

Efficacy and safety of intracardiac echocardiography (ICE) in VT ablation



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ICE CATHETER



- Phased-array systems use a linear array of crystals parallel to the catheter body to produce a sector scan parallel to the long axis of the catheter.
- A **phased-array** ultrasound-tipped catheter is preferable, especially in catheter-based ablation procedures because of sector imaging, flexibility in changing the frequency, and full Doppler capabilities.



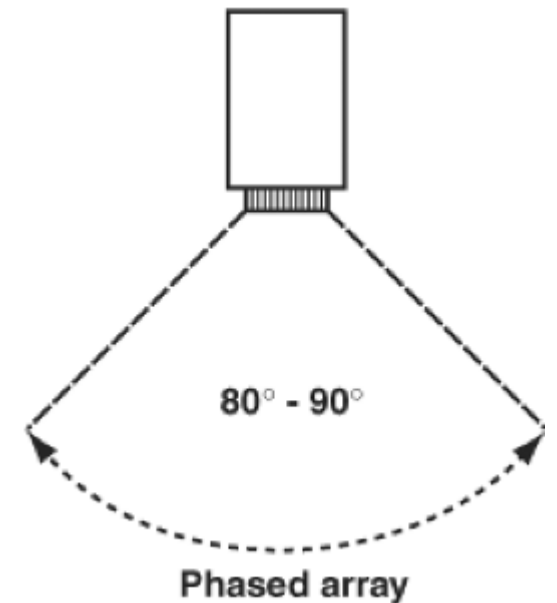
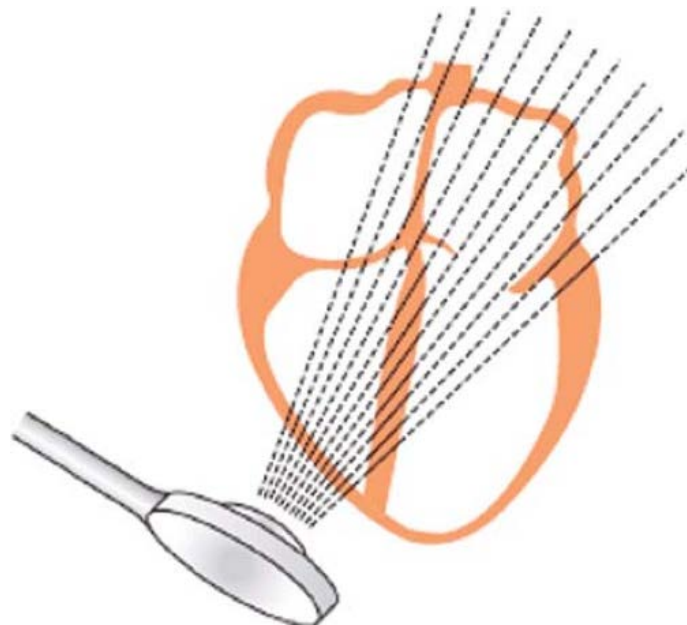
Linear
phased
array
transducer



C

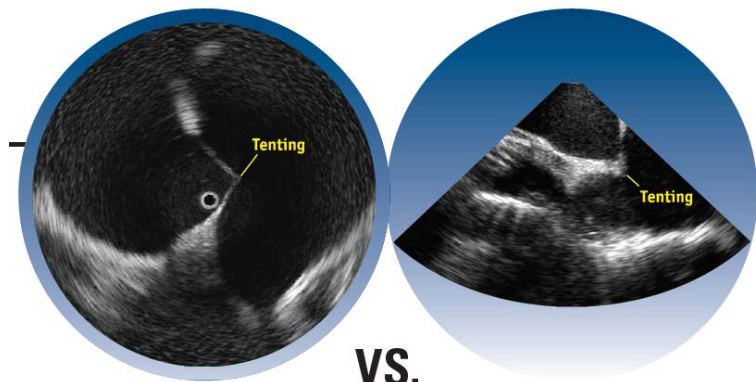
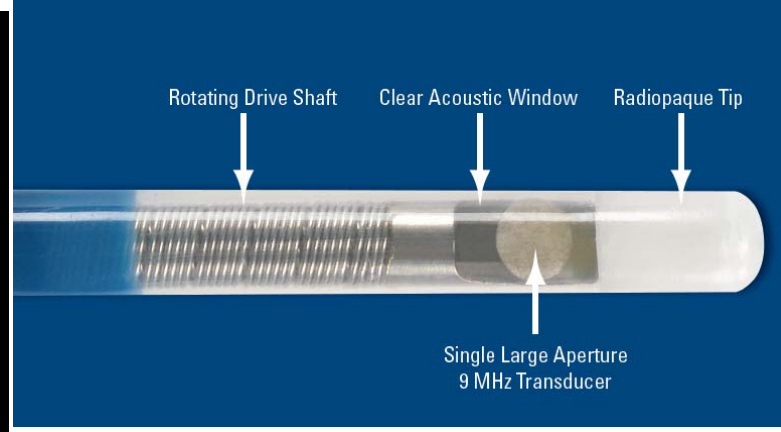
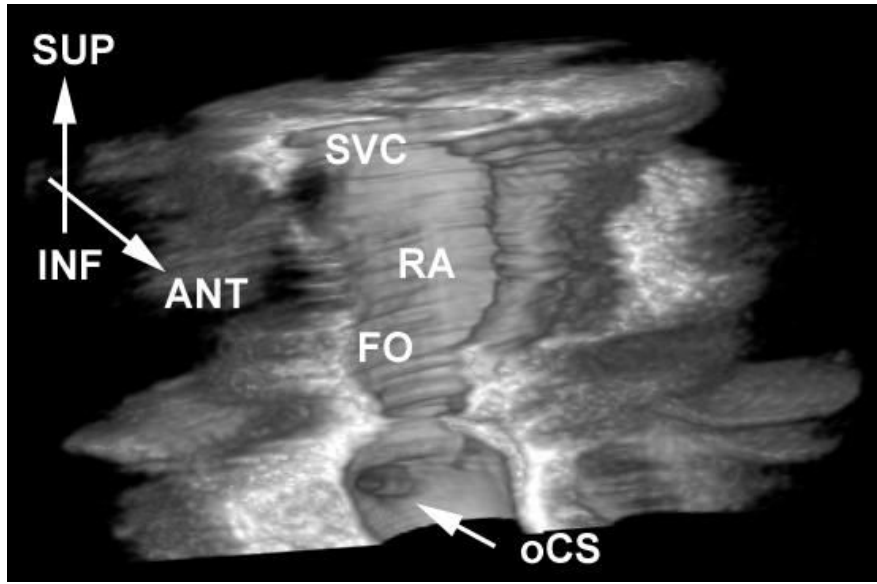
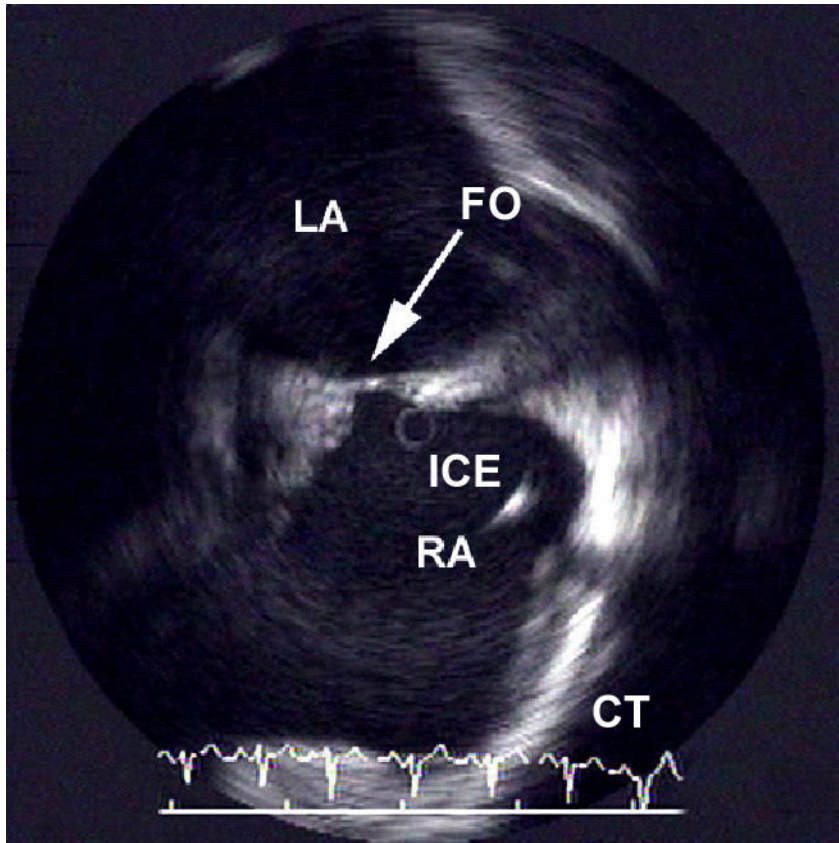


4 way
steering
handle





- **Radial ICE:** A crystal rotates providing cross-sectional images in a 360° radial plane. 3-D reconstruction of the anatomy can be obtained by pulling the catheter within the heart.



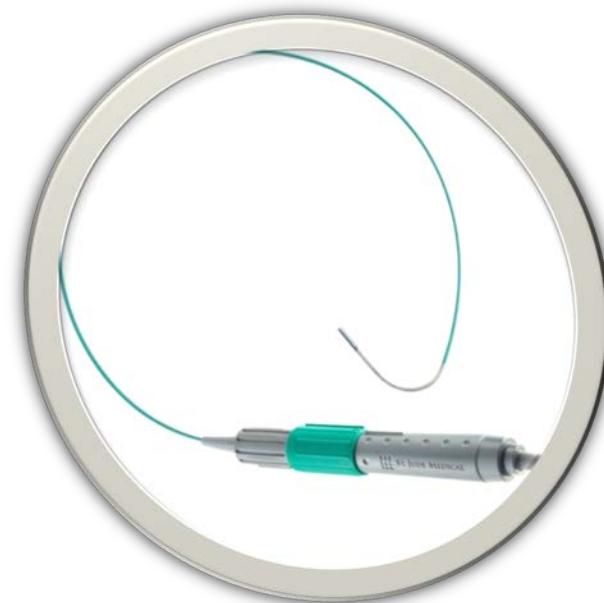
VS.

ULTRA ICE™ PLUS Catheter
360° view

Phased Array Catheter
Pie-Shaped Wedge View

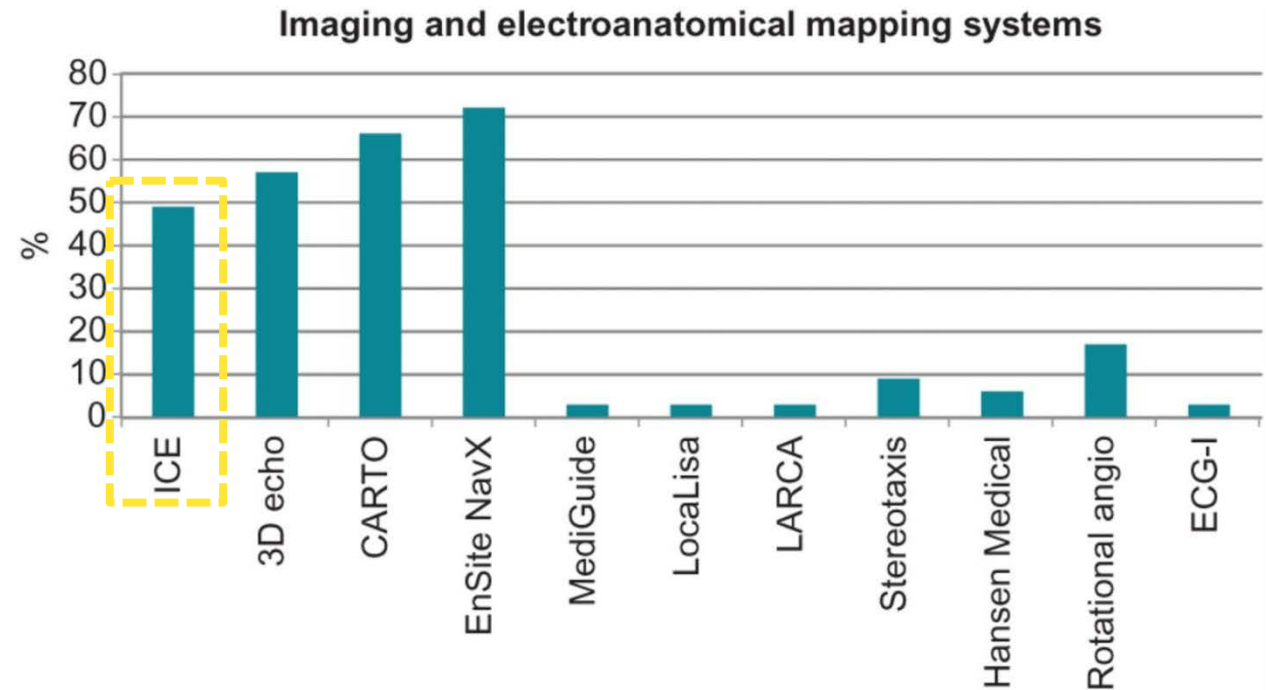
*Cardiovascular Ultrasound 20042:6

	ACUSON AcuNav™ ultrasound catheter	ViewFlex™ Xtra ICE Catheter
Fr/ length	8 or 10Fr/ 90cm	9Fr/ 90cm
Transducer	64-element phased array	64-element phased array
Penetration	15 cm	18 cm
Compatibility	GE or Siemens	Philips or Viewmate
Doppler capability	Yes	Yes
Other features	3D reconstruction (SOUNDSTAR™ eco 3D Ultrasound Catheter)	No need for sterilized cover; integrated connector, auto-lock steering



Imaging for guiding EP ablation procedure

- Imaging has become an integral part of EP procedure.
- The trend of image integration has been strengthened because anatomic structure play key roles in arrhythmogenesis.



Experiences in SMC

- Between Nov 2017 and Aug 2018
- Total 136 ablation procedures with ICE; 33 cases in ablation for ventricular arrhythmia

Types	n (%)
VT or VPC	33 (24.3%)
- RVOT	14
- LVOT	4
- Other ventricular chambers	15
AF/AFL	103 (75.7%)

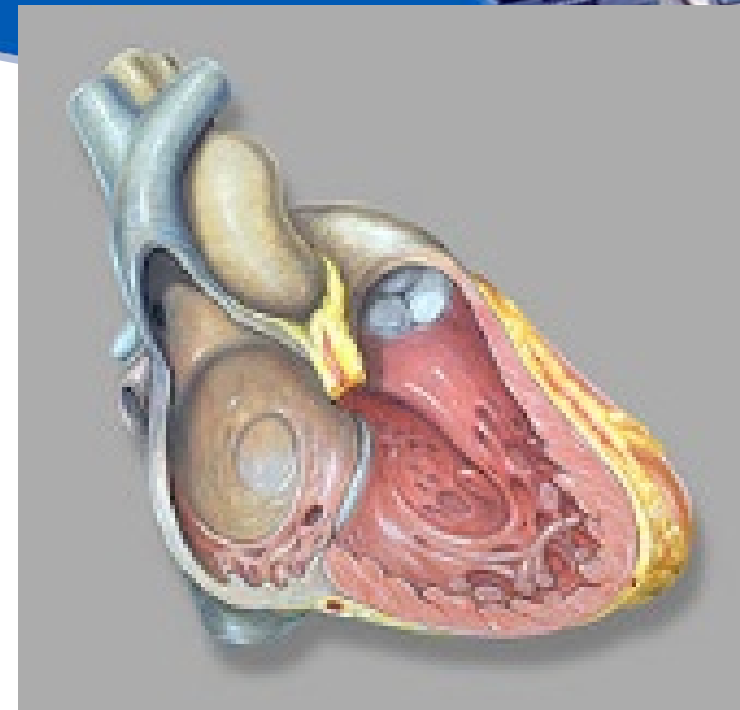
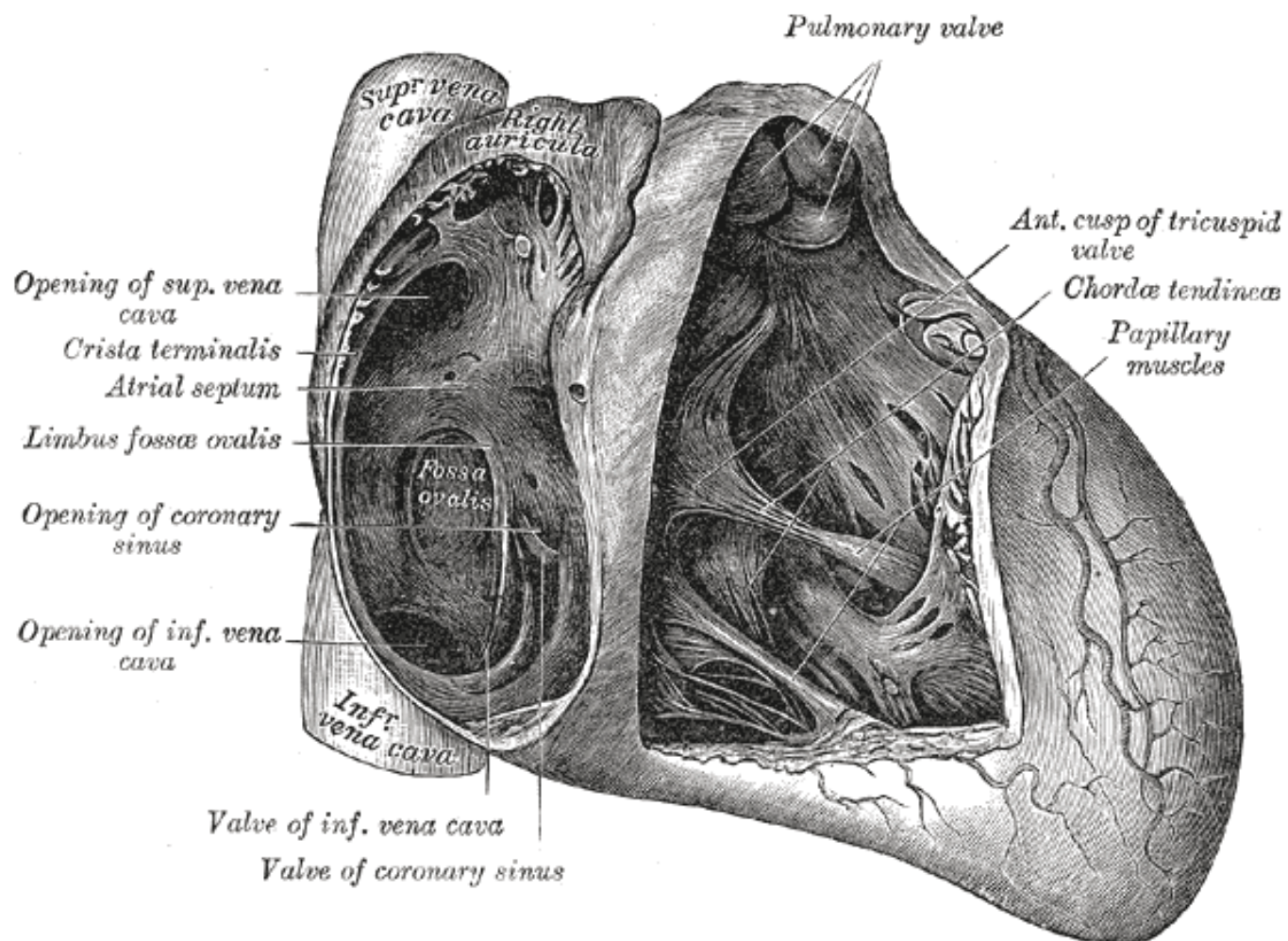
Role of ICE during VT ablation

