

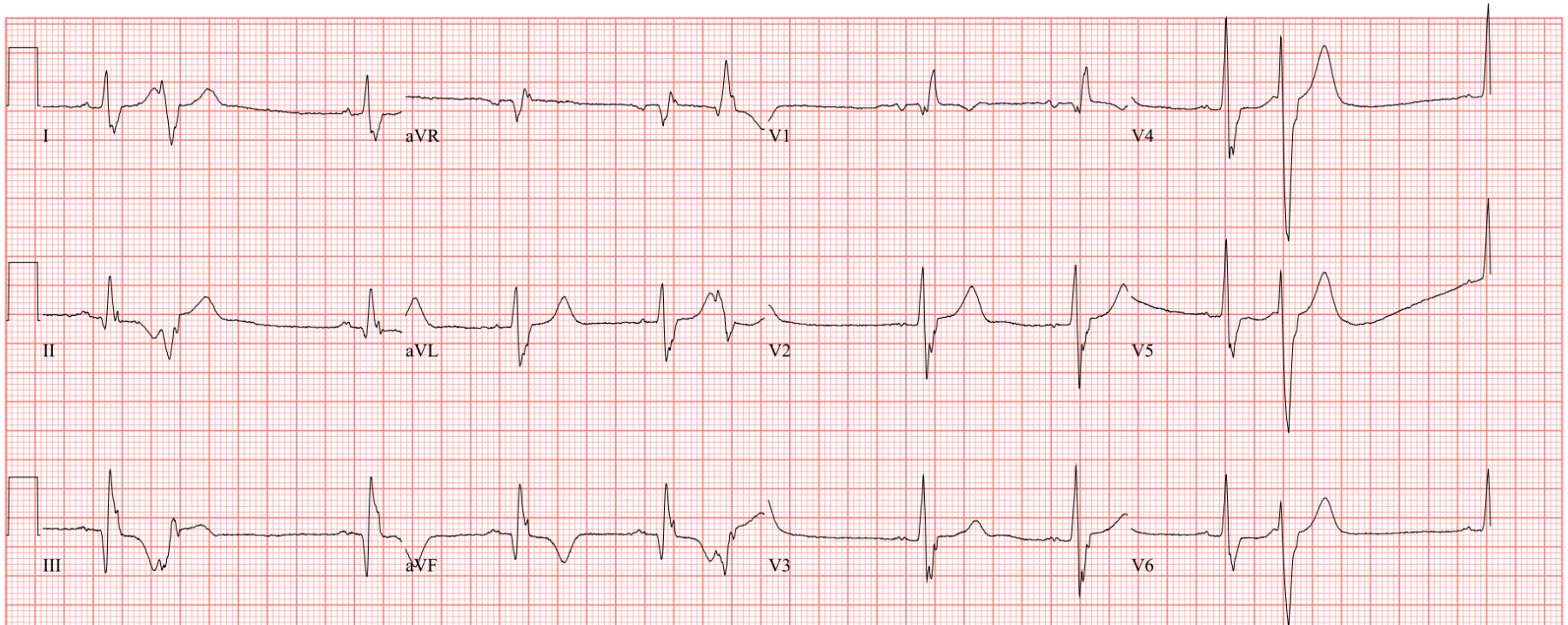


Utilizing ECG to Stratify SCD Risk in CHD Patients with LVEF>35%

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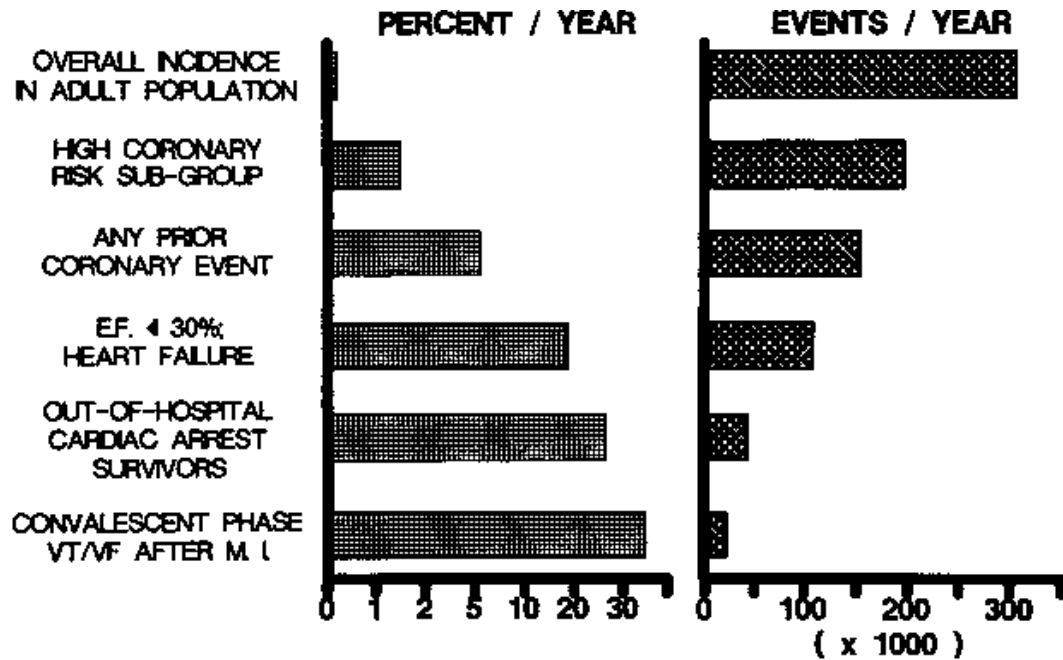


Case



- 76/M
- Recent infarction with LVEF 42%
- Does the patient require ICD?

Why LVEF >35% important?



- Should be the priority for VT/VF risk assessment
 - Highest number of those at risk of VT/VF
 - Currently non-protected by guideline based on LVEF value

Current risk stratification

Meta analysis for LGE

1.1.2 Studies With Nonischemic Cardiomyopathy

Assomull (17)	5	35	2	66	2.9%	5.33 [0.98, 29.08]
Iles (18)	9	31	0	30	1.0%	25.76 [1.42, 465.99]
Leyva (19)	3	20	0	77	0.9%	31.00 [1.53, 627.81]
Gulati (11)	42	142	23	330	27.2%	5.61 [3.21, 9.78]
Neilan (20)	34	81	3	81	5.5%	18.81 [5.47, 64.65]
Muller (21)	16	94	4	91	6.5%	4.46 [1.43, 13.92]
Perazzolo-Marra (22)	17	76	5	61	7.5%	3.23 [1.12, 9.33]
Masci (23)	6	61	2	167	3.2%	9.00 [1.76, 45.90]
Subtotal (95% CI)	540		903	54.6%		6.27 [4.15, 9.47]

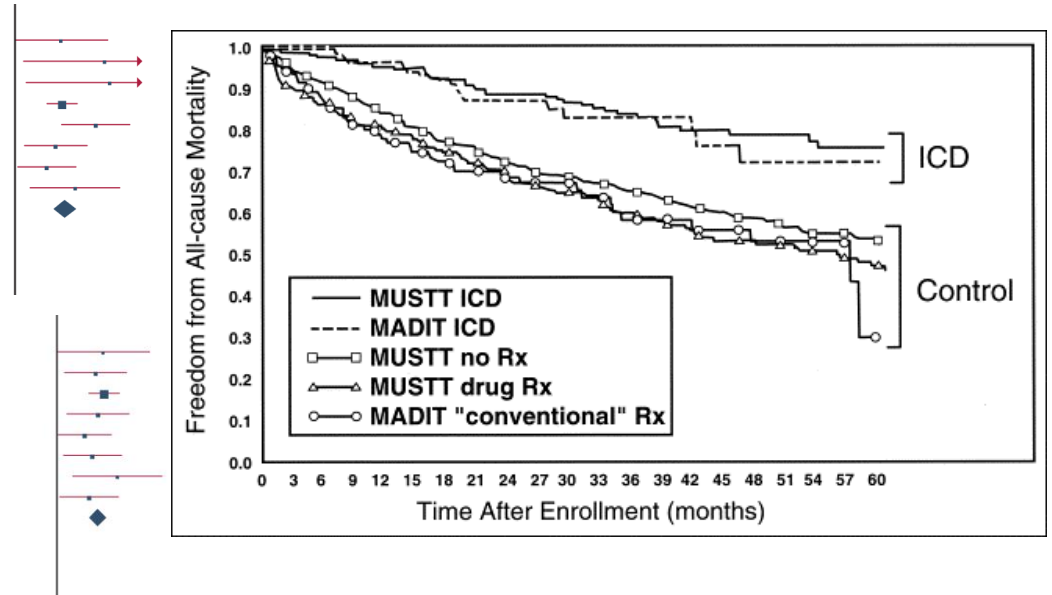
Total Events 132 39
 Heterogeneity: Tau² = 0.01; Chi² = 7.26, df = 7 (P = 0.40); I² = 4%
 Test for Overall Effect: Z = 8.72 (P < 0.00001)

1.2.2 Studies With Mean EF >30%

Assomull (17)	5	35	2	66	2.9%	5.33 [0.98, 29.08]	2006
Klem (10)	21	84	4	53	6.6%	4.08 [1.32, 12.67]	2012
Gulati (11)	42	142	23	330	27.2%	5.61 [3.21, 9.78]	2013
Muller (21)	16	94	4	91	6.5%	4.46 [1.43, 13.92]	2013
Demirel (16)	27	62	7	32	8.8%	2.76 [1.04, 7.32]	2014
Almehmadi (27)	45	248	4	70	7.5%	3.66 [1.27, 10.55]	2014
Masci (23)	6	61	2	167	3.2%	9.00 [1.76, 45.90]	2014
Perazzolo-Marra (22)	17	76	5	61	7.5%	3.23 [1.12, 9.33]	2014
Subtotal (95% CI)	802		870	70.0%		4.48 [3.17, 6.33]	

Total Events 179 51
 Heterogeneity: Tau² = 0.00; Chi² = 2.85, df = 7 (P = 0.90); I² = 0%
 Test for Overall Effect: Z = 8.48 (P < 0.00001)

MUSTT and MADIT trial



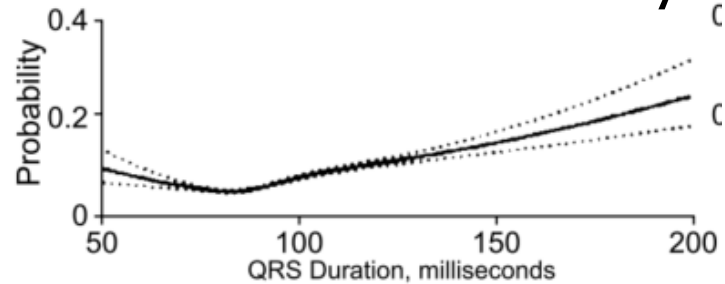
- LGE on MRI
- EPS in MUSTT trial
- Risk assessment based on the ECGs were not well evaluated

