux - Thèse : (Médecine) ; Rennes 1; 2019 ; N° .		
<p>Résumé français : Contexte : L'ablation par cryoballon est une technique largement utilisée dans l'isolation des veines pulmonaires (VP) chez les patients avec une fibrillation atriale (FA). A ce jour, il existe peu de données concernant l'efficacité clinique de la cryo-ablation chez les patients ayant une anatomie veineuse pulmonaire droite atypique. L'objectif de cette étude était d'évaluer l'impact de l'anatomie veineuse pulmonaire droite sur l'efficacité et la sécurité de l'ablation par cryoballon. Méthodes : Tous les patients adressés au CHU de Rennes pour ablation de FA paroxystique par cryoballon ont été prospectivement inclus. Un scanner de l'oreillette gauche était réalisé avant l'ablation pour déterminer si l'anatomie des VP droites était "normale" ou "atypique". Chez les patients avec une anatomie atypique, la cryoablation n'était pas réalisée sur les VP surnuméraires. Résultats : Sur 303 patients inclus, 254 (83.8%) avaient une anatomie veineuse pulmonaire droite normale et 49 (16.2%) une anatomie atypique. L'isolation veineuse était obtenue à la première application de cryothermie pour 44 (89.8%) VP supérieures droites (VPSD) et 37 (75.5%) VP inférieures droites (VPID) chez les patients avec une anatomie atypique, et pour 218 (85.8%) VPSD et 217 (85.4%) VPID chez les patients avec une anatomie typique (p=NS). Les paralysies du nerf phrénique (PNP) étaient observées seulement chez les patients avec une anatomie normale (0 vs. 26, 8.6%, p=0.039). La survie à moyen terme sans récurrence d'arythmie atriale était similaire, indépendamment de l'anatomie des VP droites. Conclusion : Une proportion significative de patients a une anatomie VP droite atypique. Les caractéristiques procédurales, le succès immédiat de l'isolation des VP, et l'efficacité à moyen terme sont similaires dans les deux groupes, indépendamment de l'anatomie veineuse pulmonaire droite. L'ablation par cryoballon des VPSD et VPID, en négligeant les VP droites accessoires, associée à la cryo-ablation des VP gauches est suffisante pour obtenir une isolation en aigu et un maintien à moyen terme du rythme sinusal chez les patients avec une anatomie veineuse pulmonaire droite atypique.</p> <p>Résumé anglais: Background: Cryoballoon (CB) ablation is widely used for pulmonary vein (PV) isolation in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF). There are no data regarding clinical efficacy of CB ablation in patients with atypical right PV anatomy. We aimed to evaluate the impact of right PV anatomy on safety and efficacy of CB ablation. Methods: Patients referred for CB ablation of paroxysmal AF were prospectively enrolled. A left atrial computed tomography was performed prior to CB ablation to determine whether right PV anatomy was "normal" or "atypical". For patients with atypical anatomy, CB ablation was only performed for right superior (RSPV) and right inferior PV (RIPV), neglecting accessory PVs. Results: 303 patients were included, 254 (83.8%) with normal and 49 (16.2%) with atypical right PV anatomy. First freeze isolation for RSPV and RIPV occurred in 44 (89.8%) and 37 (75.5%) and in 218 (85.8%) and 217 (85.4%) patients with atypical and typical PV anatomy, respectively (p=NS). Phrenic nerve palsies (PNPs) were only observed in patients with normal anatomy (0 vs. 26, 8.6%, p=0.039). Mid-term survival free from atrial arrhythmia was similar, regardless of right PV anatomy. Conclusion: A significant proportion of patients have atypical right PV anatomy. Procedural characteristics, acute PV isolation success, and mid-term procedural efficacy are similar, regardless of right PV anatomy. In addition to left-side PVs isolation, cryoballoon ablation of RSPV and RIPV only, neglecting accessory PVs, is sufficient to obtain acute right-side PV isolation and mid-term sinus rhythm maintenance in patients with atypical anatomy.</p>		
Rubrique de classement :		
Mots-clés : arythmie ; fibrillation atriale ; ablation , électrophysiologie		
Mots-clés anglais MeSH : Arrhythmias ; Atrial Fibrillation ; Catheter Ablation ; Electrophysiology		
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