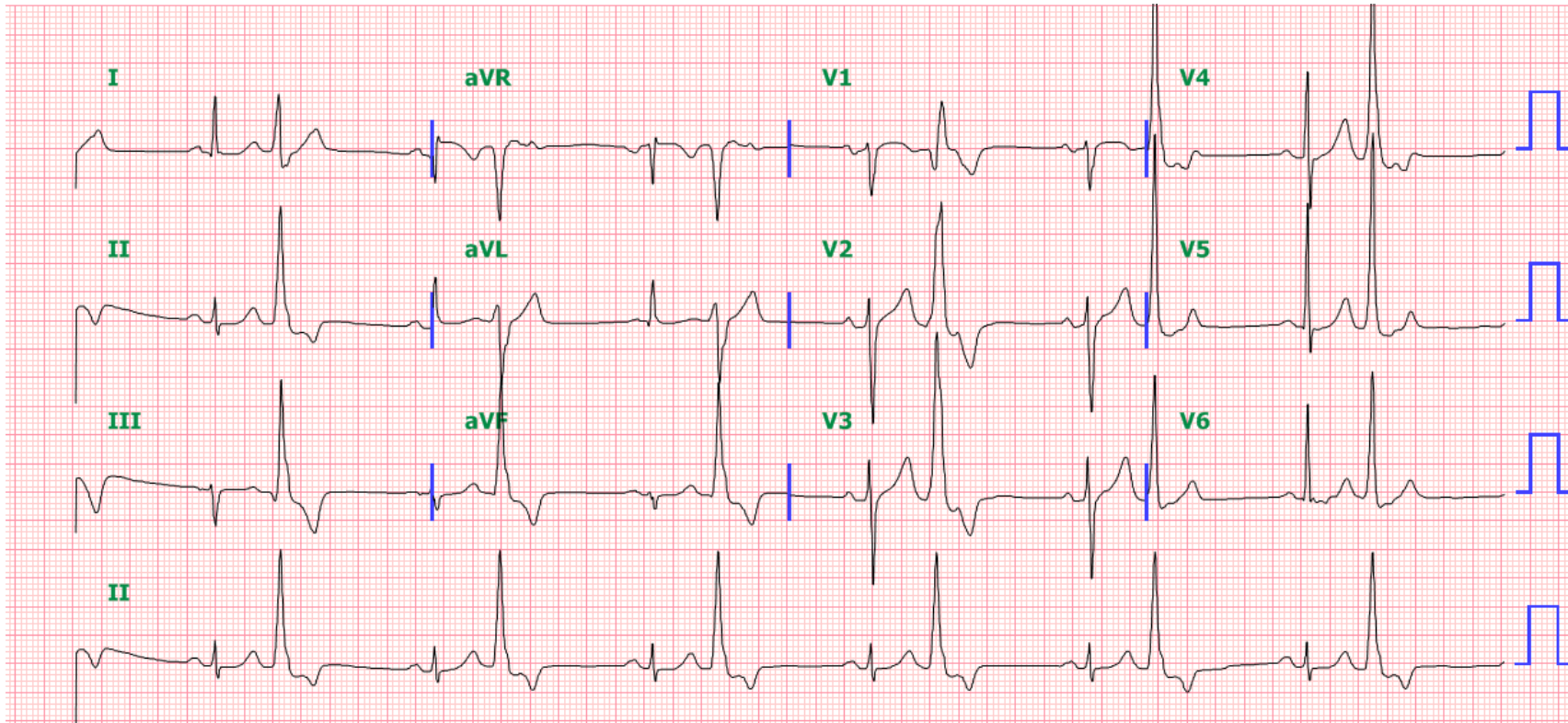
Direct visualization of anatomy, catheter, and lesion formation

Identification of substrate

Continuous monitoring for complication

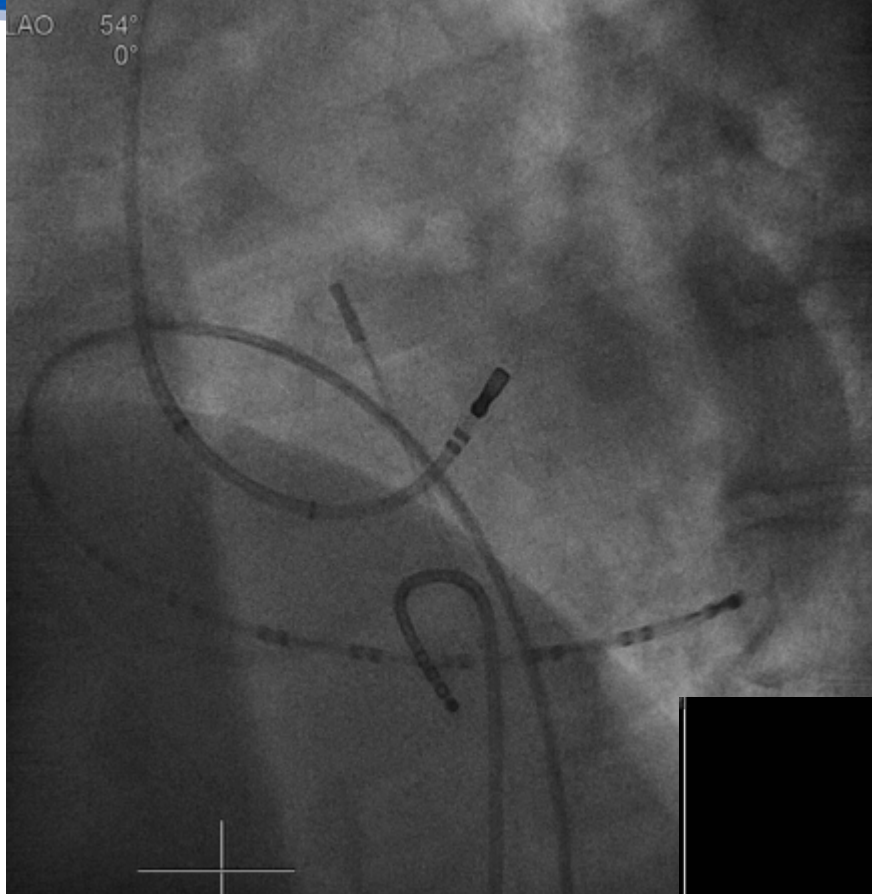
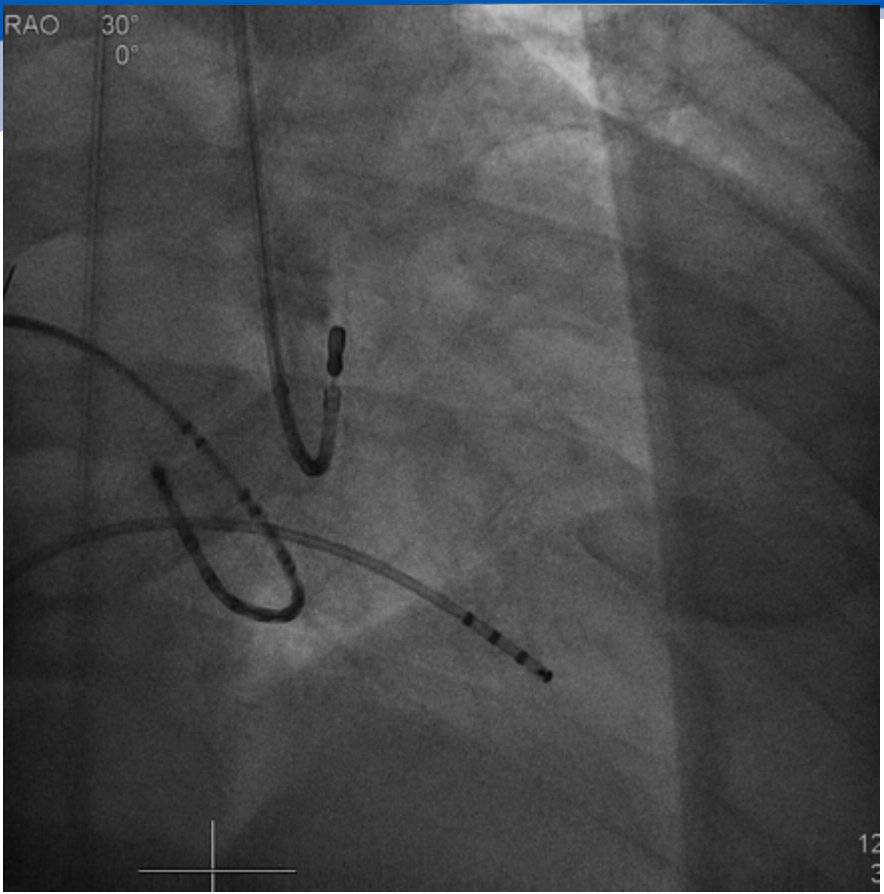
- ICE enables accurate anatomical confirmation of cardiac structures.





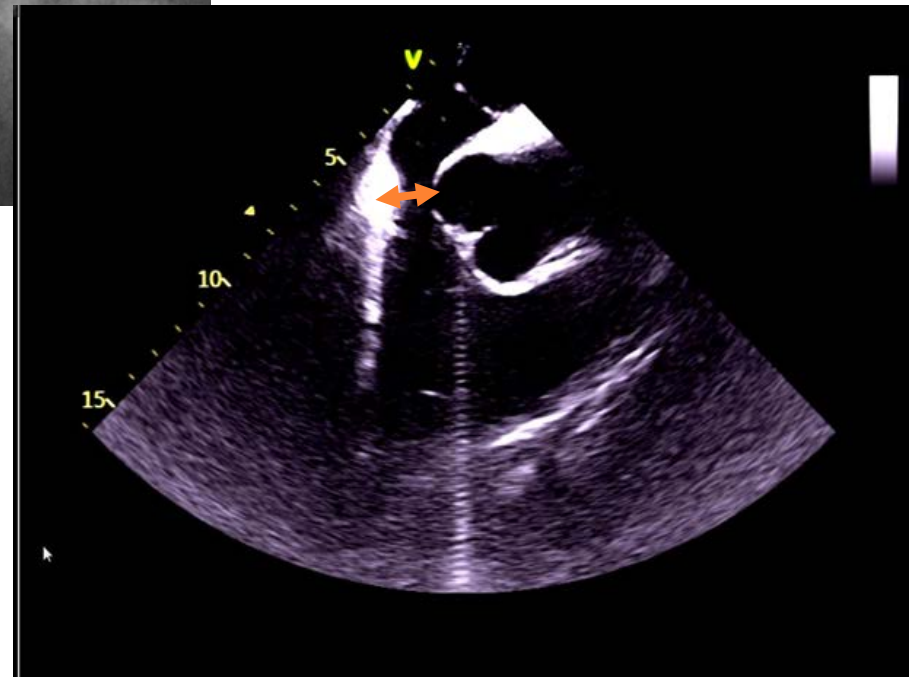
Real case:

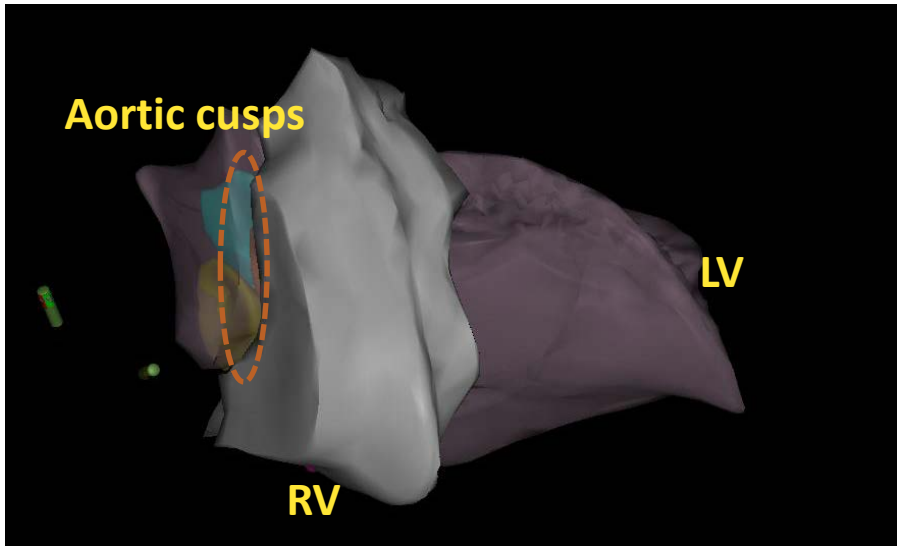
63-year old male with frequent VPCs and VT; known aortic root dilatation and thoracic aortic aneurysm



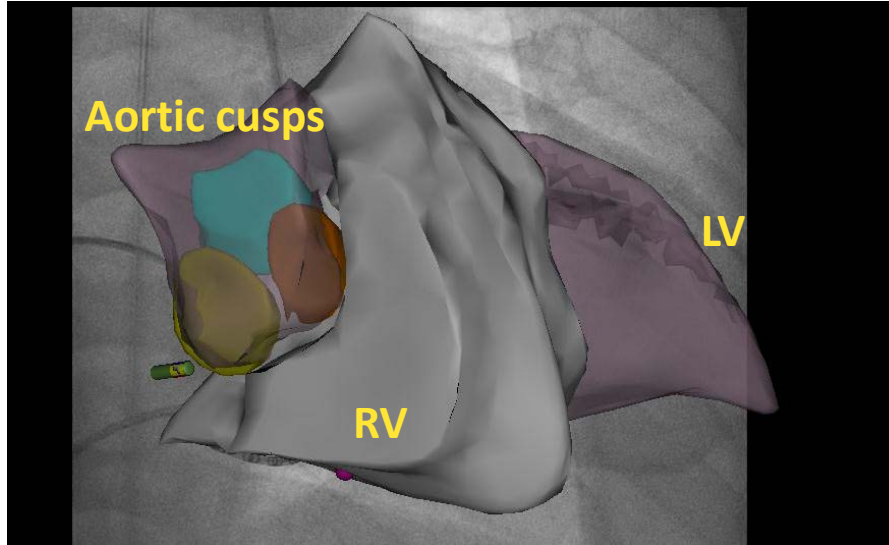
Where is the ablation site?