Table. Summary of Noninvasive Risk-Stratification Techniques for Identifying Patients With Coronary Artery Disease Who Are At Risk for Sudden Cardiac Death (SCD)

Technique	Conclusion
Left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF)	<p>Low LVEF is a well-demonstrated risk factor for SCD.</p> <p>Although low LVEF has been effectively used to select high-risk patients for application of therapy to prevent sudden arrhythmic death, LVEF has limited sensitivity; the majority of SCDs occur in patients with more preserved LVEF.</p>
Electrocardiogram (ECG)	
QRS duration	<p>Most retrospective analyses show increased QRS duration is likely a risk factor for SCD.</p> <p>Clinical utility to guide selection of therapy has not been tested.</p>
QT interval and QT dispersion	<p>Some retrospective analyses data show that abnormalities in cardiac repolarization are risk factors for SCD.</p> <p>Clinical utility to guide selection of therapy has not yet been tested.</p>
Signal-averaged ECG (SAECG)	<p>An abnormal SAECG is likely a risk factor for SCD, based predominantly on prospective analyses.</p> <p>Clinical utility to guide selection of therapy has been tested, but not yet demonstrated.</p>
Short-term heart rate variability (HRV)	<p>Limited data link impaired short-term HRV to increased risk for SCD.</p> <p>Clinical utility to guide selection of therapy has not yet been tested.</p>
Long-term ambulatory ECG recording (Holter)	
Ventricular ectopy and NSVT	<p>The presence of ventricular arrhythmias (VPBs, NSVT) on Holter monitoring is a well-demonstrated risk factor for SCD.</p> <p>In some populations, the presence of NSVT has been effectively used to select high-risk patients for application of therapy to prevent sudden arrhythmic death. This may also have limited sensitivity.</p>
Long-term HRV	<p>Low HRV is a risk factor for mortality, but likely is not specific for SCD.</p> <p>Clinical utility to guide selection of therapy has been tested, but not demonstrated.</p>
Heart rate turbulence	<p>Emerging data show that abnormal heart rate turbulence is a likely risk factor for SCD.</p> <p>Clinical utility to guide selection of therapy has been tested, but not yet demonstrated.</p>
Exercise test/functional status	
Exercise capacity and NYHA class	<p>Increasing severity of heart failure is a likely risk factor for SCD, although it may be more predictive of risk for progressive pump failure.</p> <p>Clinical utility to guide selection of therapy has not yet been tested.</p>
Heart rate recovery and recovery ventricular ectopy	<p>Limited data show that low heart rate recovery and ventricular ectopy during recovery are risk factors for SCD.</p> <p>Clinical utility to guide selection of therapy has not yet been tested.</p>
T-wave alternans	<p>A moderate amount of prospective data suggests that abnormal T-wave alternans is a risk factor for SCD.</p> <p>Clinical utility to guide selection of therapy has been evaluated, but the results to date are inconsistent.</p>
Baroreceptor sensitivity (BRS)	<p>A moderate amount of data suggests that low BRS is a risk factor for SCD.</p> <p>Clinical utility to guide selection of therapy has not yet been tested.</p>

QRS duration

GUSTO-1 sub-study

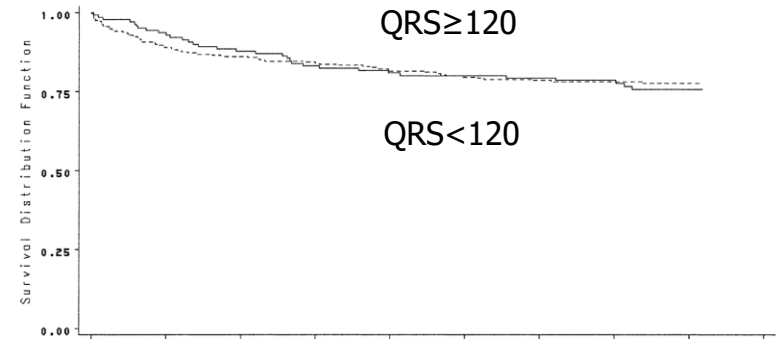


ECG Only Model

Predictor	Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)	χ^2
Sum ST-Segment Deviation (19 vs 8 mm)	1.53 (1.38-1.69)	69
Sum ST-Segment Decrease (-1 vs -7 mm)	0.77 (0.72-0.83)	56
Heart Rate (84 vs 60 beats per minute)	1.49 (1.41-1.59)	176
Sum ST Increase in Leads II, III, aVF (6 vs 0 mm)	0.79 (0.71-0.89)	16
QRS Duration (100 vs 80 milliseconds)		
Other Infarct Location	1.08 (1.03-1.13)	120
Anterior Infarct	1.55 (1.43-1.68)	
Anterior Infarction		
QRS Duration 100 milliseconds	1.08 (1.03-1.13)	32
QRS Duration 50 milliseconds	0.61 (0.43-0.86)	
Interior Infarction		
No Prior Myocardial Infarction	0.67 (0.50-0.90)	60
Prior Myocardial Infarction	1.41 (0.98-2.02)	
Prior Infarction		
Other Infarct Location	1.17 (0.98-1.41)	83
Inferior Infarct	2.47 (2.02-3.00)	

Figure 2.—Multivariable odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals for initial electrocardiographic (ECG) predictors of 30-day mortality. All *P* values are the same (<.001). Wald χ^2 values are given for the statistical significance of each factor after adjustment for all others listed.

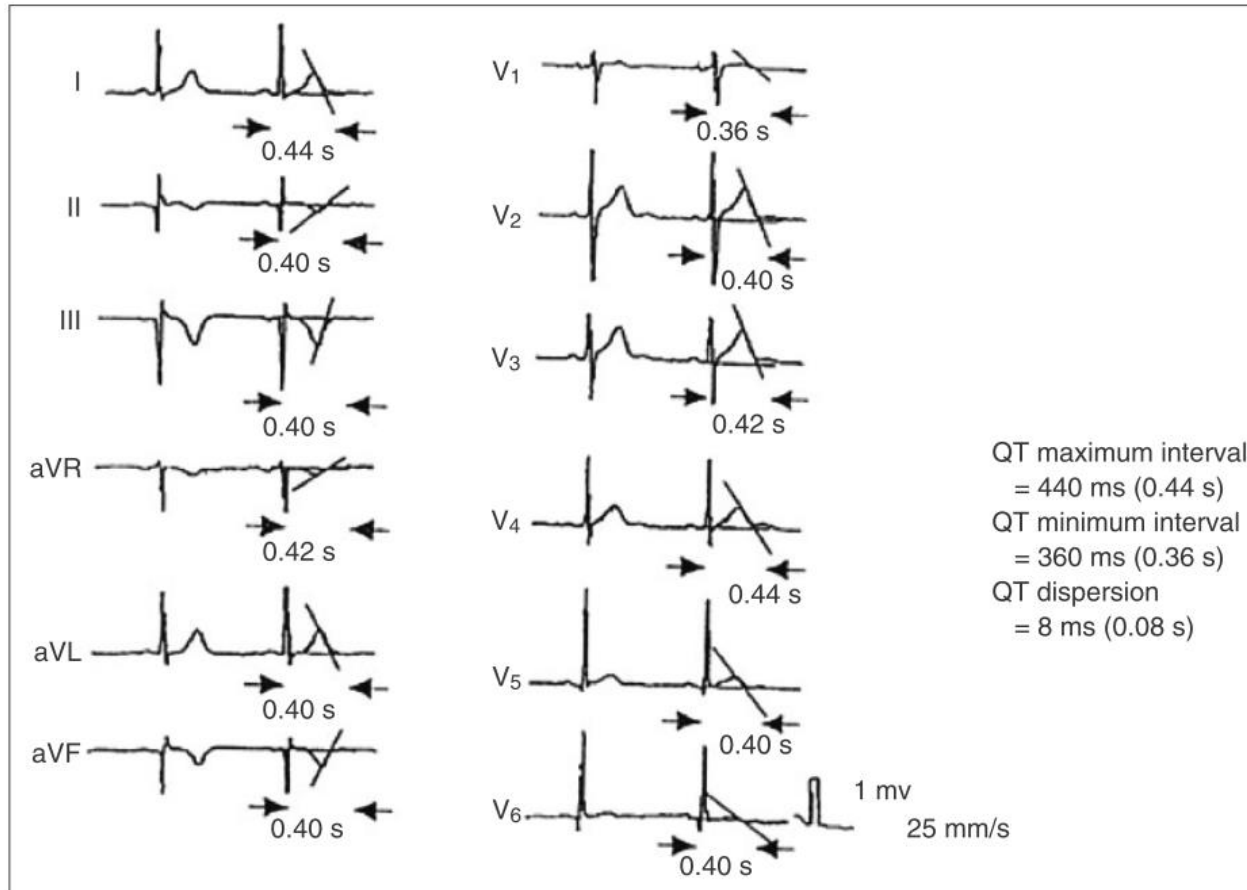
Pain FREE Rx II



QRS Cutoff (ms)	False Positives (n)	True Positives (n)	True Negatives (n)	False Negatives (n)	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)	Positive Predictive Value (%)	Negative Predictive Value (%)
80	303	90	33	5	95	10	23	87
90	271	82	65	13	86	19	23	83
100	198	54	138	41	57	41	21	77
110	168	46	168	49	48	50	21	77
120	108	32	228	63	34	68	23	78
130	92	26	244	69	27	73	22	78
140	56	18	280	77	19	83	24	78
150	43	17	293	78	18	87	28	79
160	13	8	323	87	8	96	38	79
170	12	6	324	89	6	96	33	78
180	2	2	334	93	2	99	50	78
190	1	1	335	94	1	99	50	78

- There is little evidence that increased QRS duration associated with an increased SCD
- Predictive value of QRS duration itself was limited

QT interval & QT dispersion



- $QT \text{ dispersion} = QT_{\text{max}} - QT_{\text{min}}$
- Non-invasive measurement of inhomogeneity in ventricular repolarization

QT dispersion

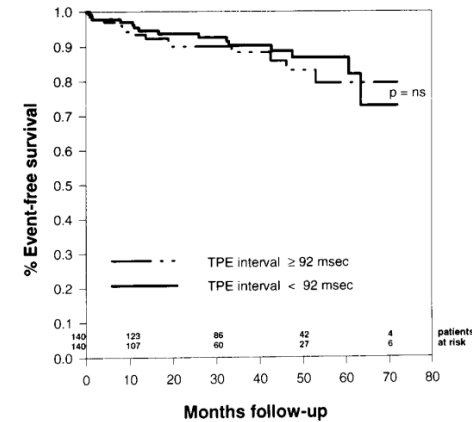
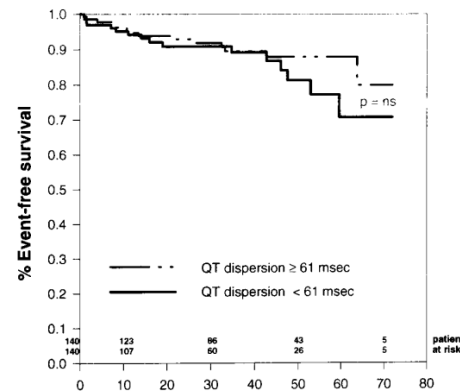
AIREX sub-study