ICE image



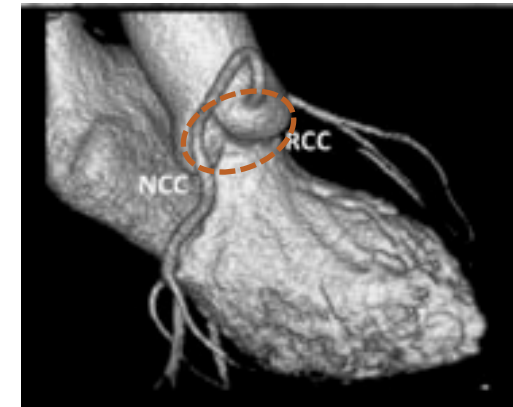


AP view

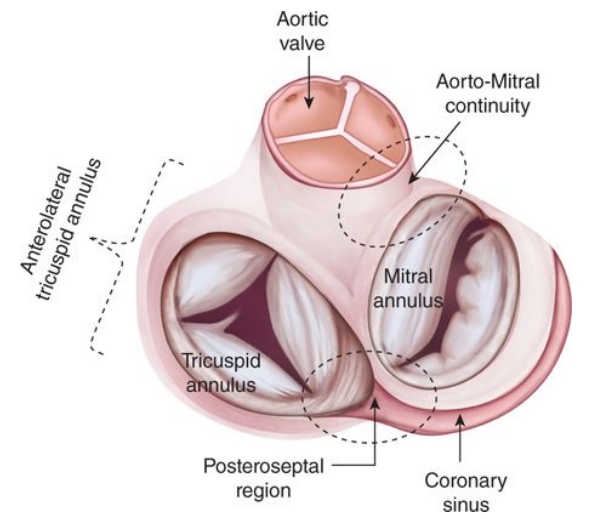
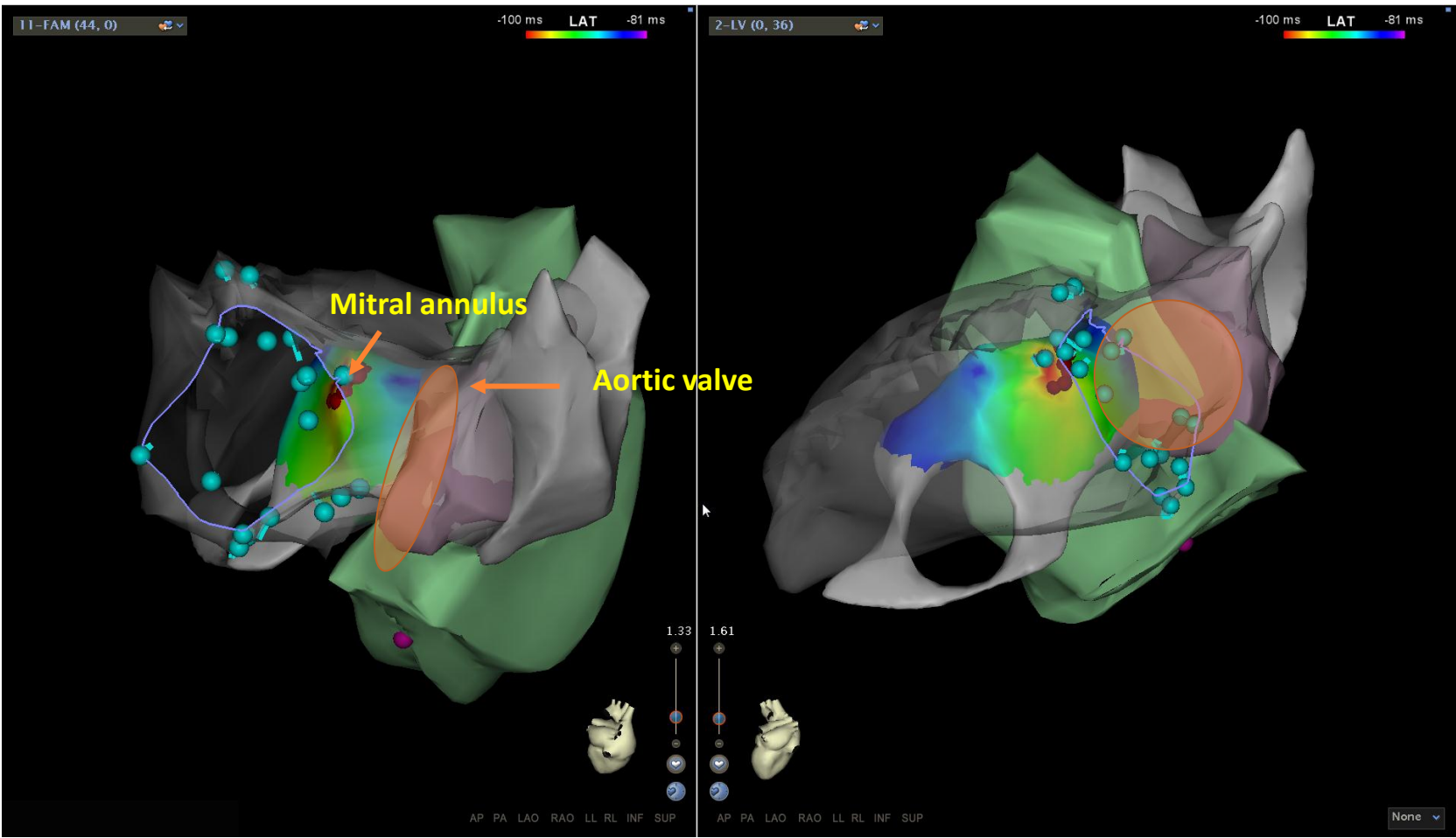


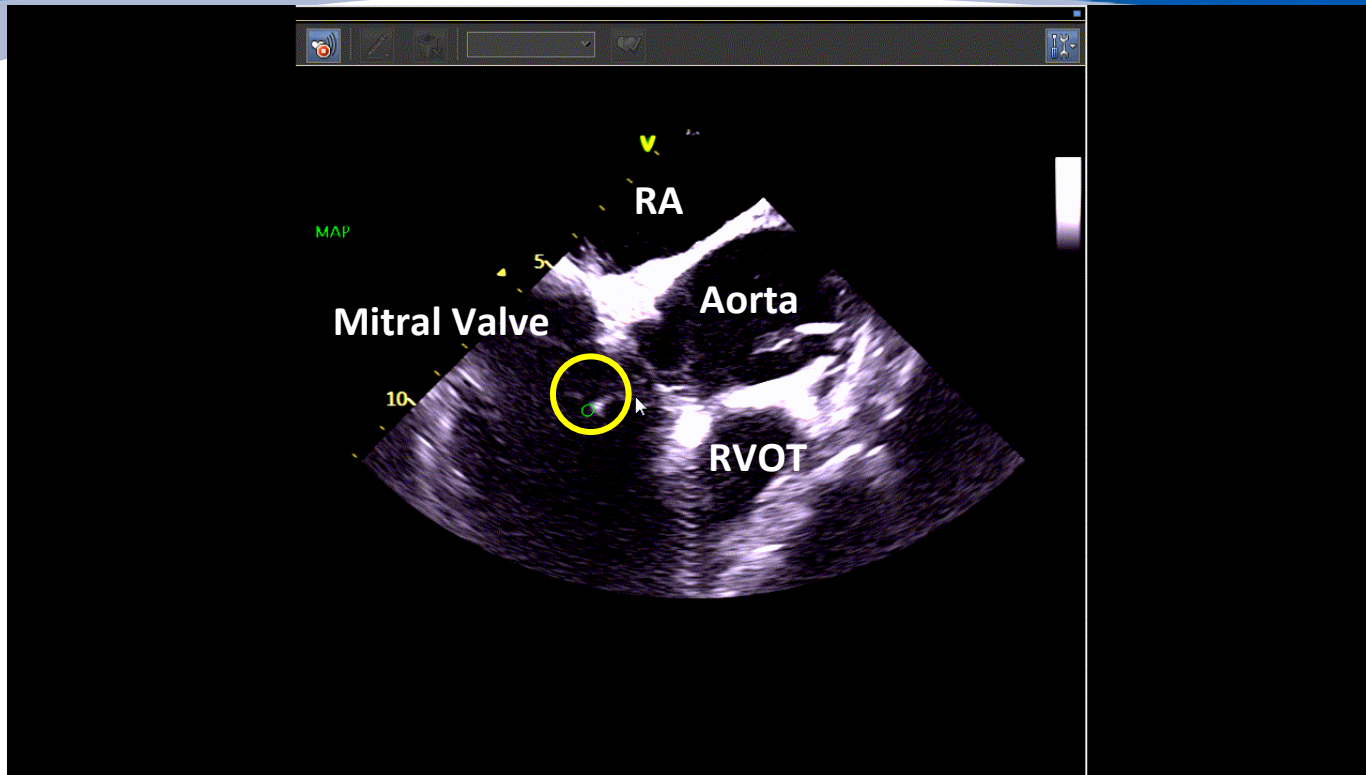
RAO view

Vertically orientated aortic valve and sinus of Valsalva in patients with thoracic aorta aneurysm



Usual orientation
(RAO)



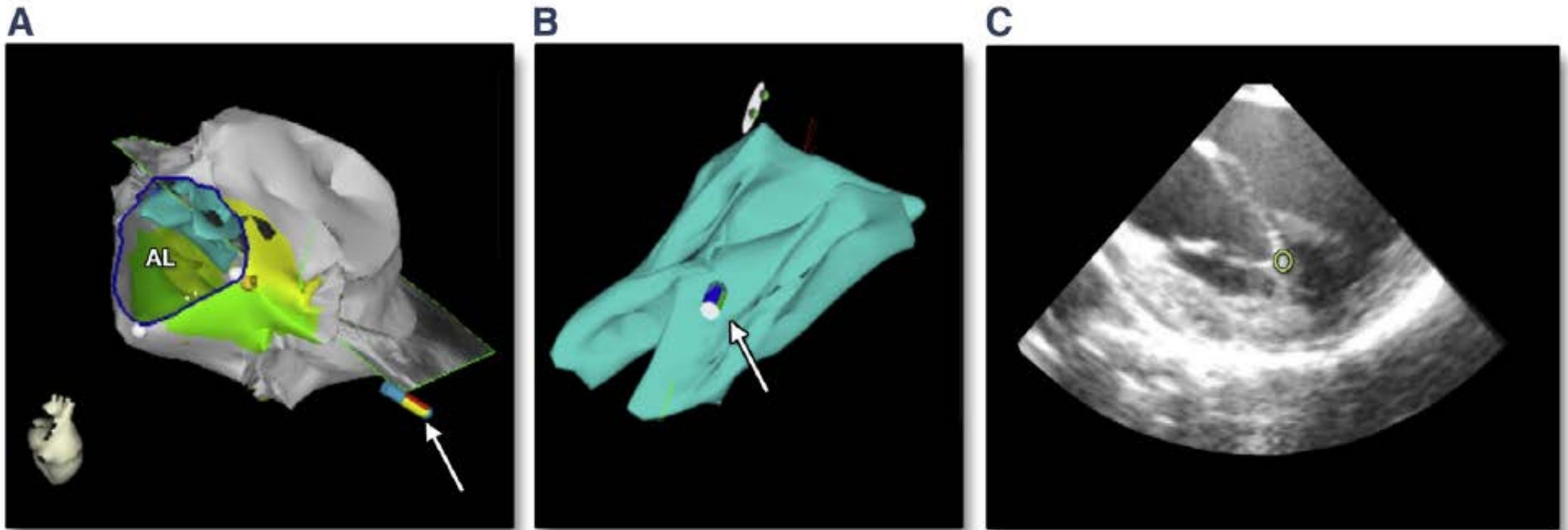


Ablation catheter tip on the AMC

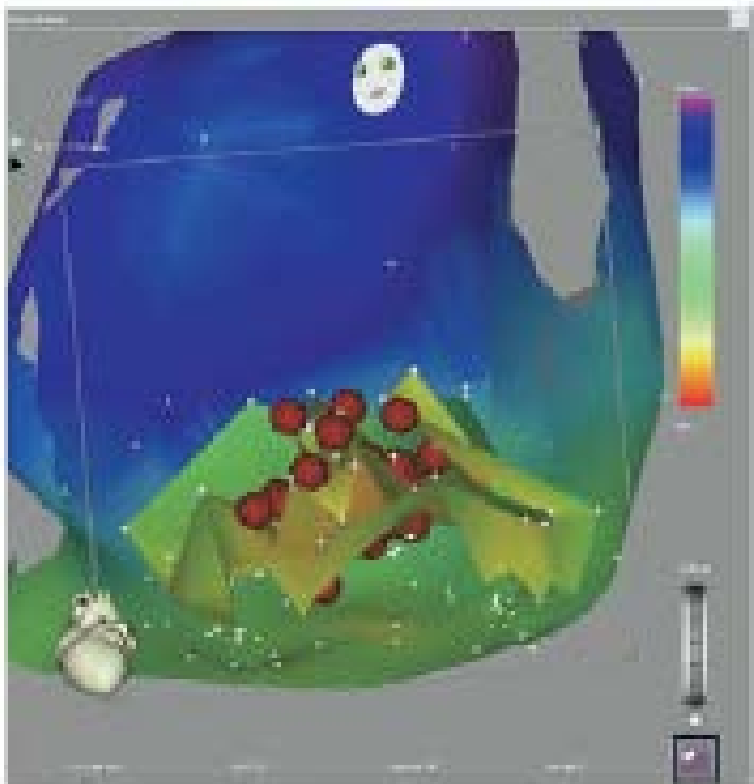
- The visualization of the catheter into the ultrasound image is of key importance to target locations that are constantly moving.
- The challenge is to map the PM to identify the origin of VT and to keep the catheter at a critical location during RF energy delivery.



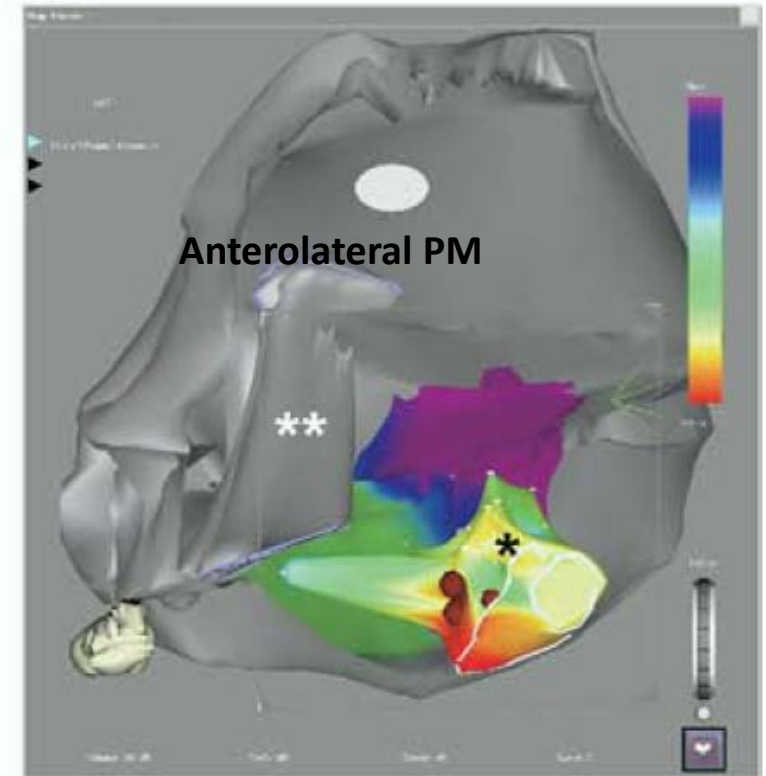
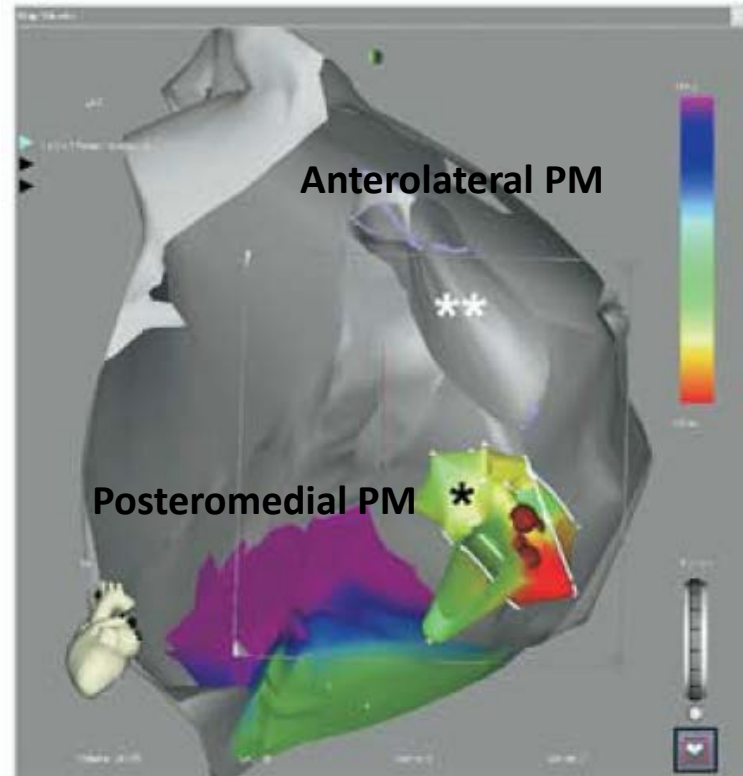
- Papillary muscle (PM) in ICE images



Anterolateral PM with 2 heads



First ablation

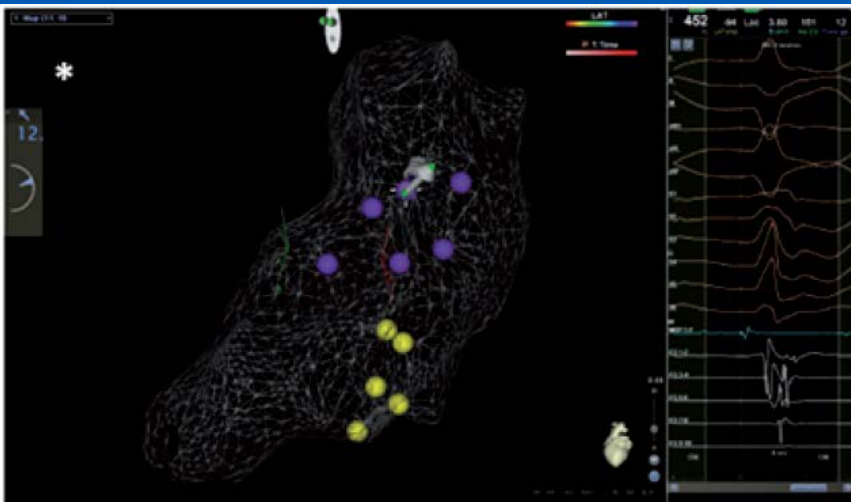


2nd ablation

*Heart Rhythm. 2009 Mar;6(3):389-92.



*REV ARGENT CARDIOL 2015;85:425-433.