Table 1 QT interval and QT dispersion measurements according to mortality status and the electrocardiographic presence of bundle branch block

	Survivors (n=320)	Deceased (n=181)	P value
Mean QT (ms)	382.0 ± 44.7	385.3 ± 44.9	0.42
Mean QTc (ms)	431.8 ± 33.4	447.2 ± 40.2	<0.001
QT dispersion (ms)	82.7 ± 34.3	92.0 ± 38.5	0.005
QTc dispersion (ms)	93.1 ± 35.9	105.7 ± 42.7	<0.001
	Patients without bundle branch block n=467	Patients with bundle branch block n=34	
Mean QT (ms)	381.8 ± 43.6	402.1 ± 55.8	0.01
Mean QTc (ms)	435.1 ± 35.5	469.1 ± 39.3	<0.001
QT dispersion (ms)	85.6 ± 35.7	91.6 ± 40.8	0.41

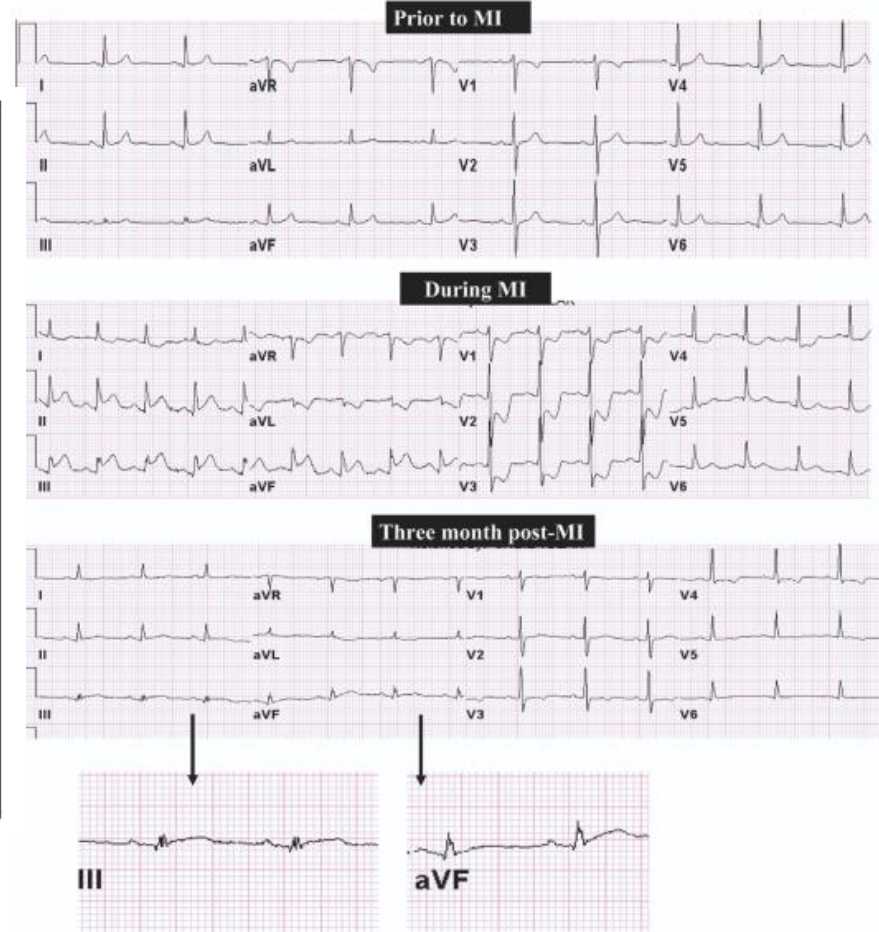
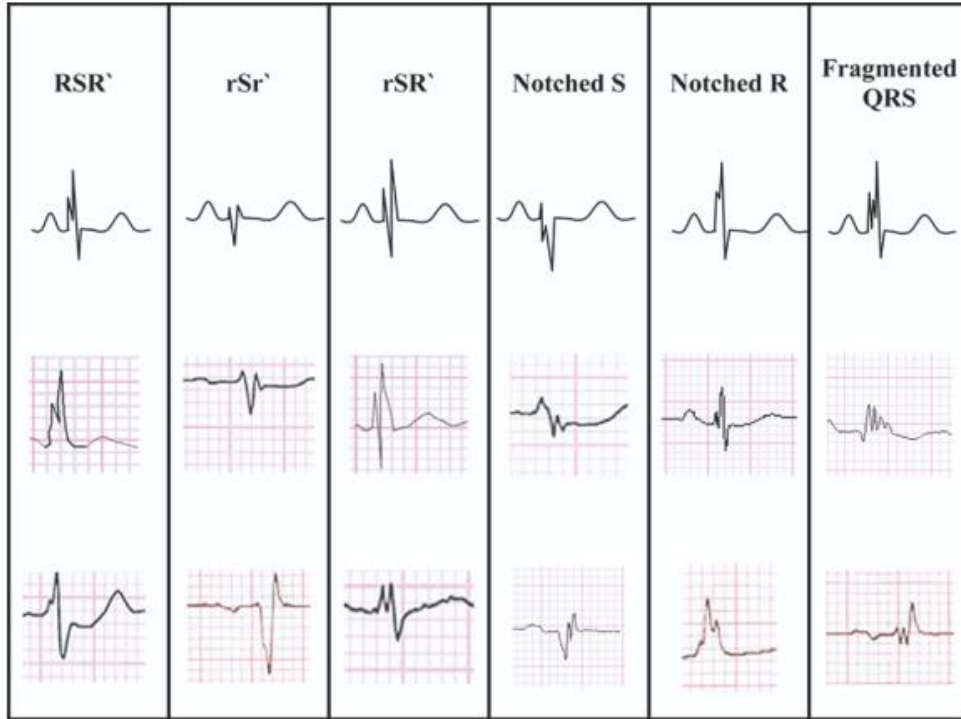
Mean ± SD.

VA registry



- Relationship between prolonged QT interval and QT dispersion to the SCD showed varying results
 - Inter-observer variability or wide overlaps in QT measurement
 - Genetic and racial factors may also be relevant

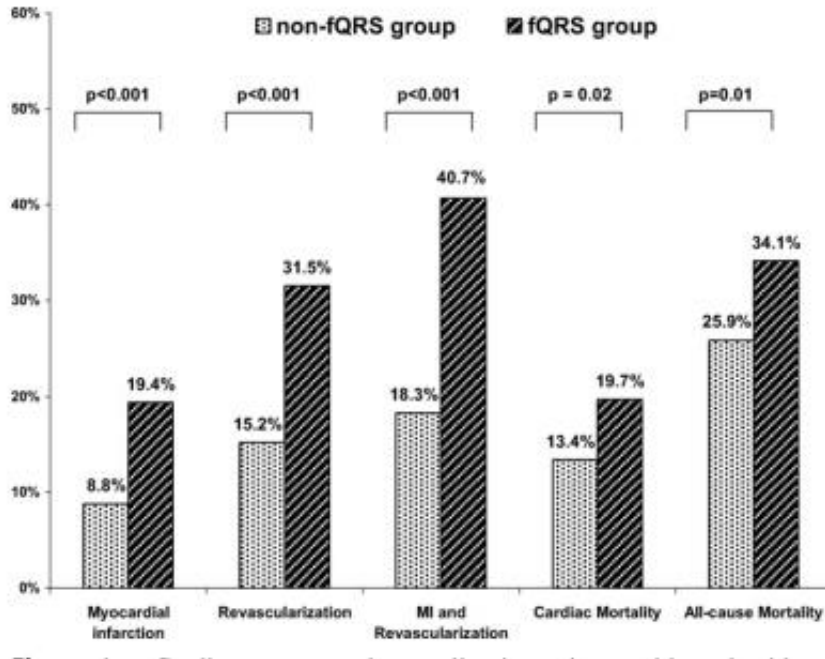
QRS fragmentation



- Additional R wave (R') or notching in the nadir of S, notching of R, more than one R' (fragmentation)
- Represent the conduction delay caused by regional myocardial scar

QRS fragmentation

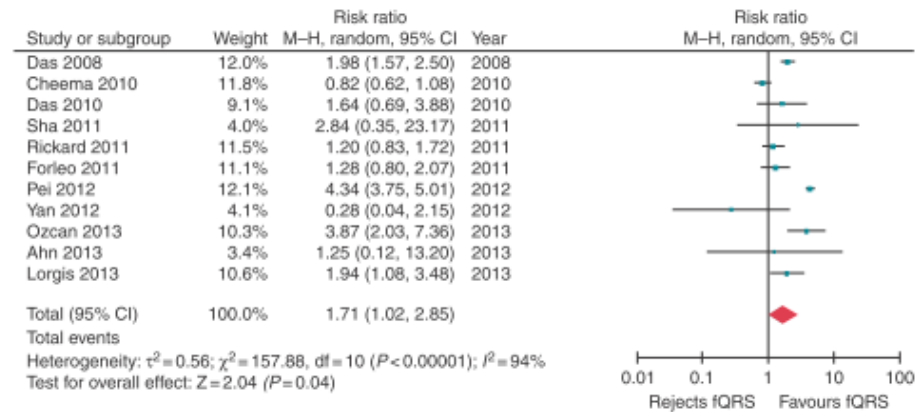
Clinical outcomes



LV aneurysm

Total Number of Patients Studied (N = 330)	LVA Present (N = 110)	LVA Absent (N = 220) ^a
Fragmented QRS present (N = 66)	55 (True-positive)	11 (False-positive)
Fragmented QRS absent (N = 264)	55 (False-negative)	209 (True-negative)

PPV 83.3%; NPV 79.2%



- fQRS is a strong independent predictor of major cardiovascular events
- It also associated with LV aneurysm, prior myocardial infarction, or perfusion abnormality after revascularization

Heart Rhythm 2007;4:1385

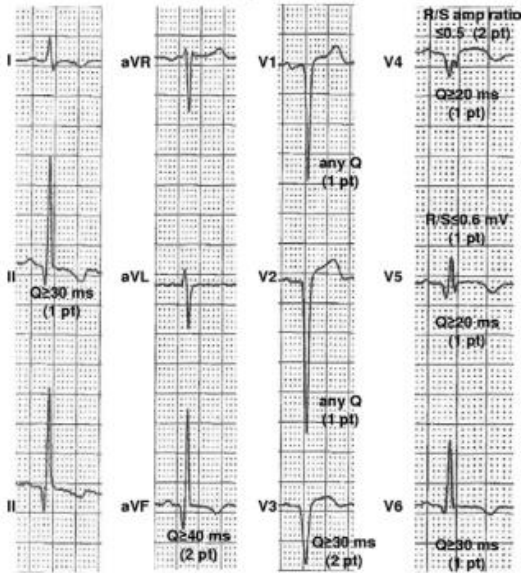
Ann Noninvasive Electrocardiol 2006;11:132

Europace 2015;17:969

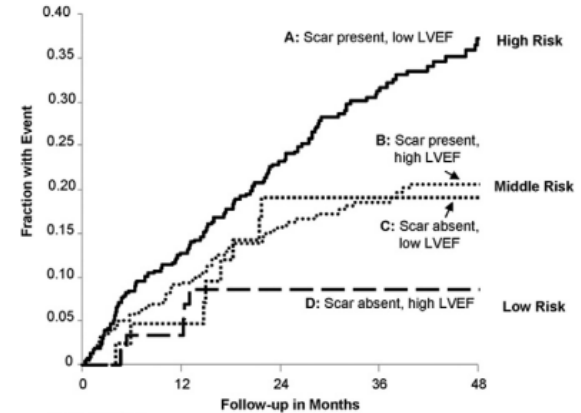
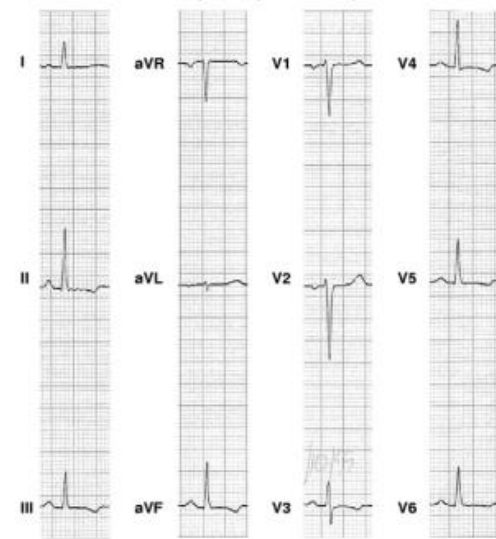


QRS scoring

A. Patient has 13 QRS points (39% LV scar)



B. Patient has no QRS points (0% LV scar)



Group	Number at Risk				
	0	12	24	36	48
A	360	299	254	166	90
B	335	295	267	168	105
C	42	40	36	29	20
D	59	56	51	37	23

	Hazard Ratio	P-Value
Low- vs. High-Risk	0.27	<0.0001
Middle- vs. High-Risk	0.56	<0.0001
Low- vs. Middle-Risk	0.49	0.09

Appendix: QRS-Scoring Criteria												
Lead	LAD			LAD+R			LAD+R+L			No Conduction System		
	Criteria	Points	Max	Criteria	Points	Max	Criteria	Points	Max	Criteria	Points	Max
I	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1
II	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1
III	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1
aVR	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1
aVL	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1
aVF	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1
V1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1
V2	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1
V3	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1
V4	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1
V5	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1
V6	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1	R/S1.1	1	1
Total	Points			Points			Points			Points		

QRS Score Instructions

- Select coders with appropriate conduction (an highlights show differences in criteria between conduction types).
- Age normalize all amplitude criteria to age 55 by increasing them 1% for age 20-54 and decreasing them 1% for >55 yrs.
- For bundles further decrease by 10% all QRS and QRSmax criteria.
- Circle each QRS criteria met; if >1 criterion in a box met, select one with most points.

Waveform Definitions

R/S R in total R

DER notch in notch in initial 40 ms

Additional Rules

- * for V1-V6 all anterolateral QRS points present (other than QS), then count QS in V1-V3.
- ** For postoperative criteria exclude if right atrial overload present (suggesting QRS1) if positive amplitude in V1 or V2 P/Q1 > 1 mV or aVF P/Q1 > 1 mV.

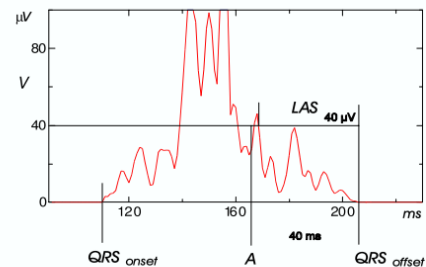
12 LV Segments

Total QRS points
% LV scar

- ECG scoring to quantify myocardial scar
- Quantification of substrate for the reentrant tachycardia
- SCD-HeFT population
 - Scar presence = LVEF <25%

Signal-averaged ECG

Signal-averaged ECG parameters



• QRS duration:

$$QRSd = QRS_{offset} - QRS_{onset}$$

• Root mean square:

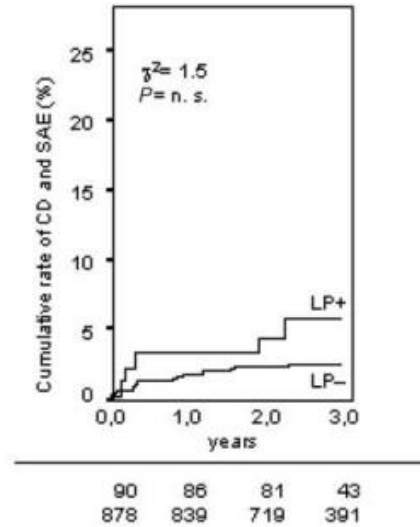
$$RMS = \sqrt{\frac{1}{QRS_{offset} - A} \sum_{i=A}^{QRS_{offset}} V_i^2}$$

• Duration of the low amplitude signal:

$$LAS = QRS_{offset} - \text{argmax}\{i | V_i \geq 40 \mu V\}$$

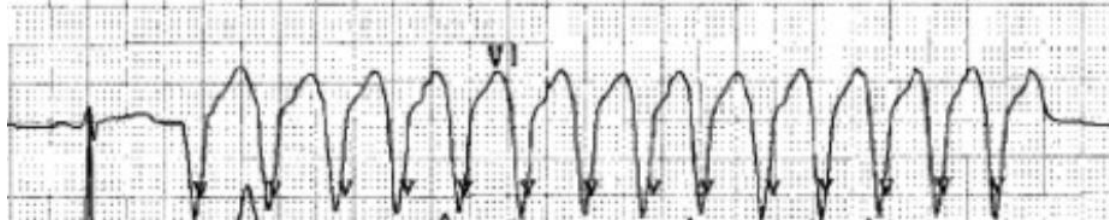
Predictor	Arrhythmic Death/Cardiac Arrest		Cardiac Death	
	χ^2	P	χ^2	P
Continuous variables				
Filtered QRS duration	29.2	<0.001	34.0	<0.001
RMS voltage	14.3	0.004	17.0	<0.001
Duration of LAS	0.3	0.59	0.2	0.62
Dichotomous variables				
Filtered QRS duration (>114 vs ≤114 ms)	23.1	<0.001	20.8	<0.001
RMS voltage (<20 vs ≥20 μV)	0.3	0.59	0.1	0.73
Duration of LAS (<38 vs ≥38 ms)	1.6	0.21	0.3	0.58

LAS indicates low-amplitude signals.



- Identify the late potential using amplified high-resolution ECG
- Associated with mortality, cardiac arrest, and VT inducibility
- Good NPV but low PPV
- Prognostic value has become less clear in PCI era

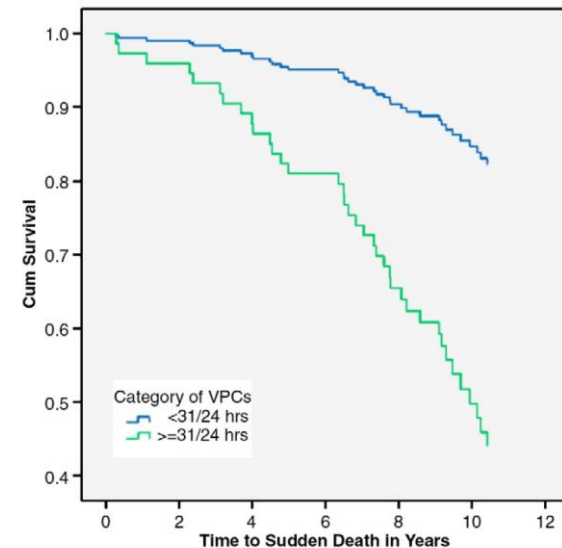
Non-sustained VT



FINGER registry

	EF ≤ 35% (n = 226)		EF > 35% (n = 1904)	
	SCD (n = 17)		SCD (n = 35)	
	HR (95% CI)	P-value	HR (95% CI)	P-value
Multivariable analysis^a				
NsVT	2.1 (0.7–6.7)	0.2010	3.5 (1.5–8.2)	0.0021
VPCs > 10/h	1.9 (0.7–5.4)	0.3322	1.2 (0.5–3.1)	0.7345
SDNN < 70 ms	1.3 (0.5–3.4)	0.6148	1.5 (0.7–3.4)	0.3074
SDNN (continuous)	1.00 (0.98–1.02)	0.7733	0.99 (0.97–1.00)	0.0292
ln VLF < 5.3	0.8 (0.2–3.9)	0.7996	2.7 (1.0–7.1)	0.0505
ln VLF (continuous)	1.26 (0.75–2.11)	0.3726	0.62 (0.46–0.82)	0.0008
ln LF < 3.85	0.7 (0.2–3.4)	0.6979	2.6 (0.9–7.9)	0.0826
ln LF (continuous)	1.24 (0.79–1.95)	0.3450	0.63 (0.50–0.81)	0.0002
TS (≤2.5 ms/RR)	1.0 (0.4–2.1)	0.9310	4.7 (2.3–9.8)	0.0001
TS (continuous)	1.04 (0.89–1.21)	0.6418	0.77 (0.67–0.88)	0.0001
DFA (α ₁ < 0.75)	1.0 (0.4–2.7)	0.5123	2.7 (1.3–5.7)	0.0088
DFA (continuous)	1.53 (0.13–17.4)	0.7317	0.26 (0.06–1.10)	0.0673
QRS ≥ 120 ms	0.9 (0.3–3.1)	0.9843	3.2 (1.4–7.3)	0.0039
QRS (continuous)	1.00 (0.98–1.02)	1.0000	1.00 (1.00–1.00)	0.4845

CHS study

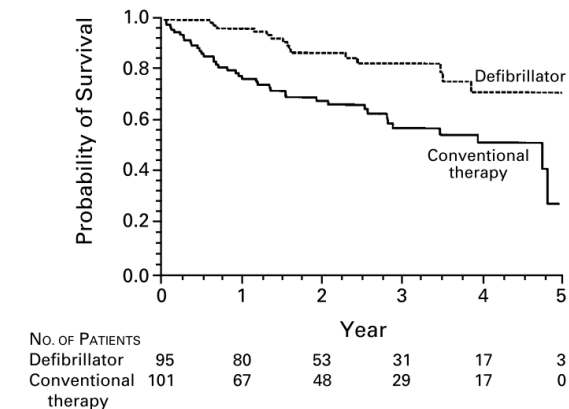


- Non-sustained VT or frequent PVCs are useful predictor in patients with LVEF > 35%
- Routine use for assessing SCD risk is limited for low sensitivity and specificity