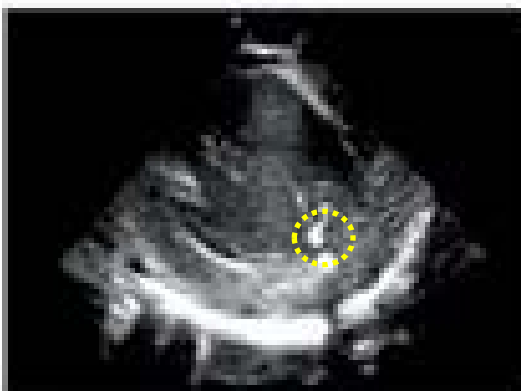


A

B

C

D



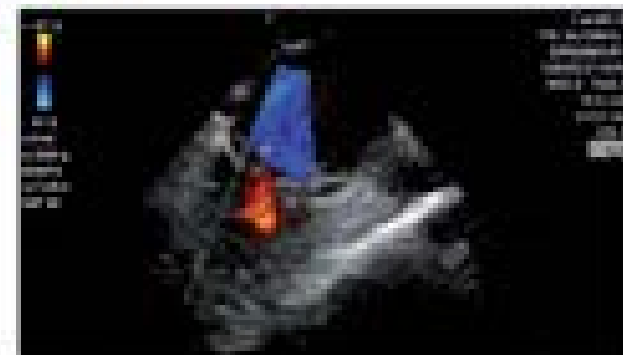
E

F

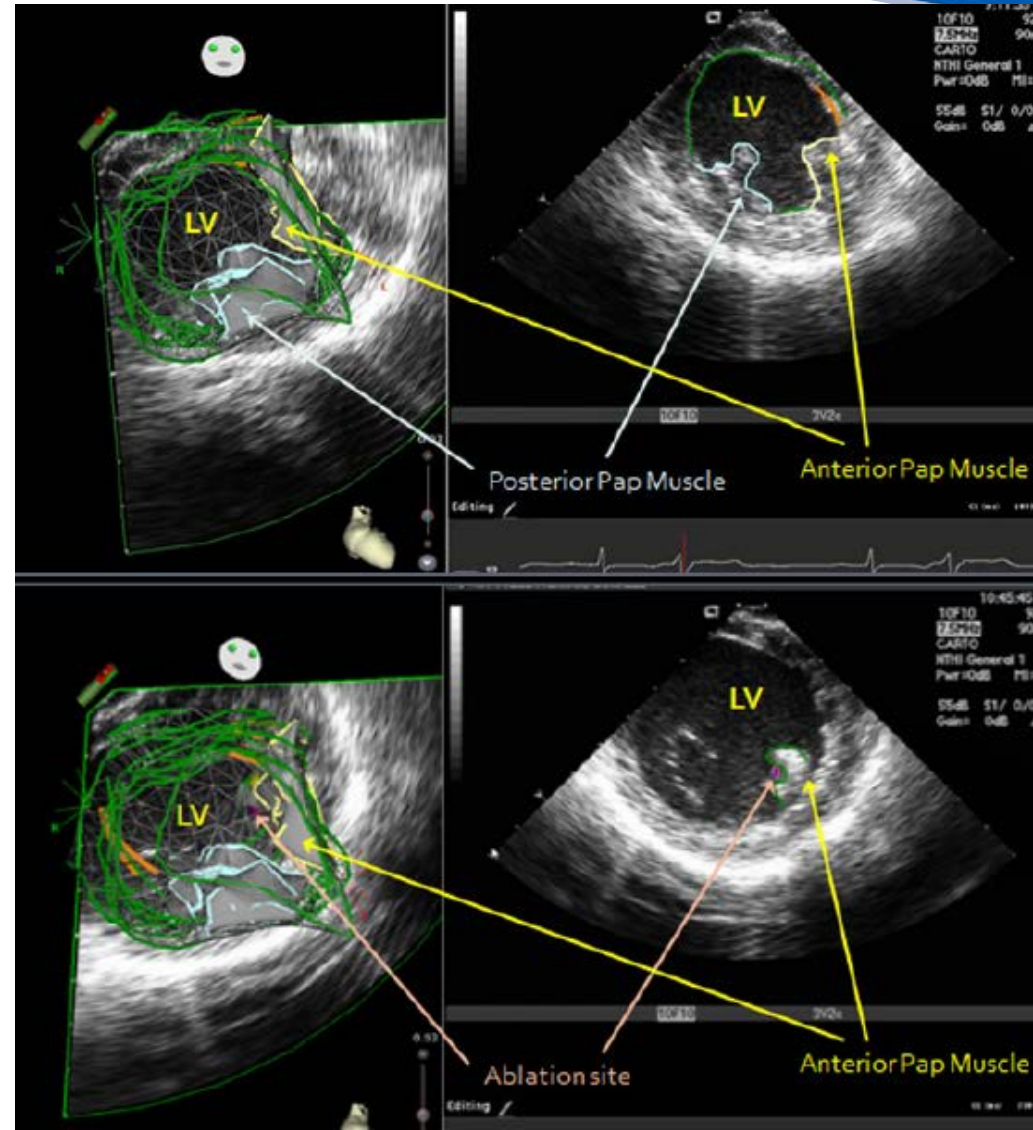
G

H

Anterolateral PM muscle



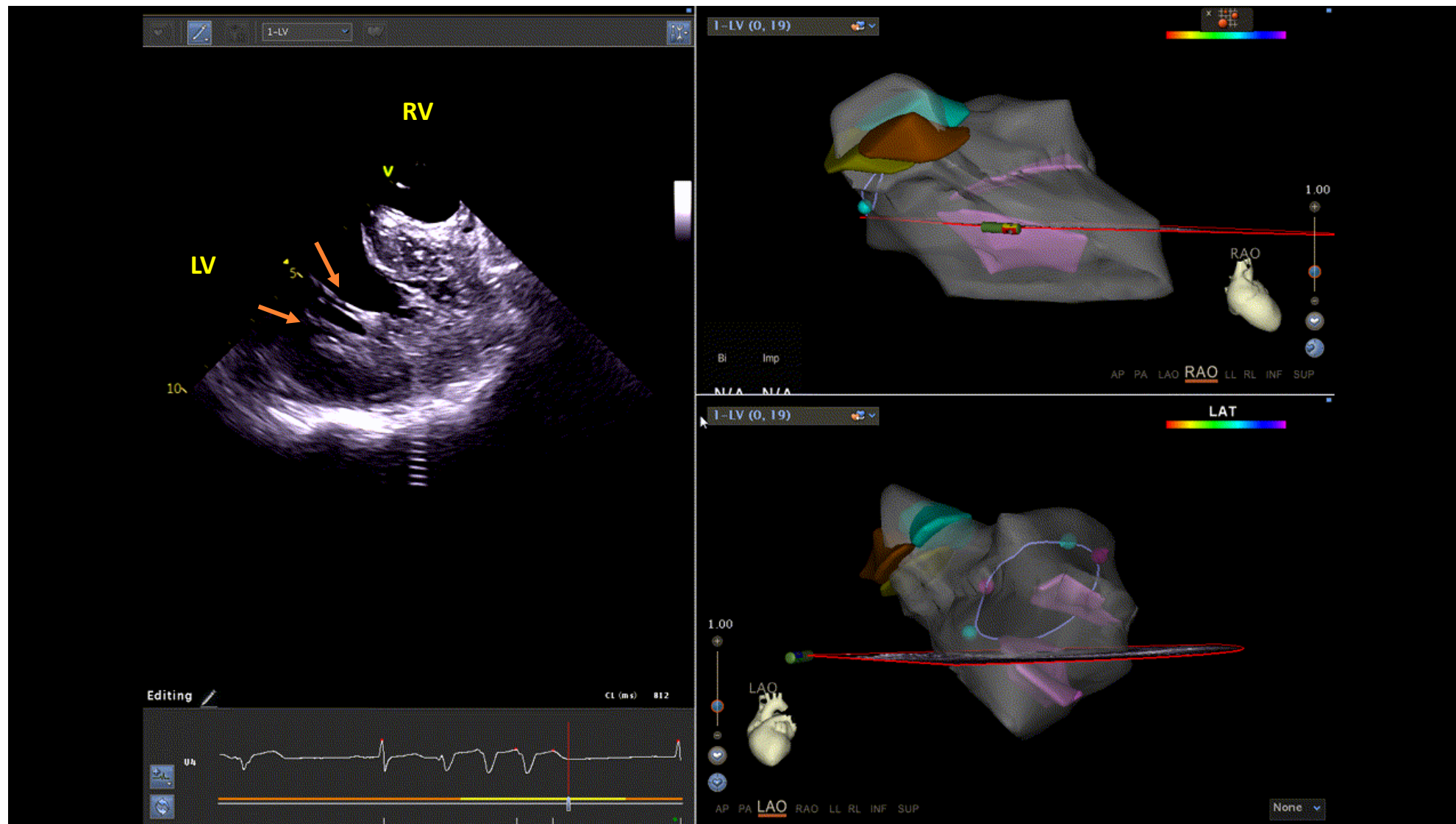
Posteromedial PM muscle

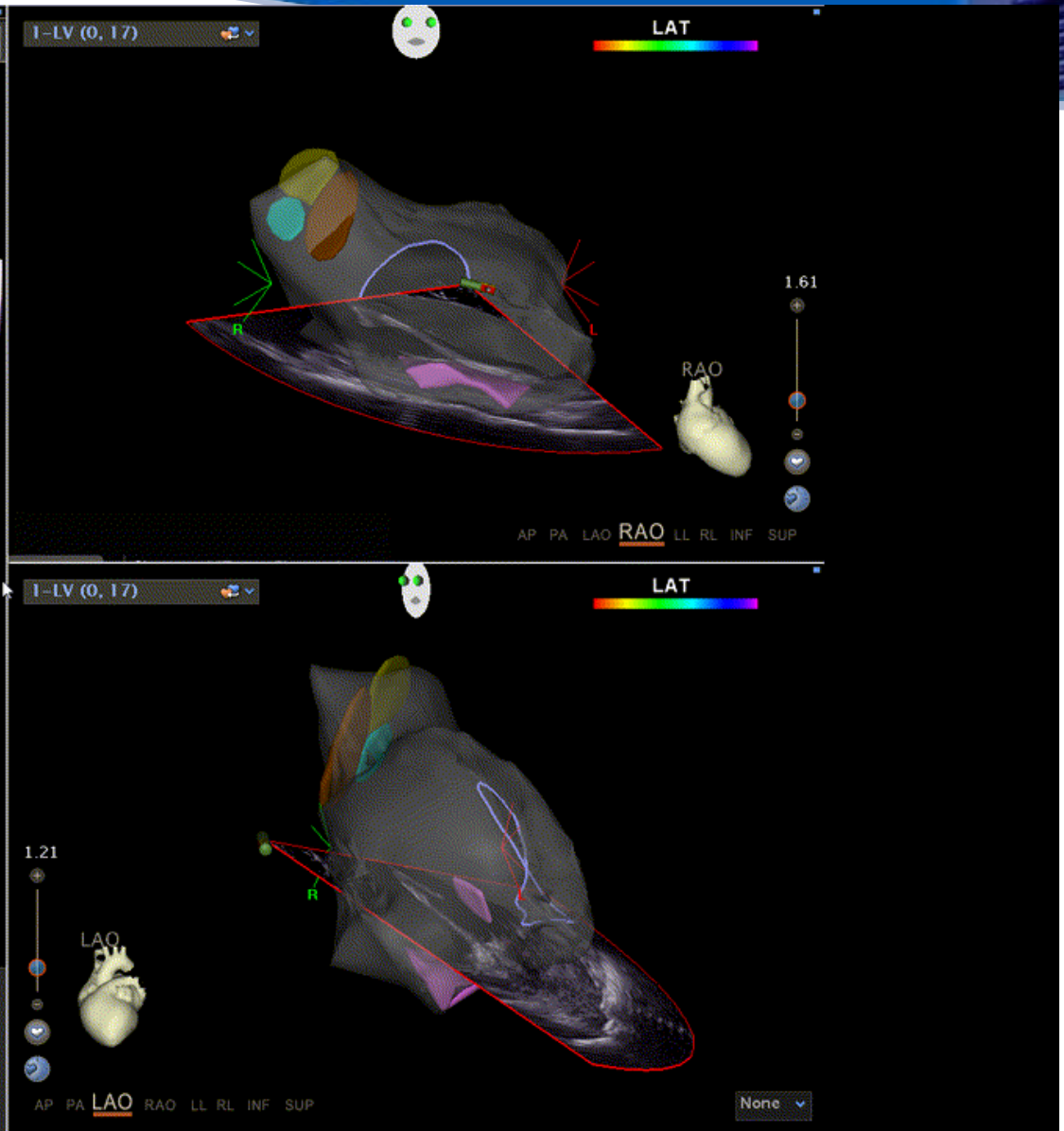
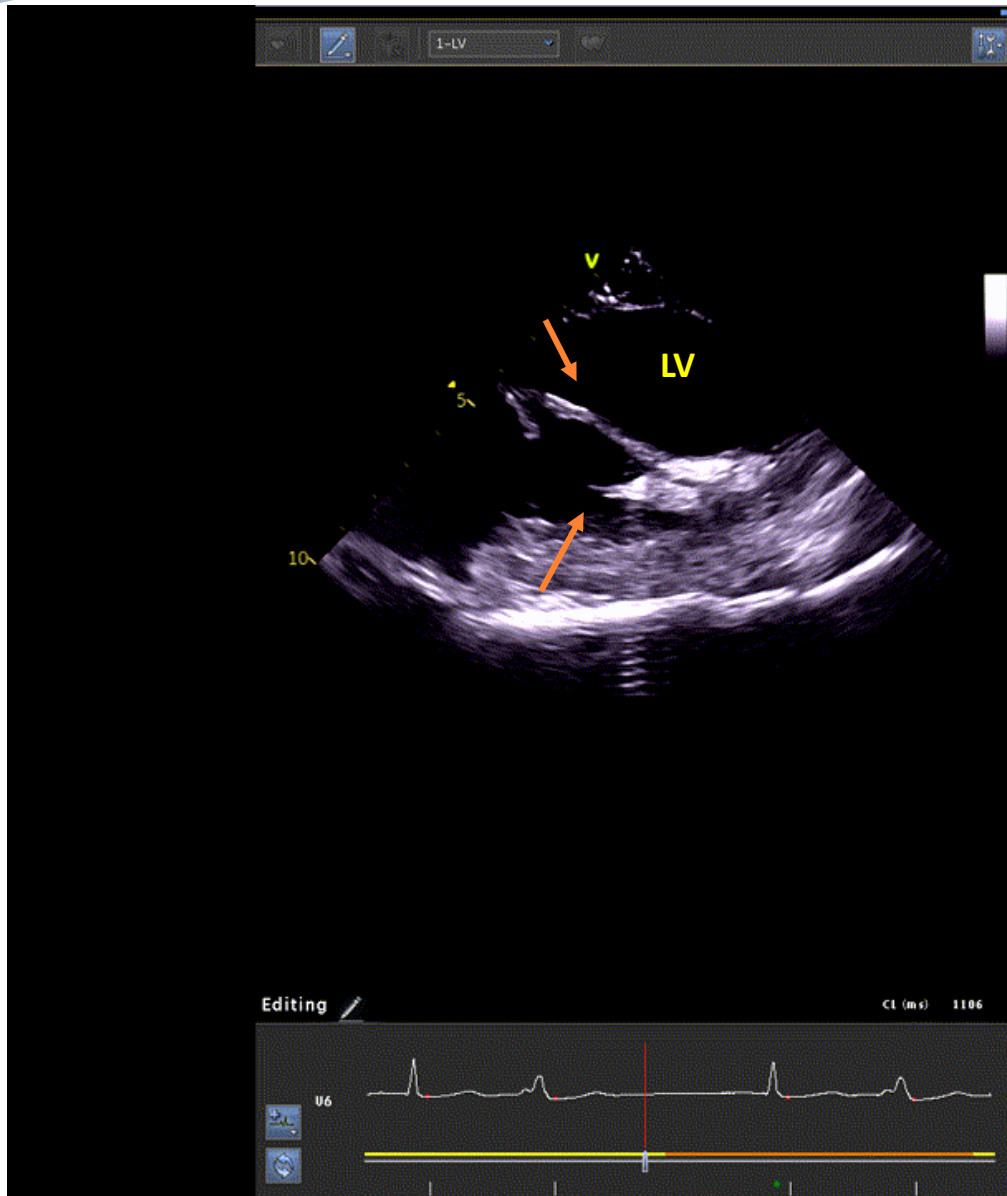