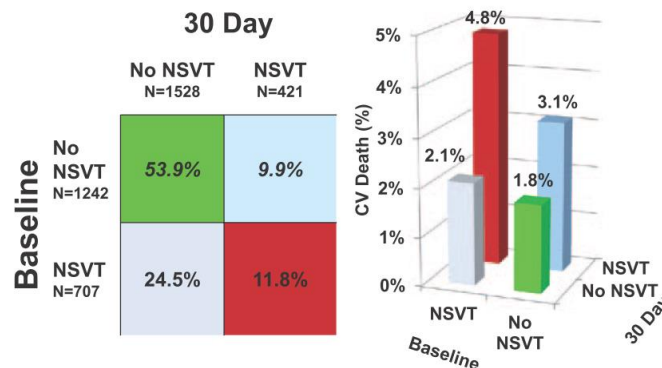
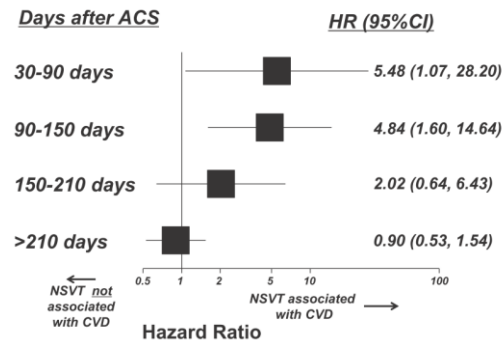
Non-sustained VT

MADIT trial

Methods Over the course of five years, 196 patients in New York Heart Association functional class I, II, or III with prior myocardial infarction; a left ventricular ejection fraction ≤ 0.35 ; a documented episode of asymptomatic unsustained ventricular tachycardia; and inducible, nonsuppressible ventricular tachyarrhythmia on electrophysiologic study were randomly assigned to receive an implanted defibrillator (n = 95) or conventional medical therapy (n = 101). We used a two-sided sequential design with death from any cause as the end point.



PLATO sub-study



- MADIT trial demonstrate the NSVT or inducible VT benefited from the ICD therapy
- PLATO trial sub-study, 2,866 patients with 7 –day Holter at acute stage and convalescent phase (30 days)

HRV

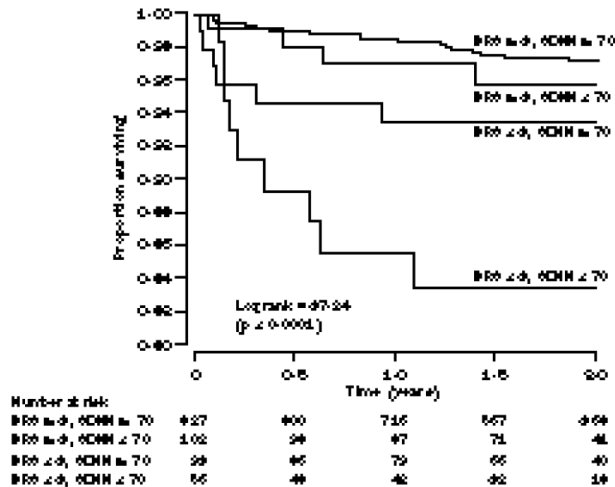


Figure 1: Kaplan-Meier survival curves for total cardiac mortality according to BRS, SDNN, and their combination
p value refers to differences in event rates between subgroups.

	Relative risk (95% CI)	p
Model including BRS		
LVEF		
35–50%	2.1 (0.90–4.69)	0.08
<35%	4.7 (2.04–10.9)	0.0003
BRS (ms per mm Hg)		
3.0–6.1	1.7 (0.81–3.69)	0.15
<3.0	2.8 (1.24–6.16)	0.01
≥10 VPC/h	1.8 (0.94–3.46)	0.07
Model including SDNN		
LVEF		
35–50%	1.9 (0.87–4.49)	0.10
<35%	3.9 (1.69–9.25)	0.001
SDNN (ms)		
70–105	1.9 (0.86–4.04)	0.11
<70	3.2 (1.42–7.36)	0.005
≥10 VPC/h	1.8 (0.97–3.50)	0.06

Table 4: Multivariate Cox proportional-regression models

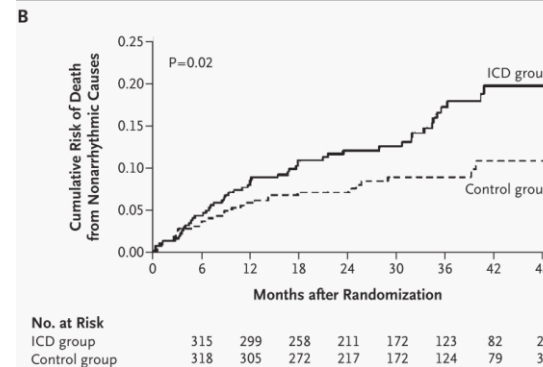
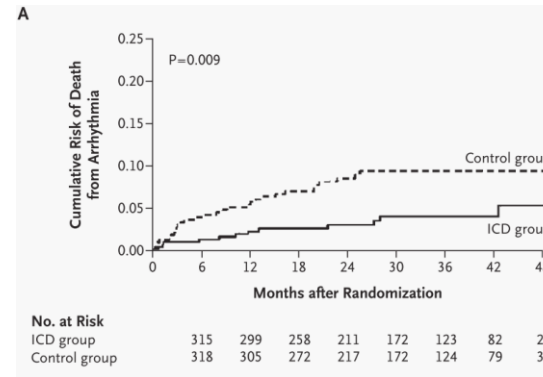
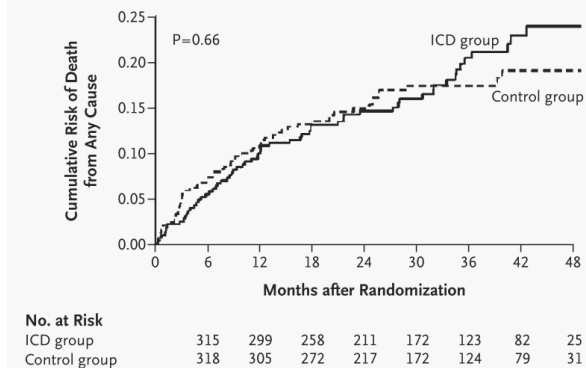
- Monitoring Short (2-30 min) or longer (24 hour) periods
- Decreased HRV associated with increased arrhythmia and mortality
- Use of HRV to predict SCD risk in patients with CAD is limited
 - Effect of ischemia and PCI on HRV
 - Effect of age, gender, medications (BB or ACEi)
 - Atrial fibrillation

HRV

DYNAMIT trial

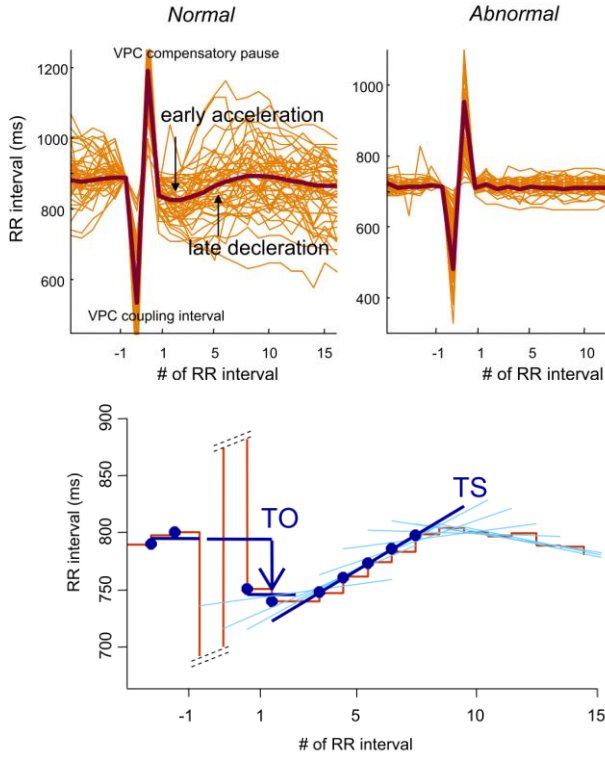
PATIENT POPULATION

Patients aged 18 to 80 years were eligible if they had recently had a myocardial infarction (6 to 40 days previously) and if they had a left ventricular ejection fraction of 0.35 or less, as assessed by angiography, radionuclide scanning, or echocardiography. Patients also had to have a standard deviation of normal-to-normal RR intervals of 70 msec or less or a mean RR interval of 750 msec or less (heart rate, 80 beats per minute or greater) over a 24-hour period,⁸⁻¹² as assessed by 24-hour Holter monitoring performed at least three days after the infarction.



- Impaired autonomic function are associated with increased mortality
- ICD implantation failed to demonstrate the benefit in patients with LVEF + HRV patients
- Reduced death from arrhythmia which was offset by non-arrhythmic death

HR turbulence



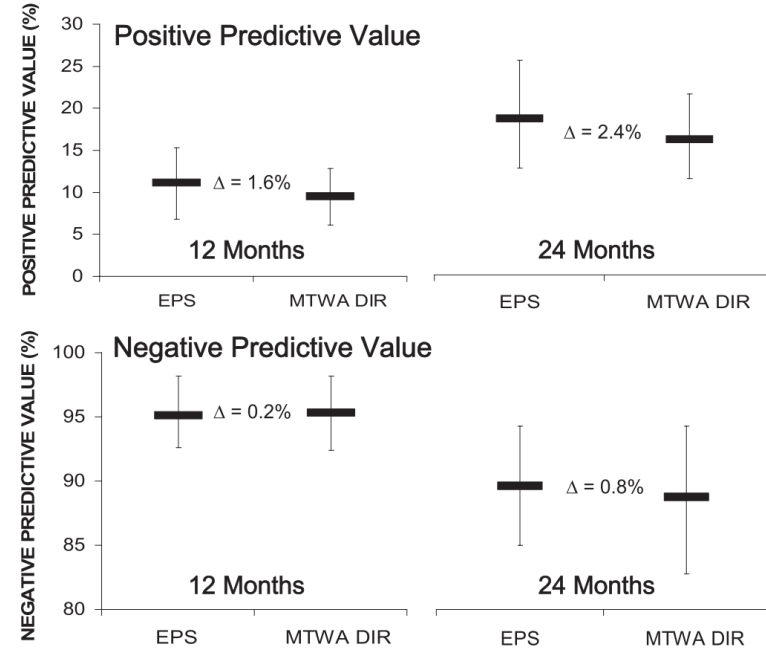
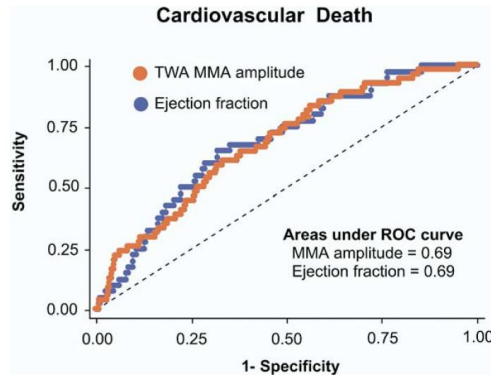
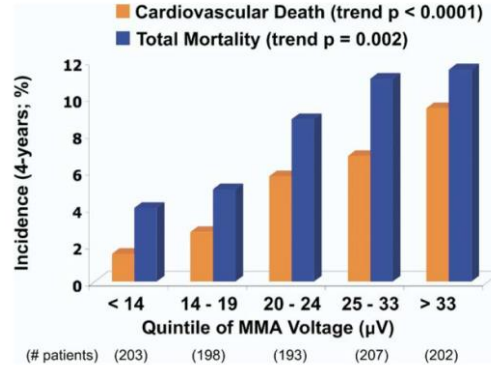
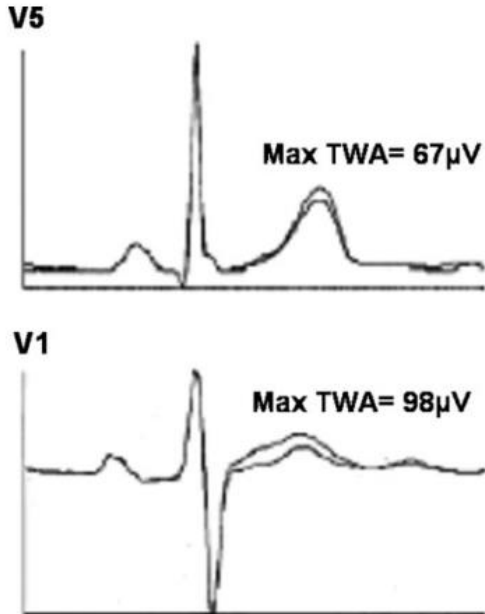
	MPIP	EMIAT	ATRAMI	CAST	ISAR-HRT	FINGER	REFINE
Number of patients	577	614	1,212	744	1,455	2,130	322
Inclusion criteria*	MI ≤4 weeks Age ≤70 yrs	MI ≤4 weeks Age ≤75 yrs LVEF ≤40%	MI ≤4 weeks Age ≤80 yrs	MI ≥6 VPC/h	MI ≤4 weeks Age ≤75 yrs	MI ≤4 weeks Age ≤75 yrs	MI LVEF <50%
Follow-up (months)	22	21	20	55	22	33	47
End point	Mortality	Mortality	Cardiac mortality†	Mortality	Mortality	Sudden death	Cardiac death
End points reached (%)	13	14	4	29‡	5	2	9
Treatment of acute MI	None	60% lysis	63% lysis	28% lysis	90% PCI 6% lysis	70% PCI 14% lysis	45% PCI 21% lysis
Mean LVEF (%)	45	30	49	37	56	Not specified	47
Beta-blockers (%)	55	32	20§	30	93	94	92
Univariate analysis							
HRT category 2	5.0 (2.8-8.8)	4.4 (2.6-7.5)	6.9 (3.1-15.5)	Not specified	11.4 (5.7-22.8)	4.6 (2.6-8.1)	2.9 (1.1-7.5)¶
LVEF ≤30%	4.0 (2.5-6.4)	2.2 (1.4-3.5)	4.7 (2.6-8.3)	Not specified	7.1 (4.2-12.1)	4.5 (2.5-8.0)#	3.3 (1.4-7.6)
Multivariate analysis							
HRT category 2	3.2 (1.7-6.0)	3.2 (1.8-5.6)	4.1 (1.7-9.8)	20.4 (10.2-30.6)**	5.9 (2.9-12.2)	2.9 (1.6-5.5)	Not specified
LVEF ≤30%	2.9 (1.8-4.9)	1.7 (1.1-2.7)	3.5 (1.8-7.1)	Not specified	4.5 (2.6-7.8)	Not specified	Not specified

- Short term fluctuation in sinus CL after VPCs
- Powerful predictor of SCD in patients with CAD
- Compensatory Mx to PVC induced CO↓ + low SBP
→ baroreceptor activation
- Affected by age, medication, LV function, revascularization
- Not tested in the prospective data

T wave alternans

REVINE and FINCAVAS

ABCD study



- Dispersion of repolarization
- Increased TWA associated with SCD
- MTWA achieved 1-year PPV 9% and NPV 95%, comparable to EPS
- Useful for identifying low-risk patients.

Clin Cardiol 2011;34:466

J Am Coll Cardiol 2009;53:1130

J Am Coll Cardiol 2009;53:471



Current status



ESC

European Society
of Cardiology

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doi:10.1093/europace/uaa065

EHRA POSITION PAPER

European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA)/Heart Rhythm Society (HRS)/Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society (APHRS)/Latin American Heart Rhythm Society (LAHRS) expert consensus on risk assessment in cardiac arrhythmias: use the right tool for the right outcome, in the right population

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Electrocardiographic methods including monitoring

Twelve-lead electrocardiogram (ECG) should be obtained in all patients undergoing evaluation for known or suspected heart disease.



17

The 12-lead ECG provides diagnostic and prognostic information in patients with inherited high-risk syndromes including long QT syndrome (LQTS), short QT syndrome, Brugada Syndrome, and arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy (ACM) and should be obtained.



17

Exercise ECG provides diagnostic and prognostic information for patients with LQTS ACM, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM), catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia, and documented or suspected arrhythmias related to exertion, and should be obtained.



17

Ambulatory ECG evidence of non-sustained ventricular tachycardia provides prognostic information in ischaemic cardiomyopathy, ACM, and HCM and should be obtained.



17

The signal-averaged ECG and QRS fragmentation may aid in the diagnosis of ACM.



18

The signal-averaged ECG and QRS fragmentation may be useful in risk stratification of Brugada syndrome.



18

Heart rate variability, heart rate turbulence, signal-averaged ECG, and T wave alternans analysis, when used in combination with additional clinical, electrocardiographic, and structural measures, may be useful for identifying high- and low-risk groups among patients with acquired structural heart disease.



19

Primary prevention of VT/VF in patients with ICM and LVEF > 35%	Class	References
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ICM substrate and ischaemic triggers for VT/VF must be evaluated when appropriate (coronary angiogram, functional ischaemic evaluation by nuclear scan, stress-echocardiography or MRI).



54,70,71

EPS and non-sustained VT evaluation could be considered to improve VT/VF risk stratification in patients with relatively preserved LVEF, particularly in the convalescent phase (first 2 months) after an acute coronary syndrome.



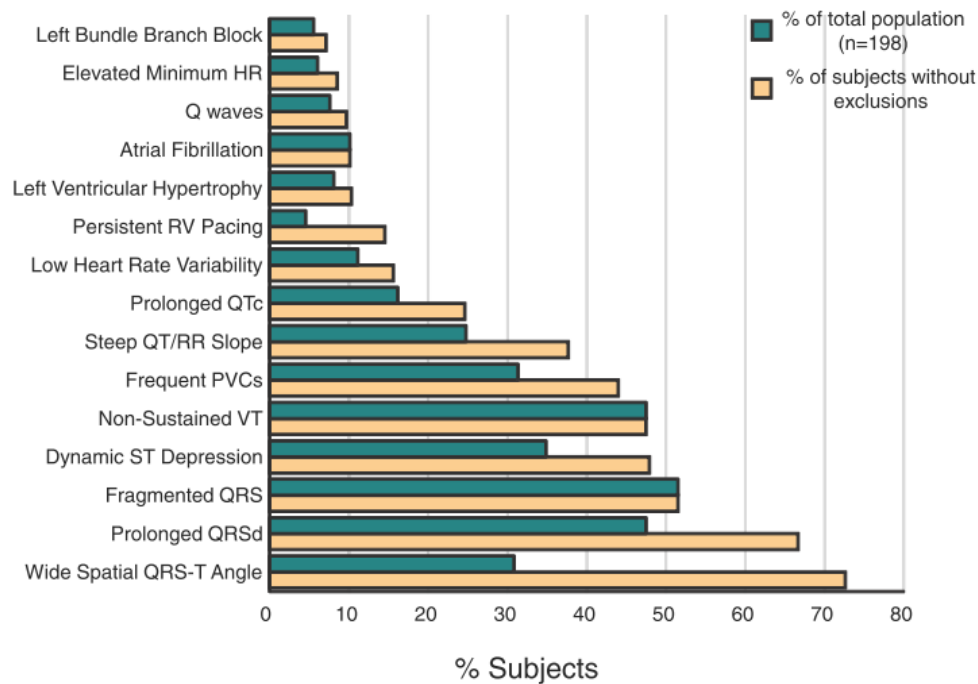
311,373,374

Heart rate variability (HRV), LVP, baroreflex sensitivity, QT-interval dispersion, T-wave alternans and heart rate turbulence have not been evaluated adequately in this population for generalized use.



73,371,372

Limitations of ECG parameters



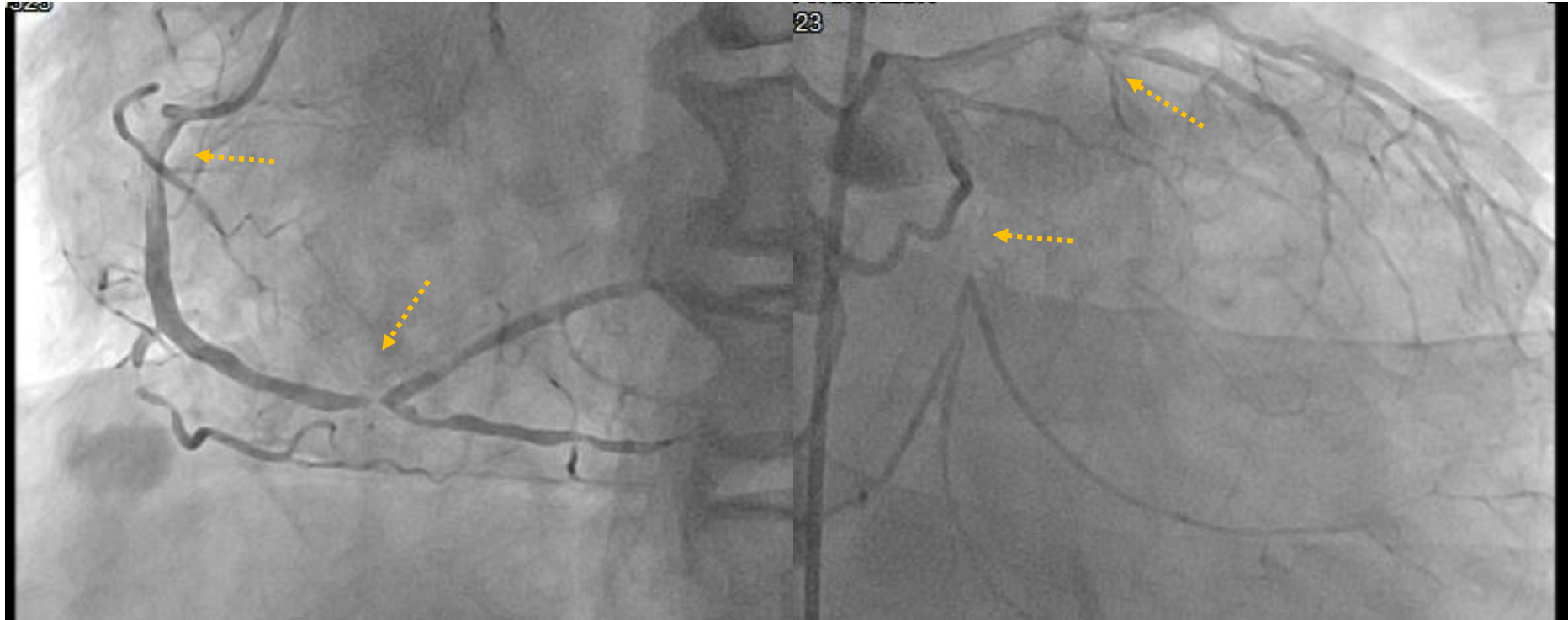
- ECG parameters are ubiquitous in patients with ischemic cardiomyopathy
- Generally good NPV, but poor PPV
- ECG is big-picture of myocardial depolarization and repolarization
- Lack of prospective studies with intervention