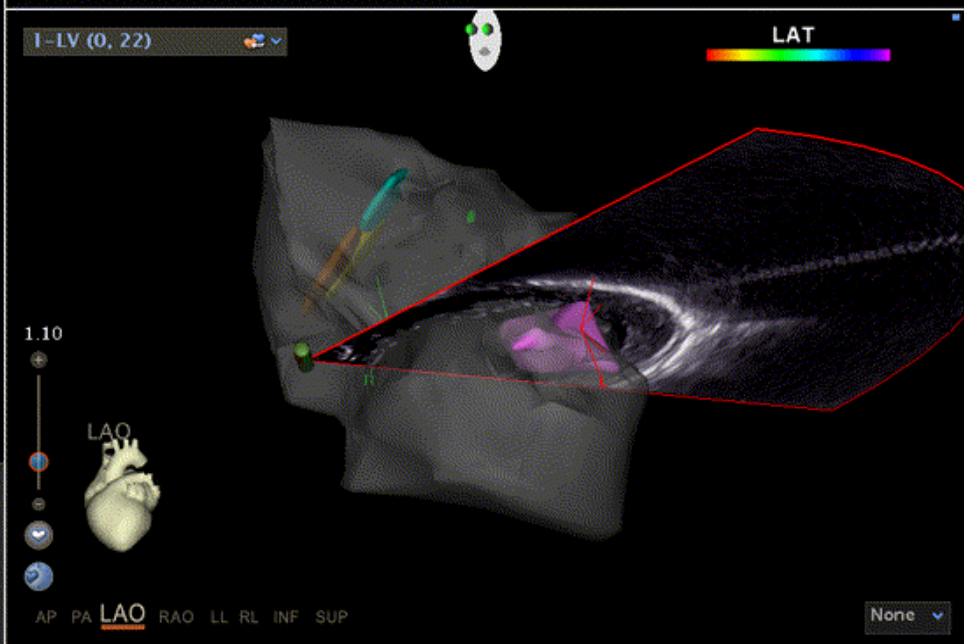
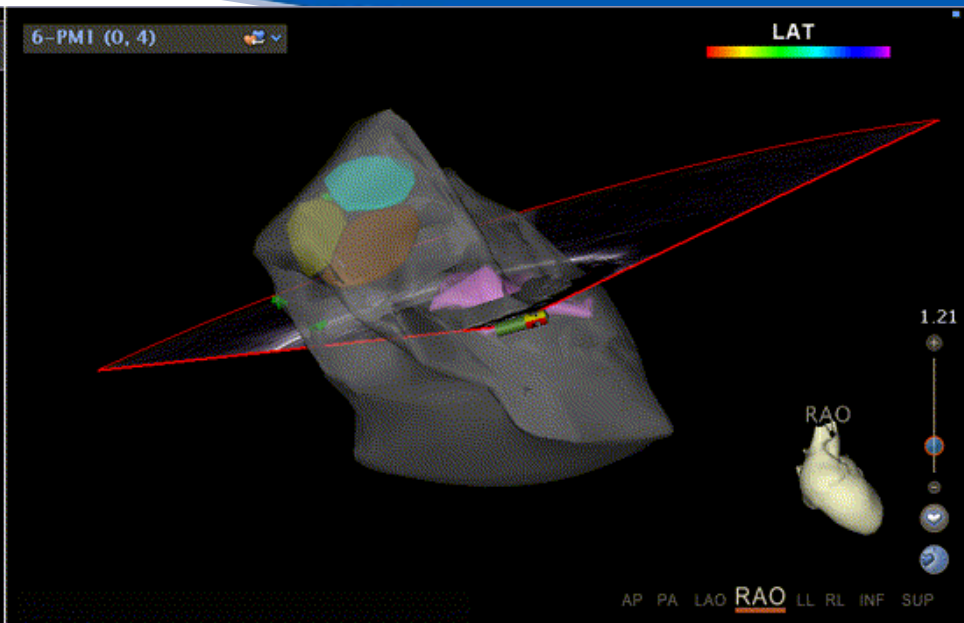
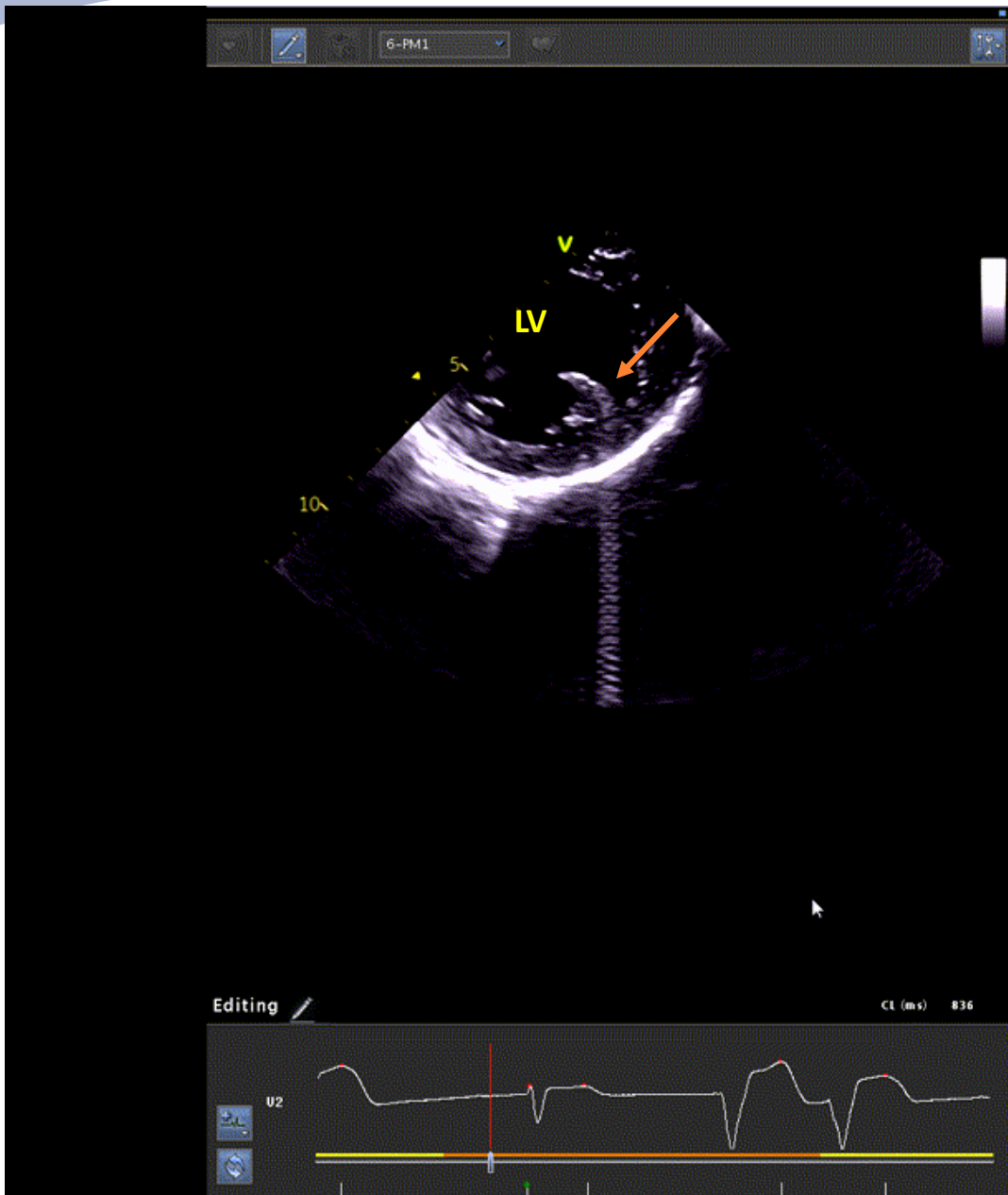
3D reconstruction of papillary muscle

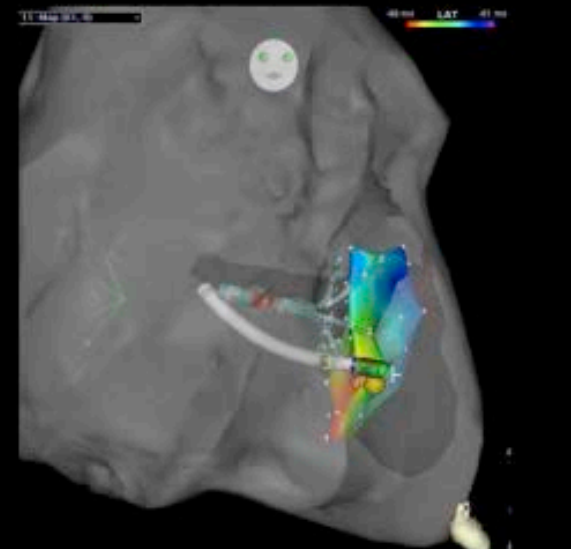
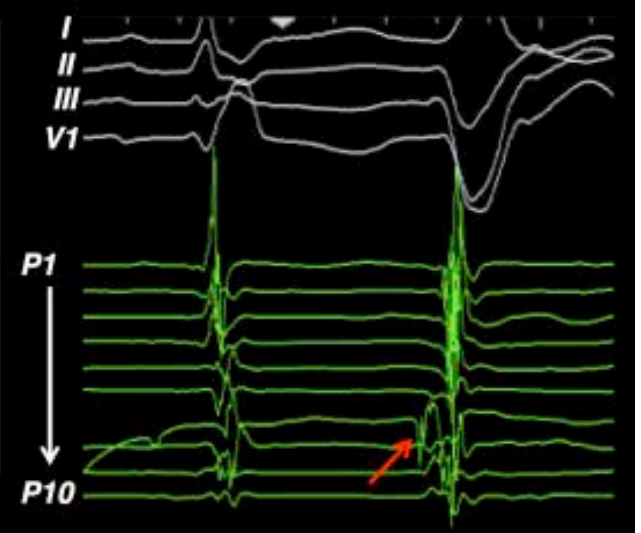
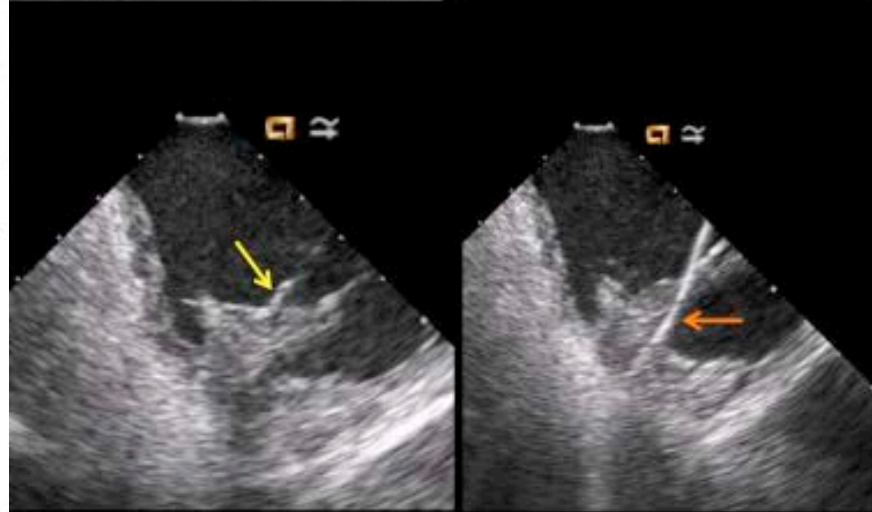
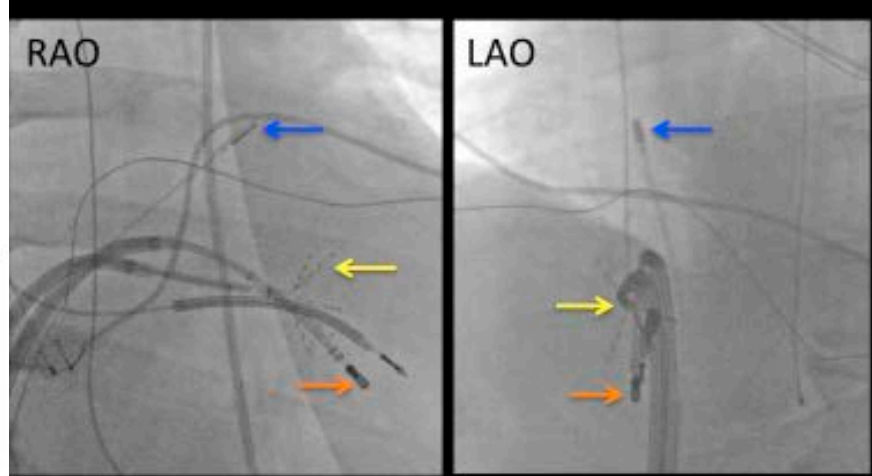
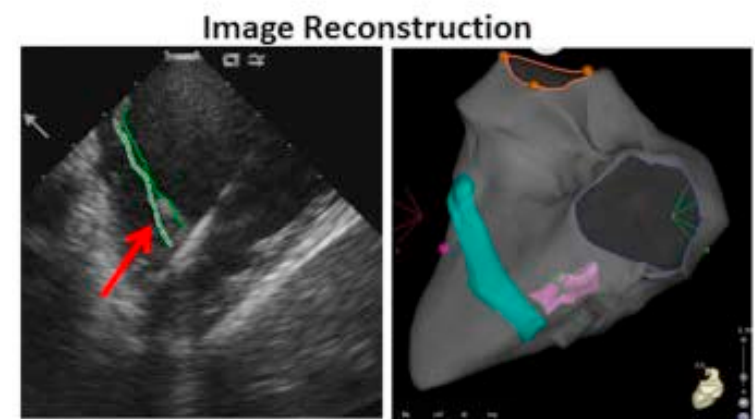
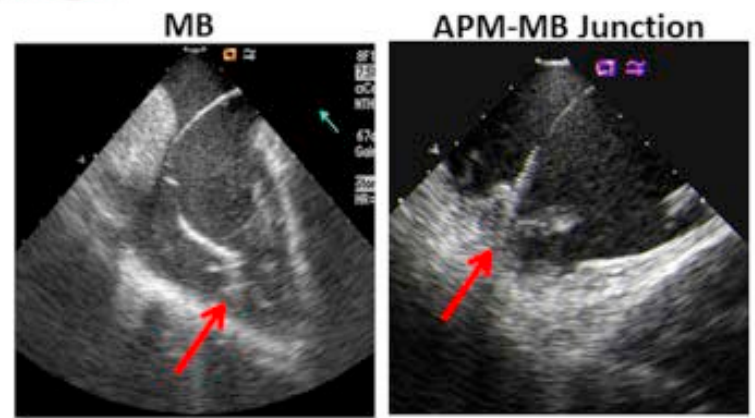
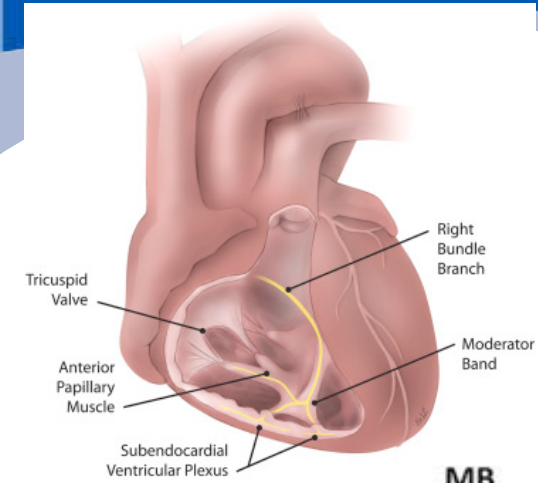
*J Atr Fibrillation. 2014 Apr 30;6(6):1055.

- Real cases: papillary muscle



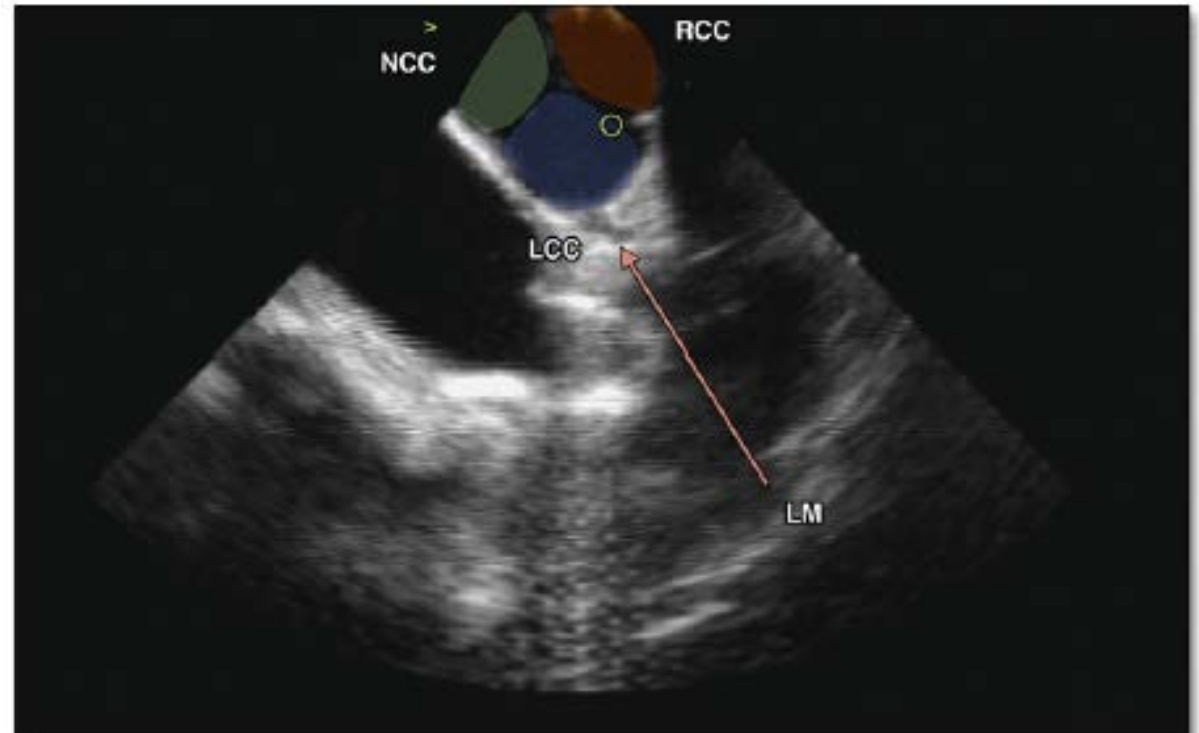






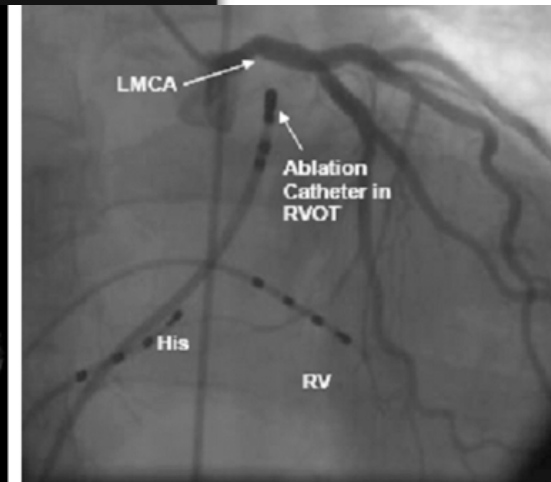
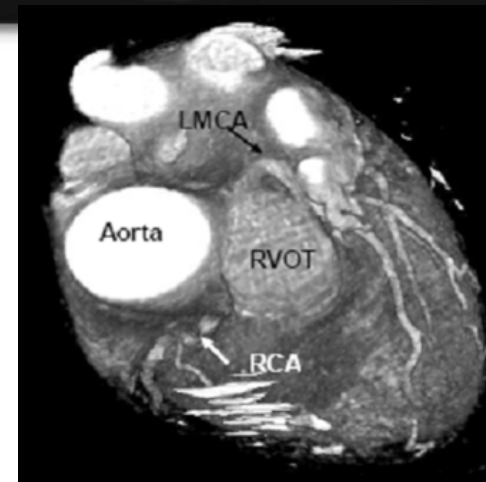
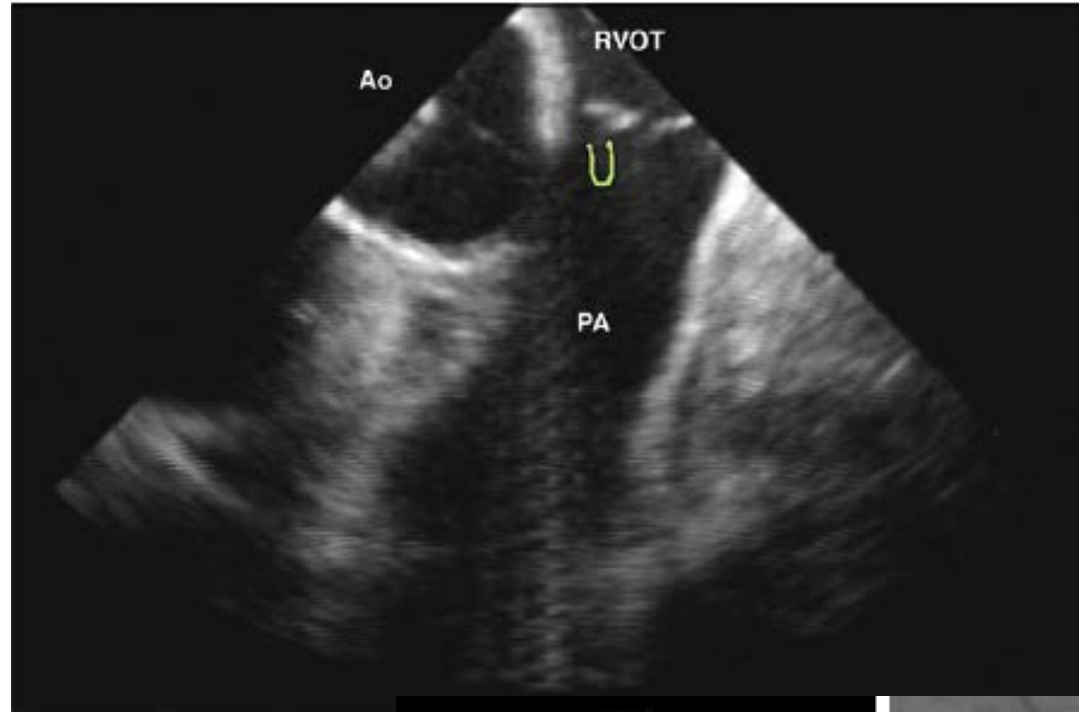
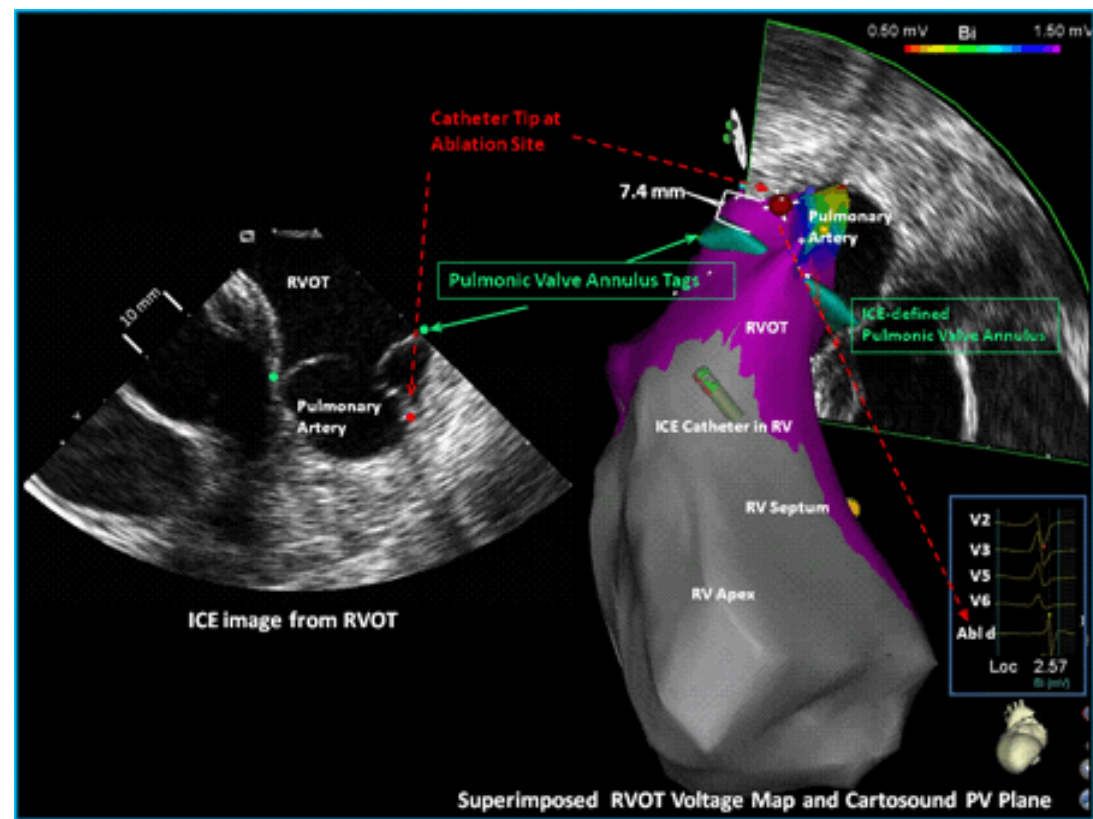


- Constant **monitoring of the catheter tip** on the real-time echocardiogram helps to make sure that there is a safe distance between the target location and the adjacent critical structures.



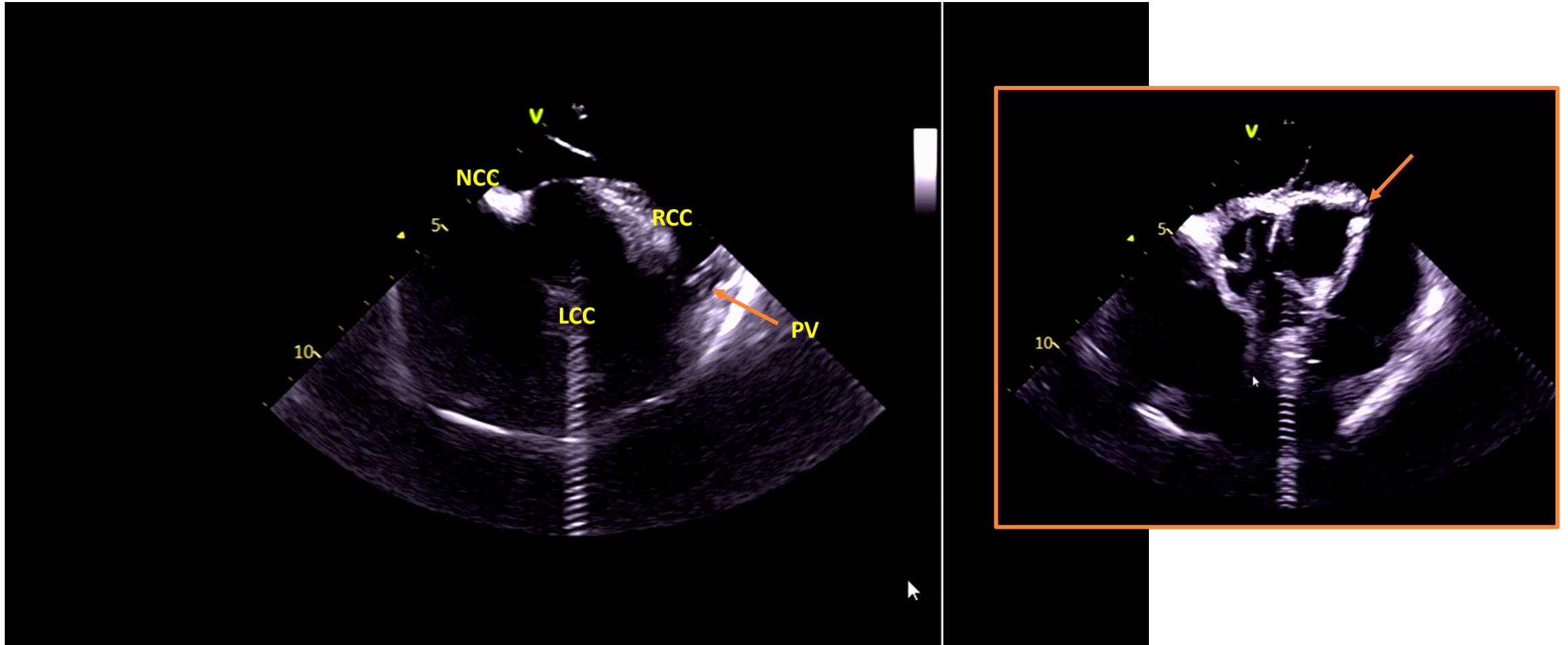


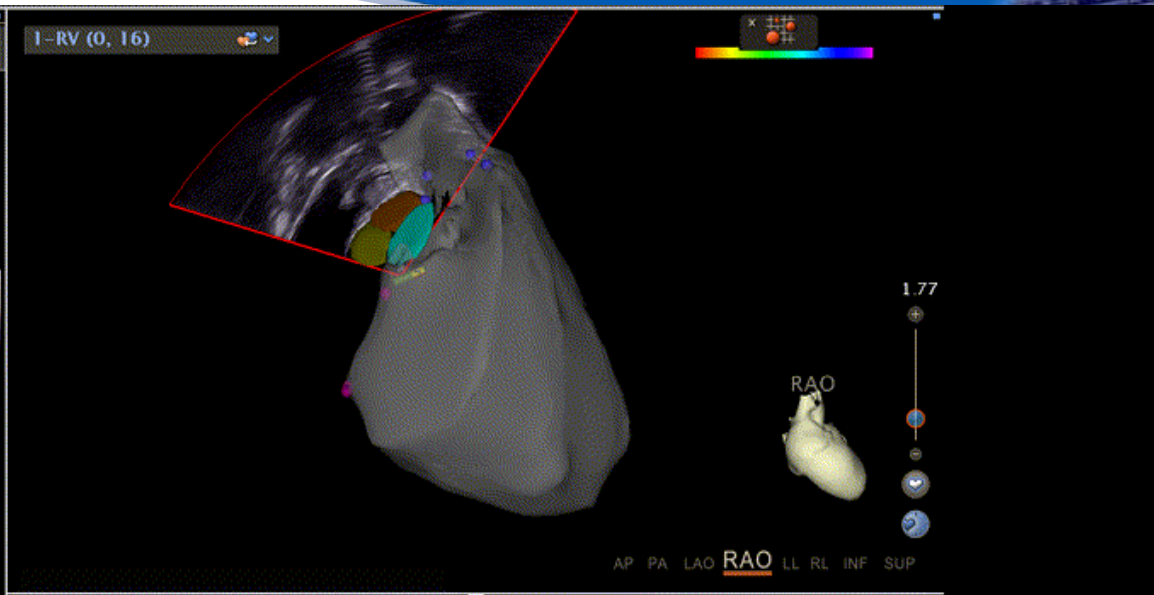
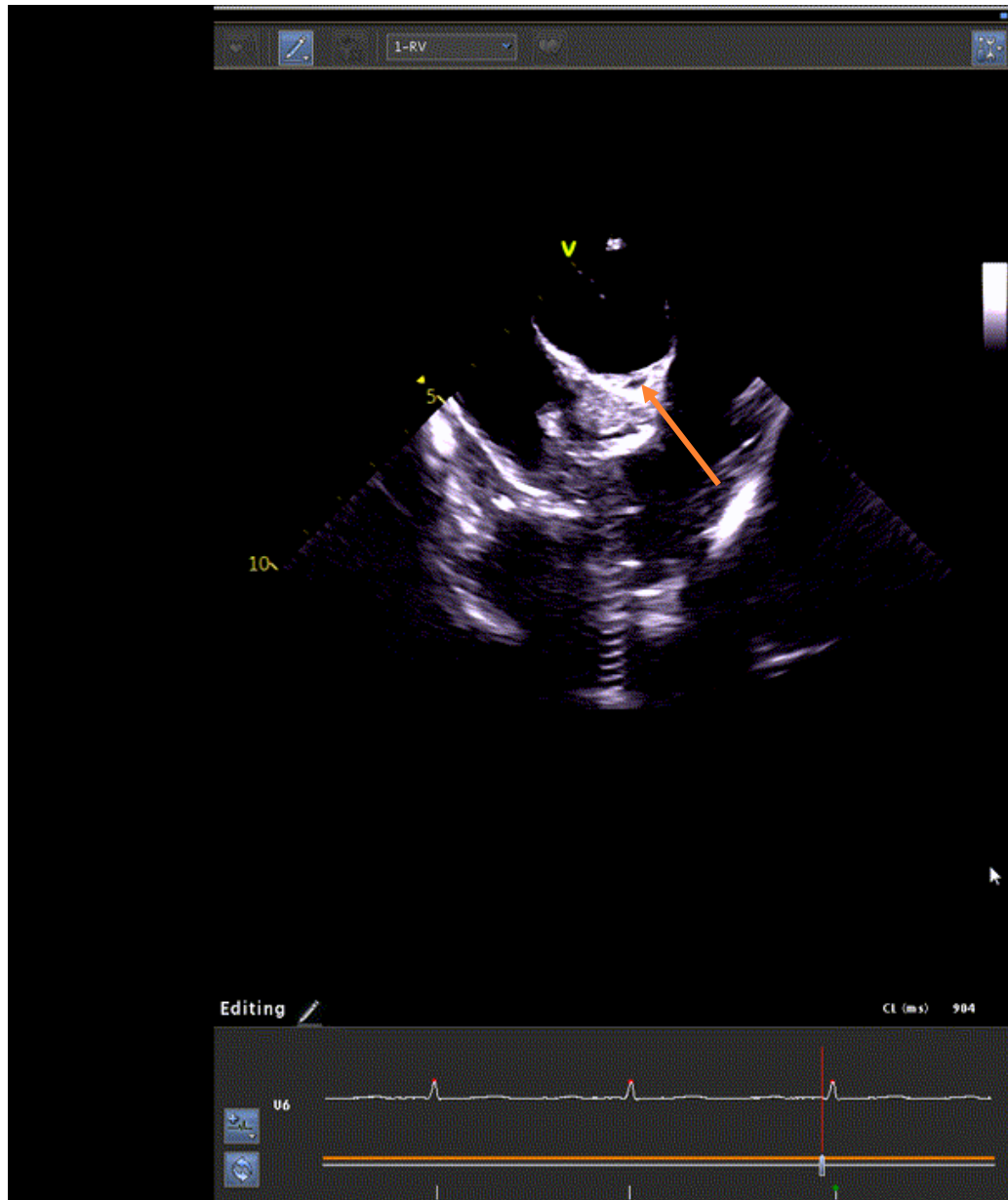
- Anatomical confirmation of the origin and avoidance of the epicardial coronary artery in VT originating from pulmonary artery musculature