ECG-Based Test	Advantages	Disadvantages/Limitations	Practical Value for Risk Stratification
12-lead ECG	Cheap, quick and easy to perform; can be obtained serially at each follow-up visit to reassess risk; large databases can be generated and analyzed retrospectively/prospectively	Many abnormal parameters are markers of increased mortality, rather than specifically SCD; low positive predictive and negative predictive accuracies; subject to interobserver variability (unless automated software is used); considerable overlap in some parameters between healthy subjects and patients	Remains a standard investigation in patients with CAD; low positive and negative predictive accuracies for SCD limit its practical use in risk stratification and selection of ICD candidates
Signal-averaged ECG	Easy and quick to perform; high negative predictive accuracy; can be used in patients with AF	Low positive predictive accuracy; numerous negative studies, especially in current era of interventional cardiology; better at predicting risk of VT than VF; normal standards for patients with bundle branch block or paced rhythm have not been established	Improved risk stratification when used in combination with other tests; probably more useful in identifying low-risk patients; not useful alone for risk stratification
Standard 24-hr Holter	Provides information on other arrhythmias in patients with CAD (eg, AF, heart block); standard test, easy to perform; can be used in patients in AF or paced rhythms	Low sensitivity and specificity	Most promising use is in combination with other parameters (eg, HRV and HRT) obtained from Holter recordings; not useful alone for risk stratification
Heart rate variability	Can be automatically recorded with standard Holter (using additional software); short (2–30 min) and longer (24 h) measurements are possible	Cannot be reliably assessed in patients with AF or frequent PVCs. Influenced by a number of factors (eg, age, medication); may be affected by functional state of sinus node; short-term measurements in risk prediction have not been well tested; no consensus on which parameters of HRV or method of assessment is best	Current practical use for risk stratification is limited as a consensus opinion on which parameters of HRV to record and which method of assessing HRV is required
Heart rate turbulence	Value in risk prediction post-AMI supported by several recent large-scale prospective studies; provides prognostic information in patients with normal and impaired LVEF	Optimal time post-AMI to perform the test has not been established; can only be performed in patients in SR with a significant number of PVCs; use in patients with CAD and no history of AMI not well established	A promising test for risk prediction that can be used with other Holter-based measurements; limited practical use at present in the absence of clear guidelines for risk stratification
T-wave alternans	Easy to perform; can use existing equipment or modification of equipment; high negative predictive accuracy	Can only be used in patients in SR; “clean” ECG trace required (difficult to obtain during exercise); indeterminate result if target heart rate not achieved during exercise; low positive predictive accuracy	Useful in risk stratifying patients with impaired and preserved LVEF; useful role in determining which patients are unlikely to benefit from ICD insertion; improved risk stratification when used in combination with other tests; clear guidelines awaited for practical use for risk stratification

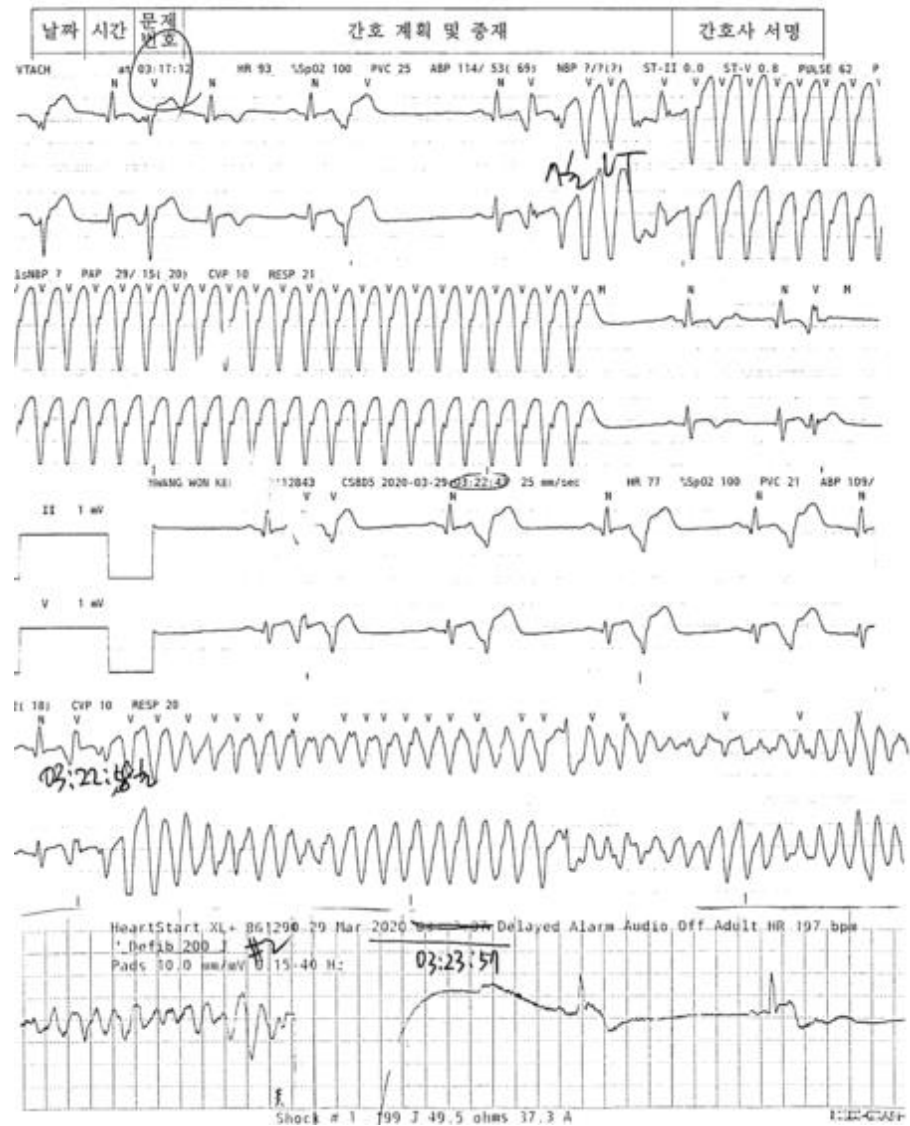
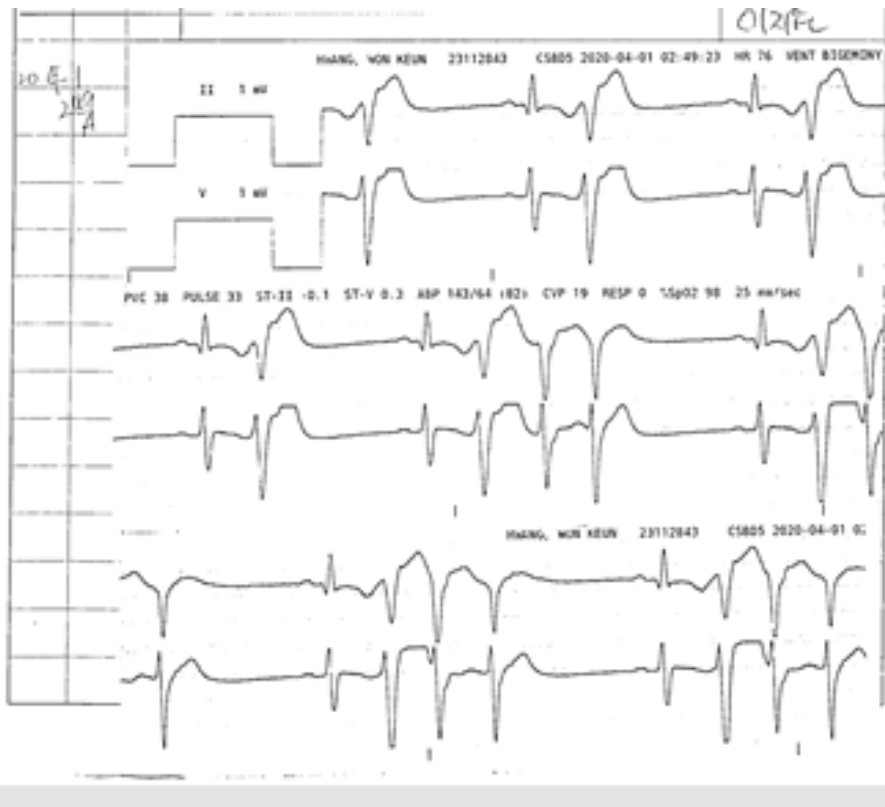
Abbreviations: AF, atrial fibrillation; AMI, acute myocardial infarction; CAD, coronary artery disease; ECG, electrocardiogram; HRT, heart rate turbulence; HRV, heart rate variability; ICD, implantable cardioverter defibrillator; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; PVC, premature ventricular complex; SCD, sudden cardiac death; SR, sinus rhythm; VF, ventricular fibrillation; VT, ventricular tachycardia.