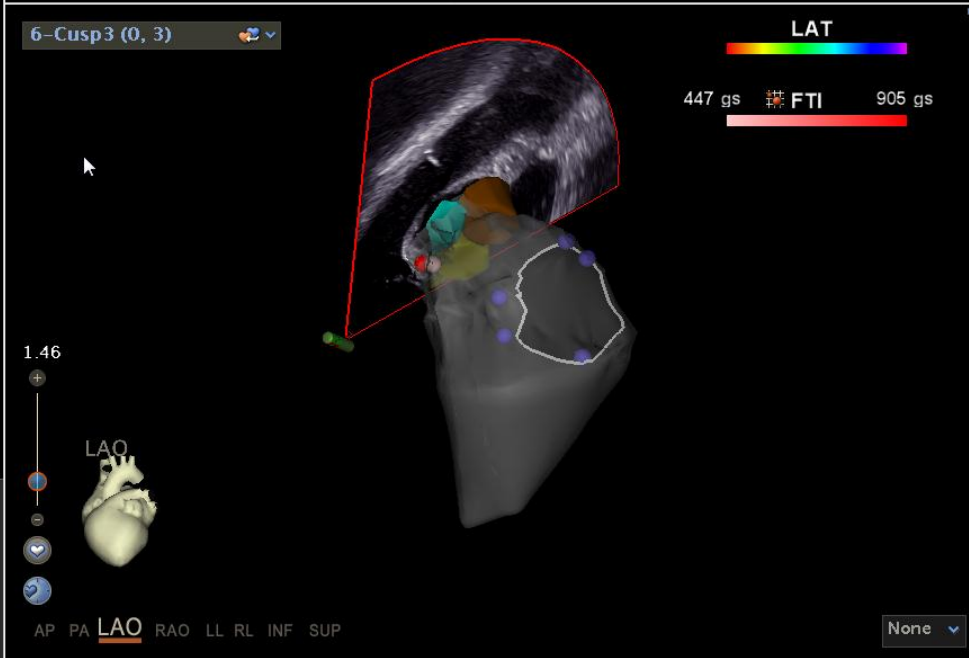
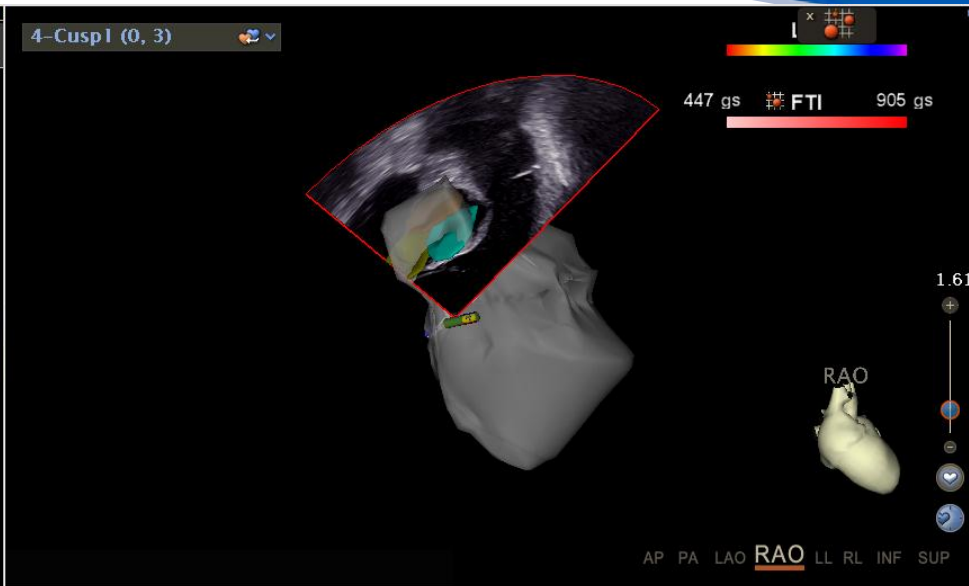
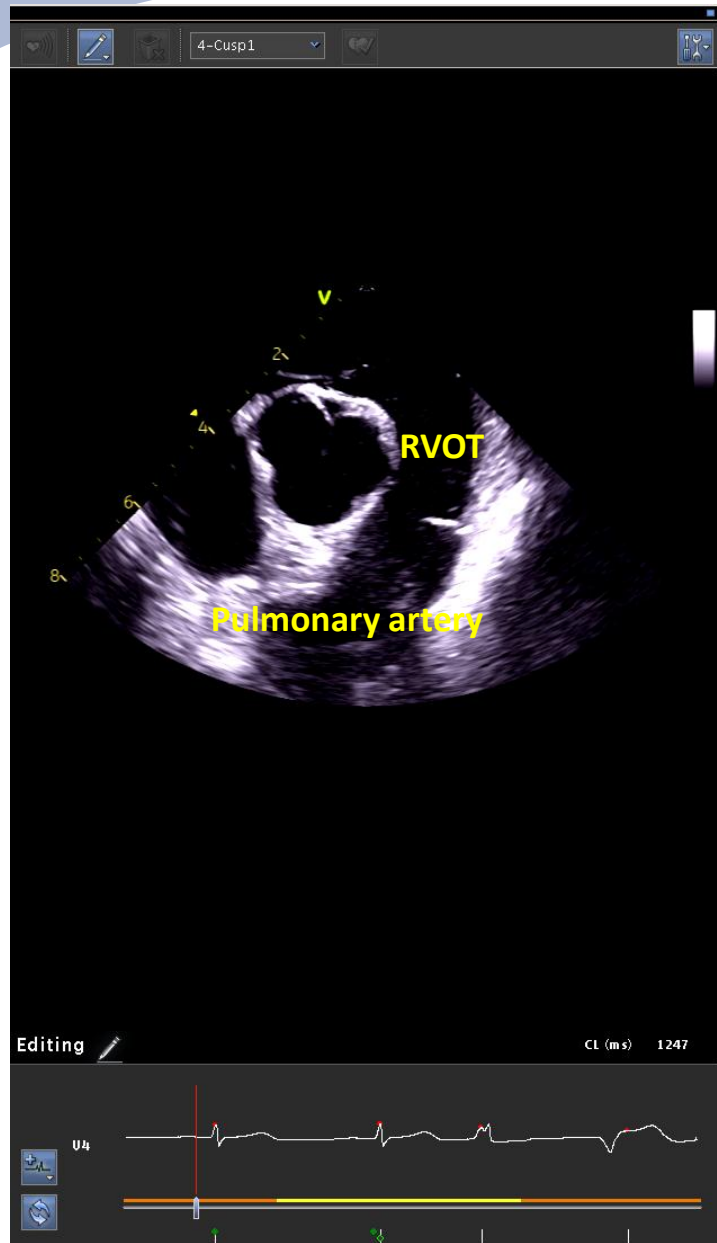


*Circulation. 2012;126:A14828. J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol. 2010;21:678-684.
JACC Cardiovasc Imaging. 2016 Jul;9(7):873-886.
J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol. 2006 Jun;17(6):632-7.

- Real cases: Aortic cusp and coronary ostium

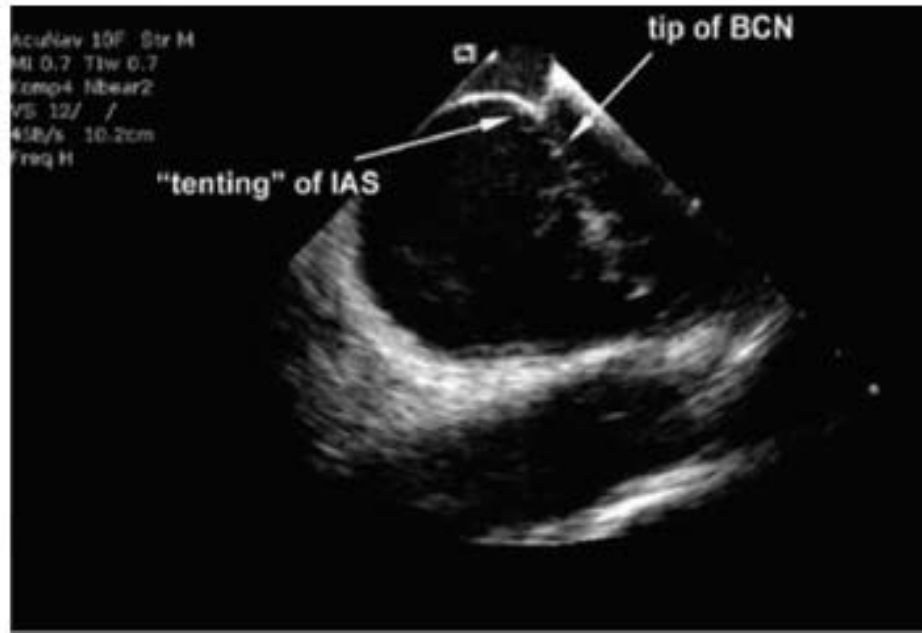




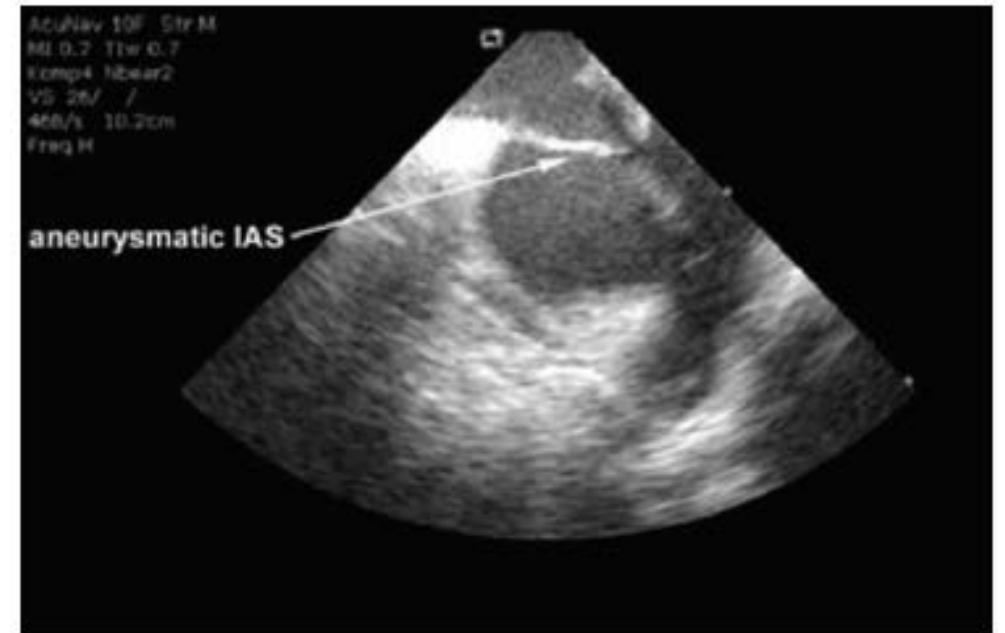




- ICE helps to guide **trans-septal puncture**. It is especially useful for patients with **abnormal interatrial septum** (thick, double membrane or aneurysmatic floppy septum; patent foramen ovale or atrial septal defect; lipomatous hypertrophy of the septum; previous cardiac surgery with distorted anatomy or thickened septum; after device closure of an atrial septal defect)



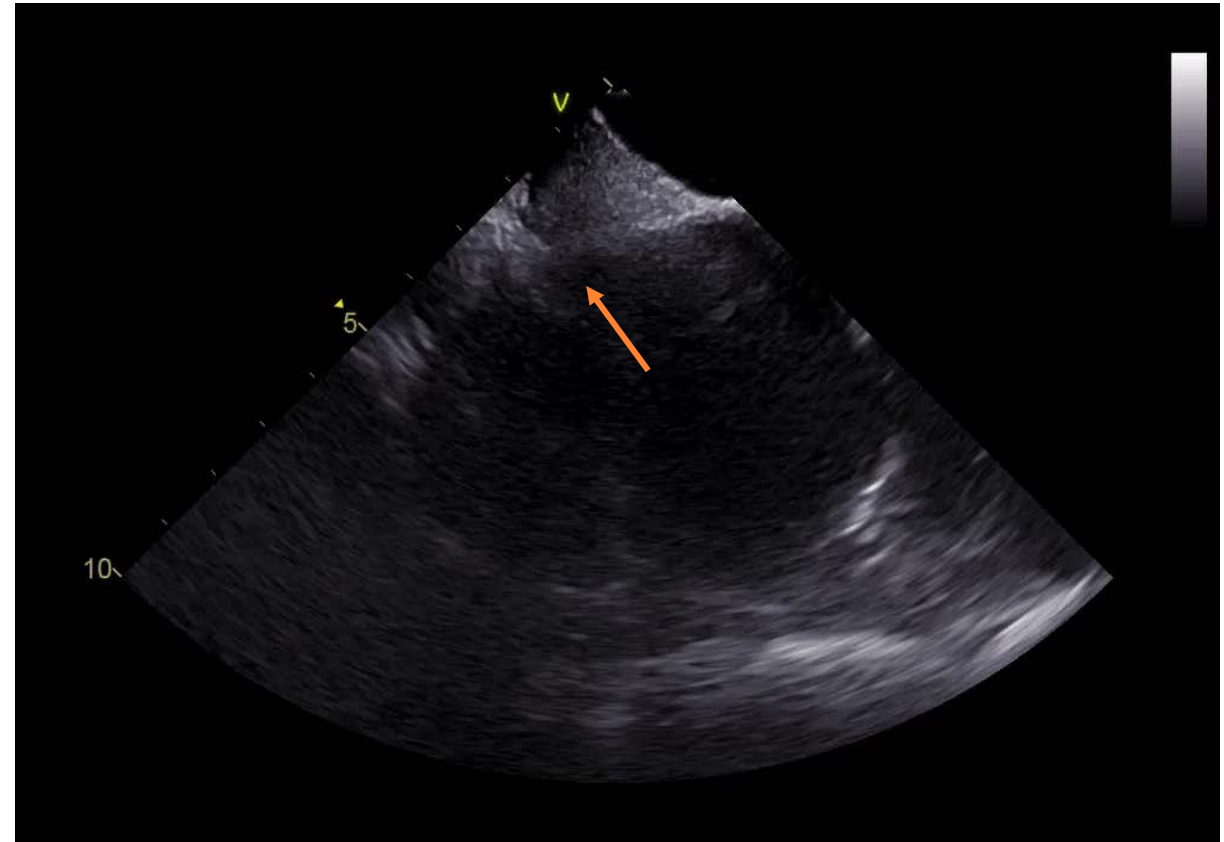
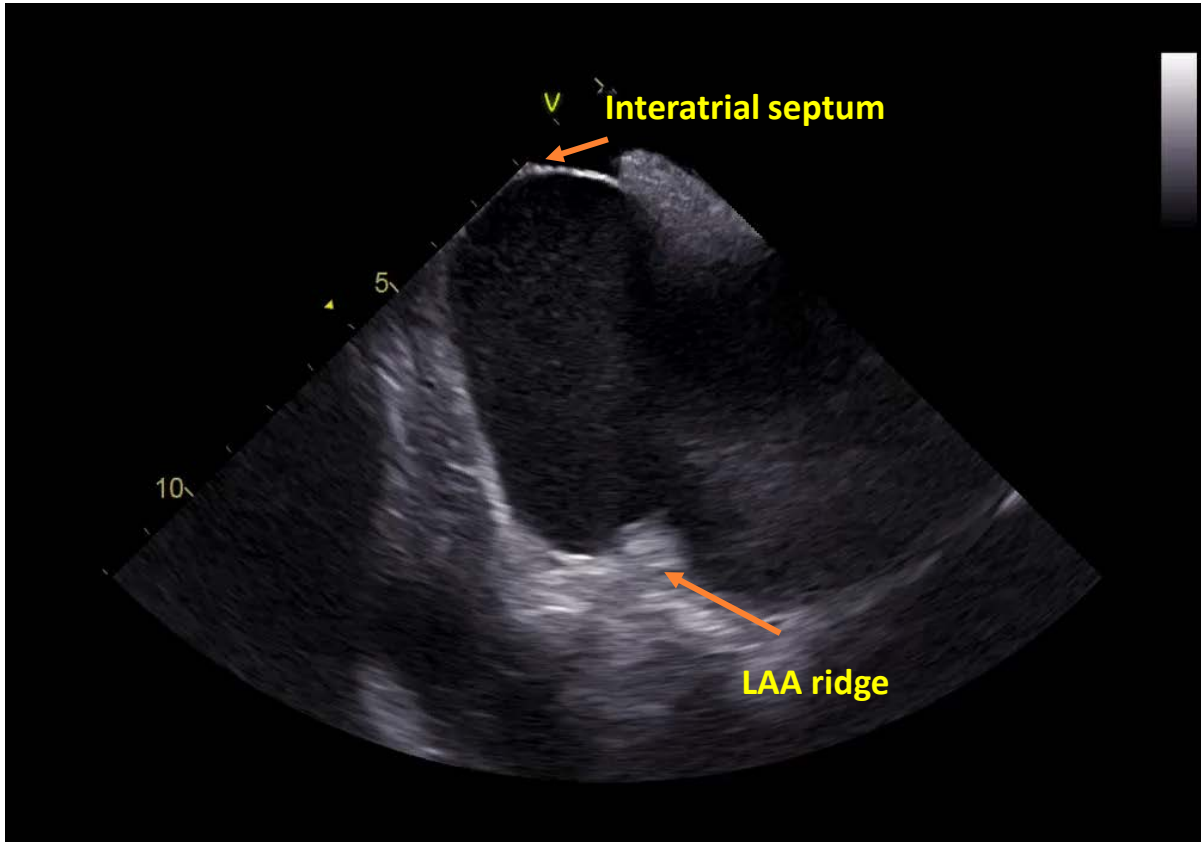
Advancement of needle into LA