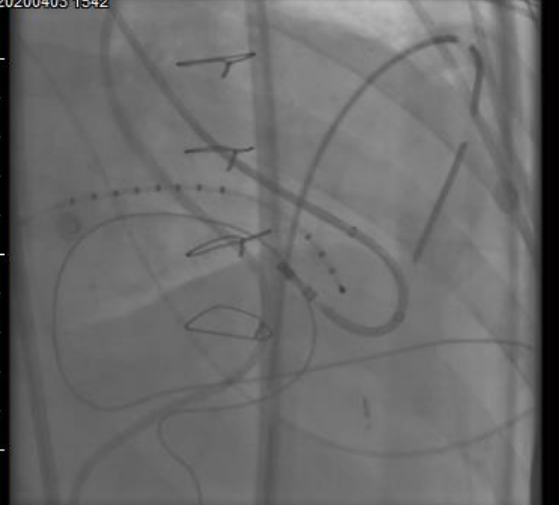
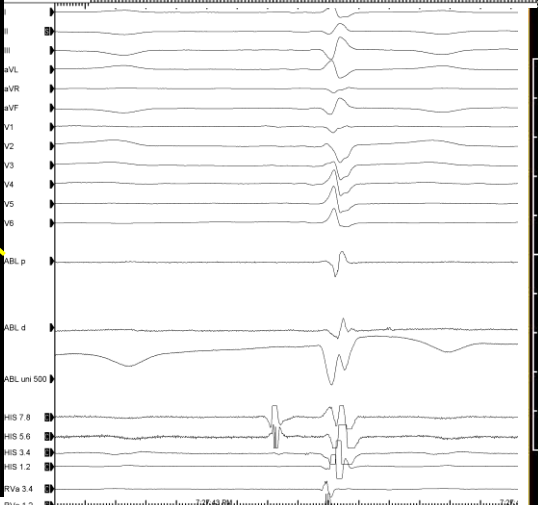
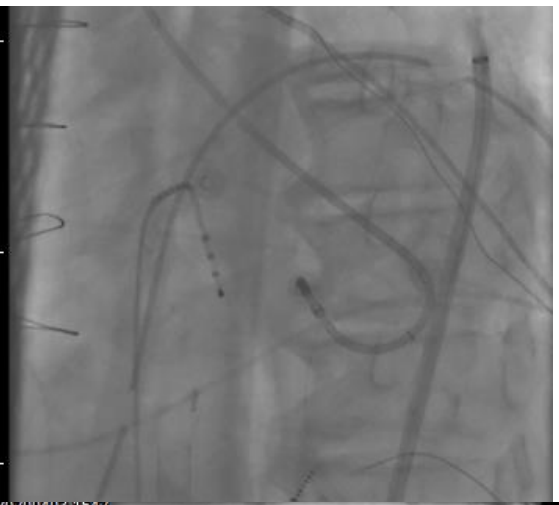
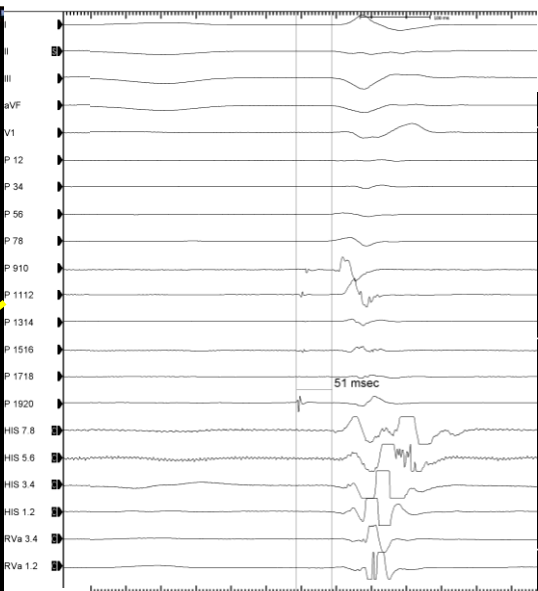
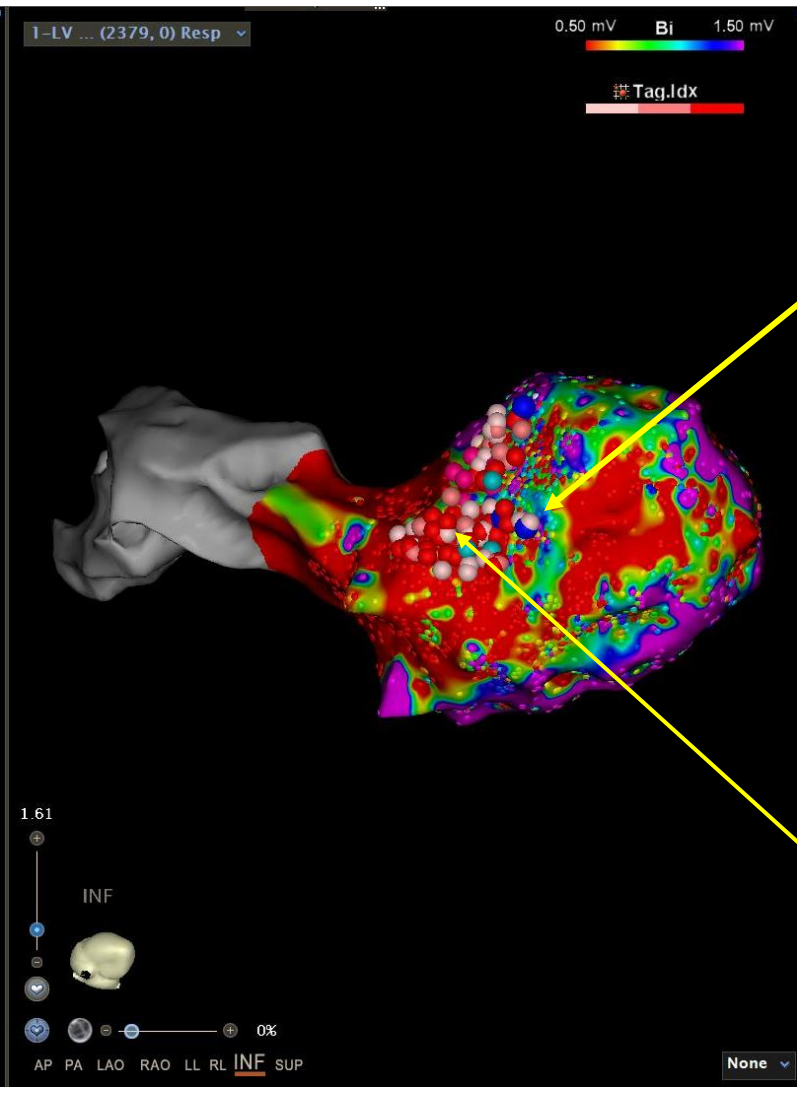


Coronary angiography

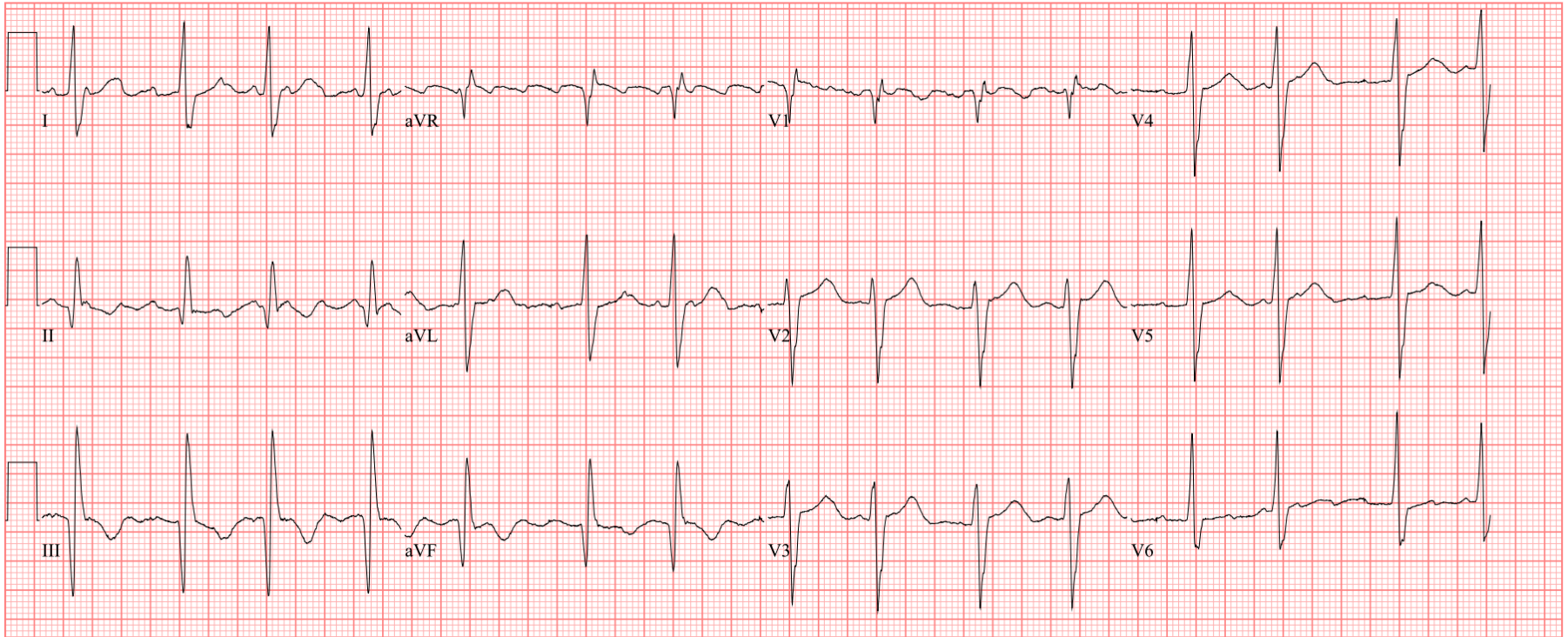


- NSTEMI with congestive heart failure
- Proceed urgent CABG



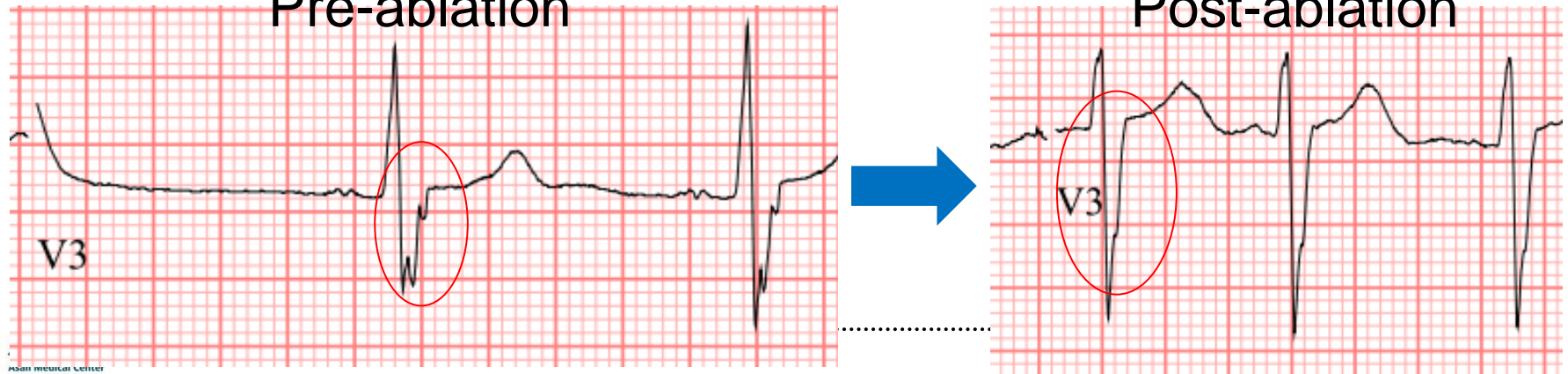


Post-procedure ECG



Pre-ablation

Post-ablation



Summary

- CAD with EF>35% are large group of patients unprotected by current guideline
- Several parameters provide prognostic information, but their sole use in predicting SCD is limited
- ECGs are still useful for clinicians
 - Markers of significant LV dysfunction
 - Perform additional investigations to refine the risk of SCD
- Future studies for the better refinement of ECG predictors are required