Aneurysmatic septum



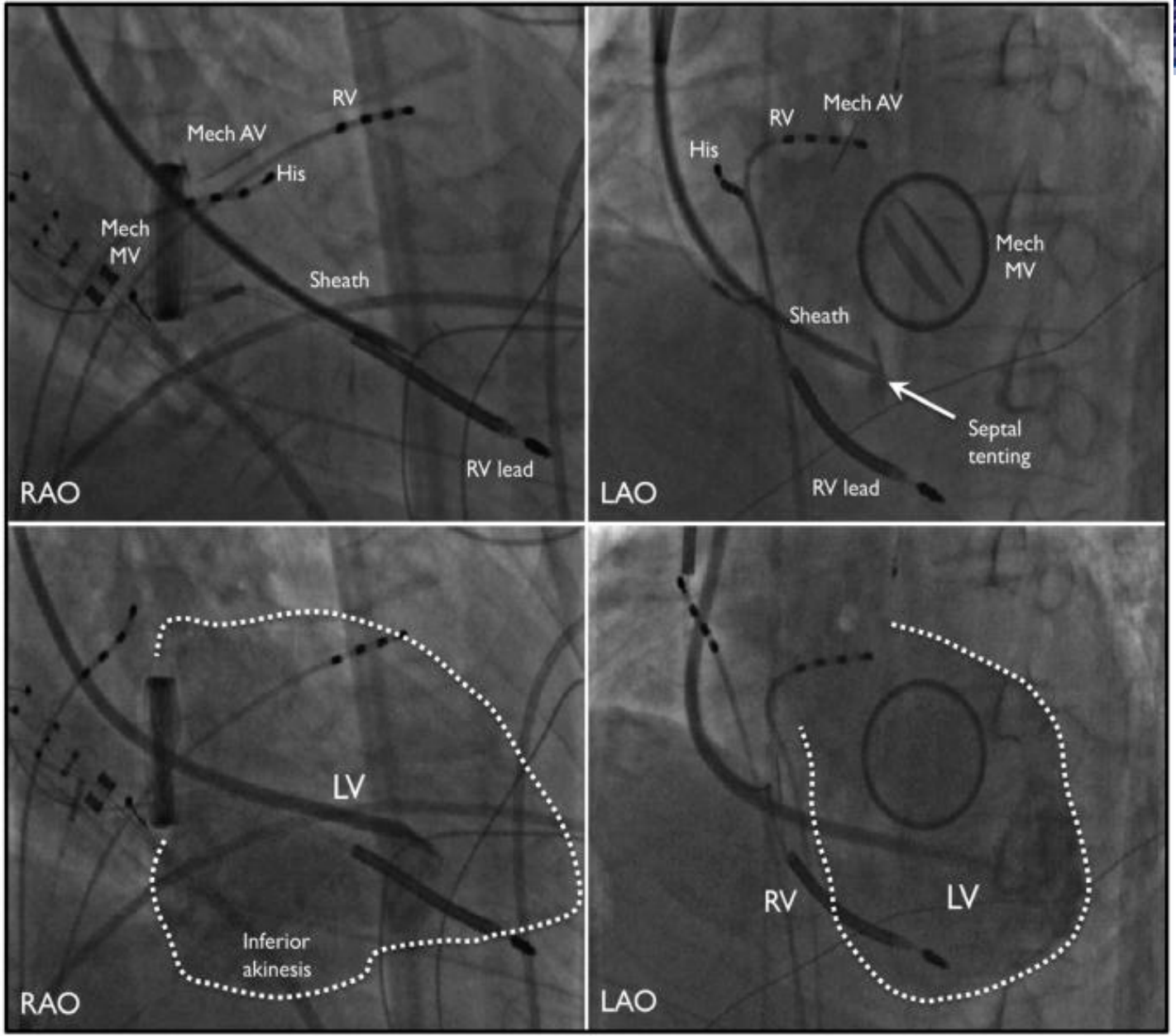
- **Real case: trans-septal puncture**



Tented inter-atrial septum



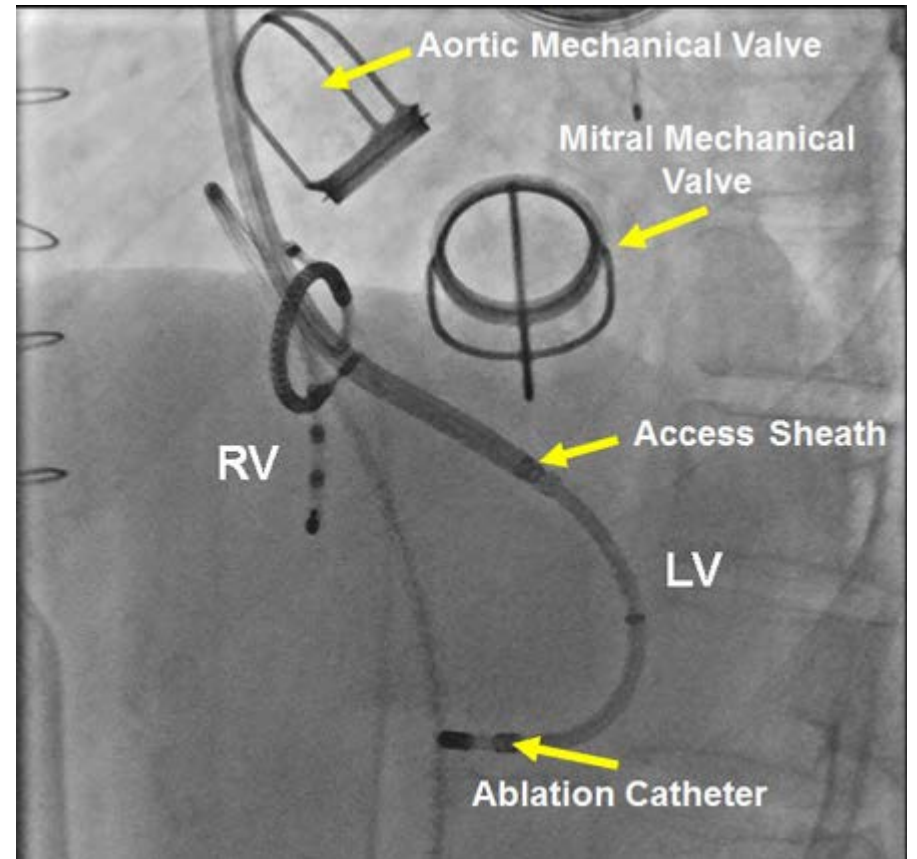
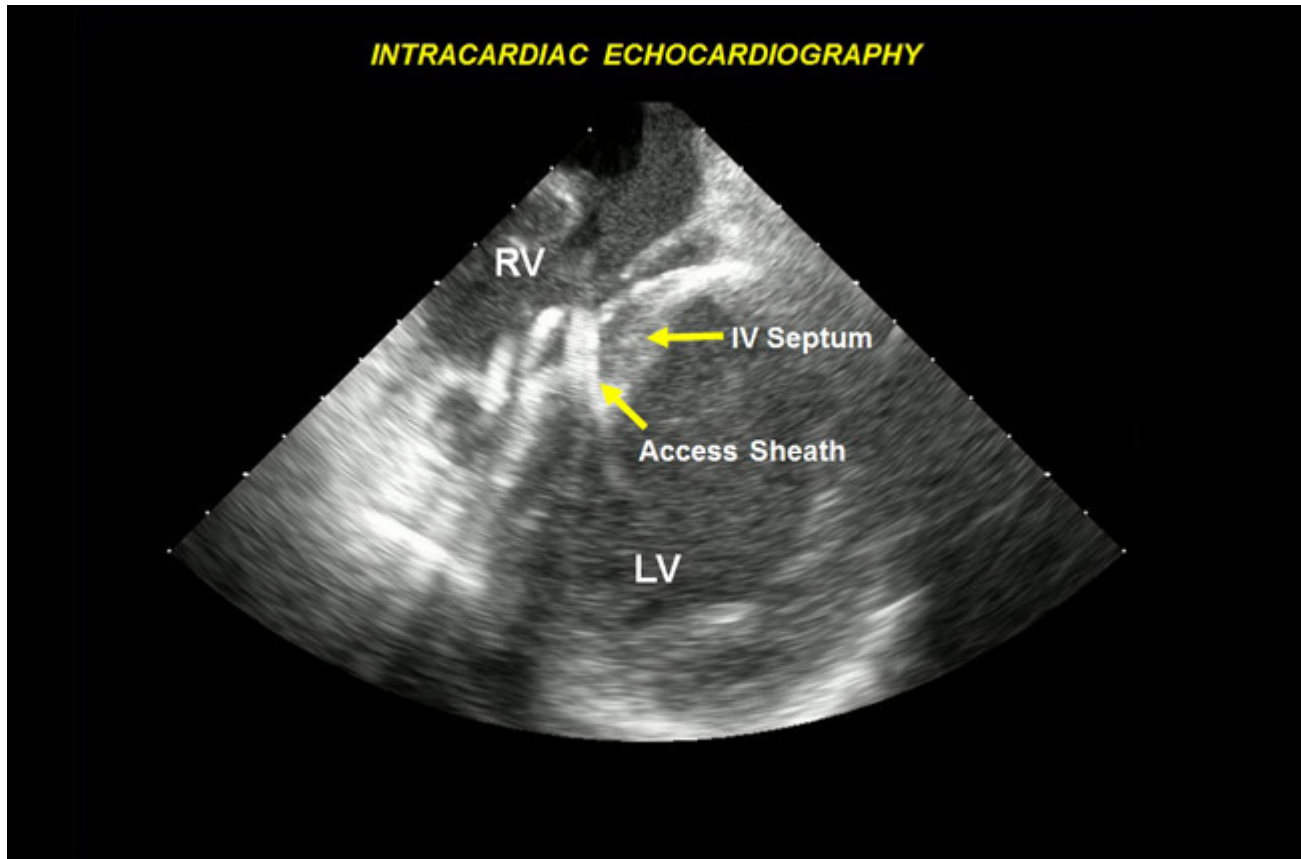
- Percutaneous Inter-Ventricular Septal Access in a Patient with Aortic and Mitral Mechanical Valves



*Heart Rhythm. 2013 Jul; 10(7): 1069–1073.

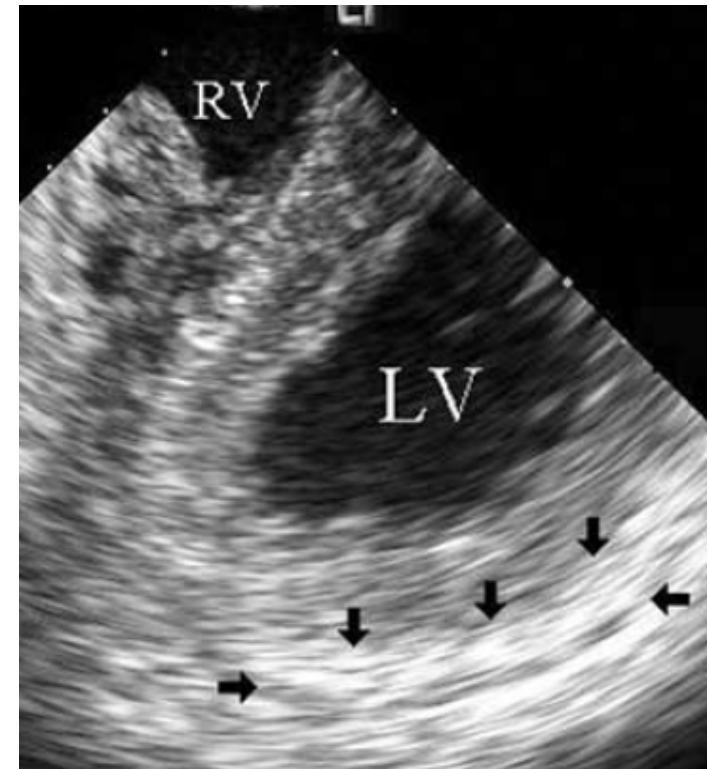
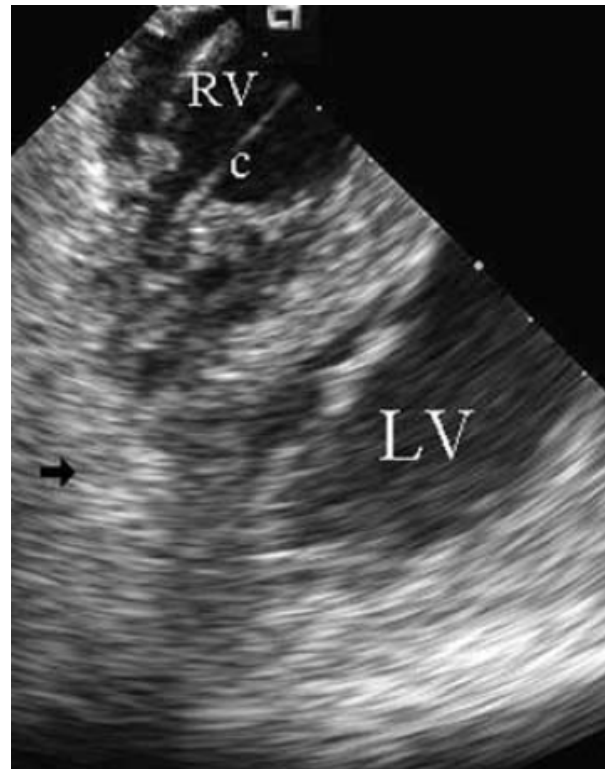


INTRACARDIAC ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY



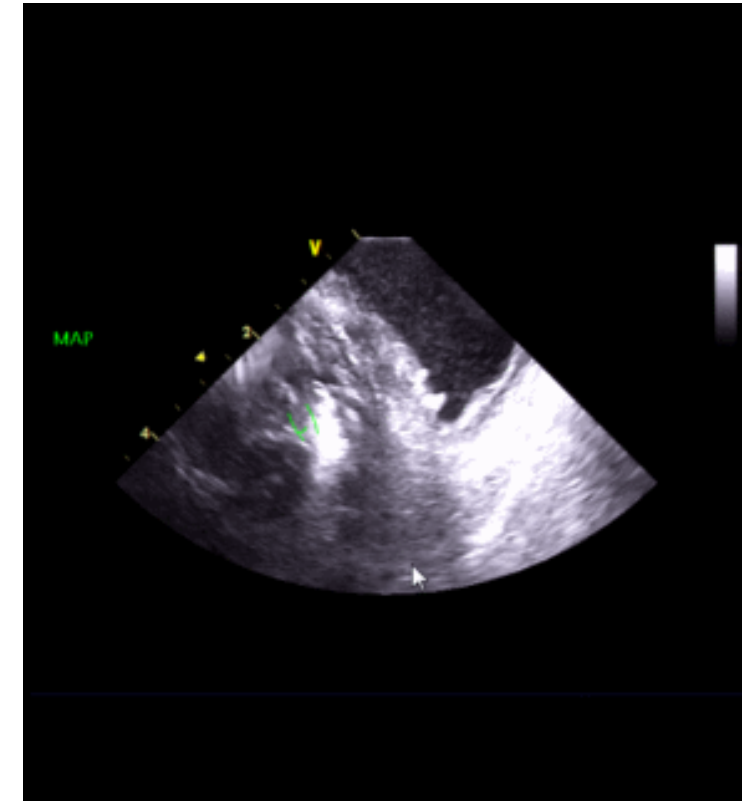
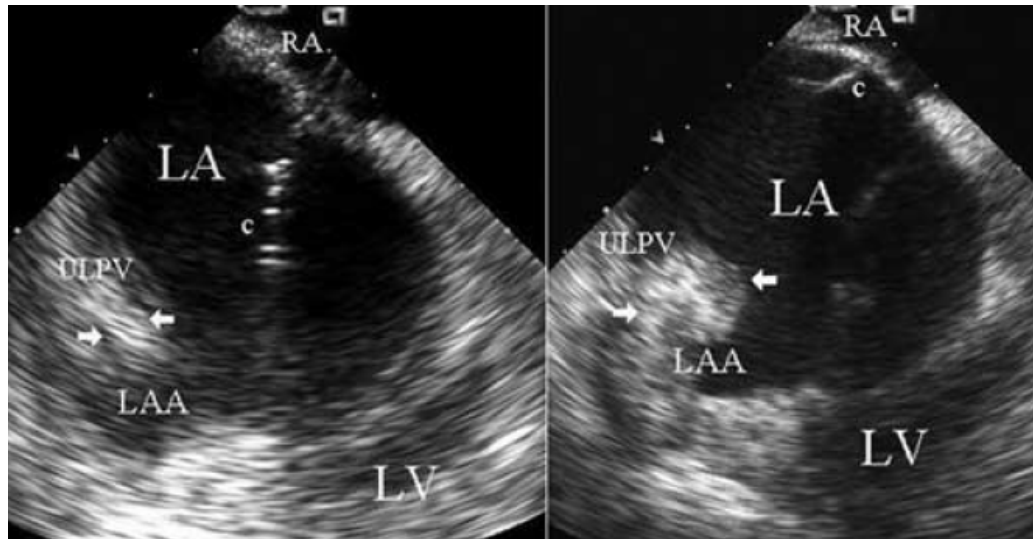


- ICE helps to guide the subxyphoid/subcostal **pericardial puncture**.
 - Rapid identification of unexpected needle puncture passing through the ventricle
 - Monitoring of catheter tip position and lesion morphologic change





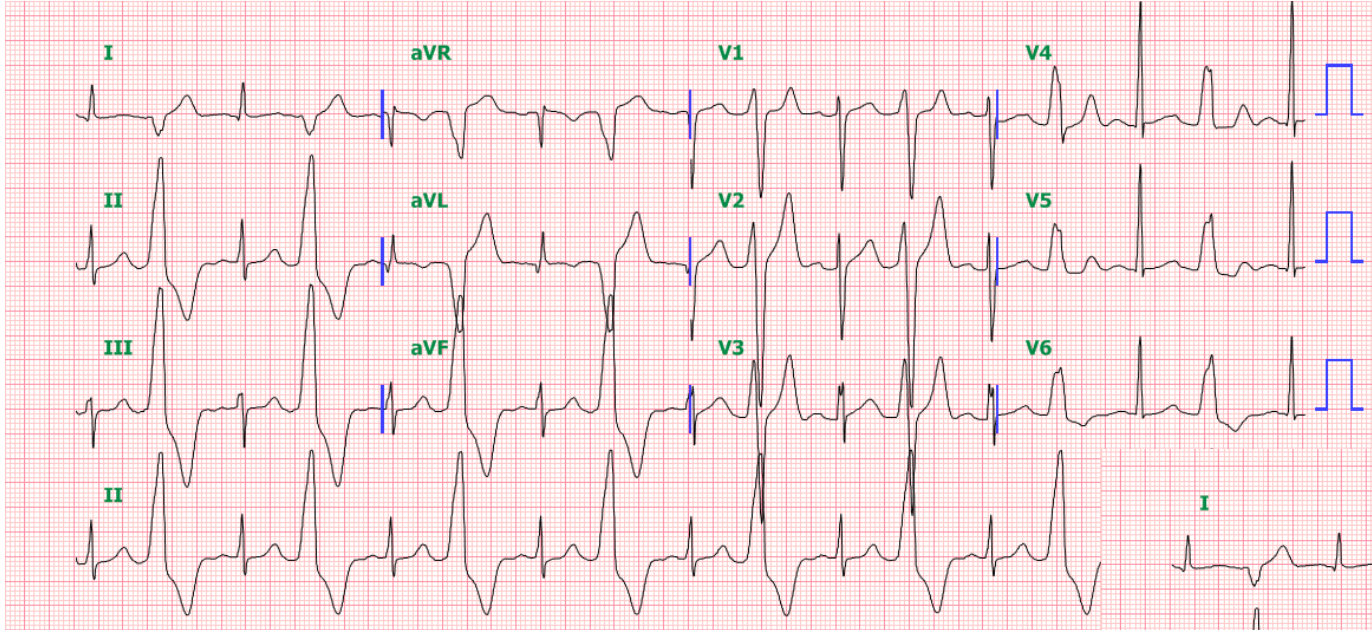
- ICE can provide imaging of **lesion morphologic changes** (swelling, dimpling, crater formation, accelerated bubbles before popping-crater like lesion development, and increased echogenicity) → titration of energy power/duration to control lesion formation and to prevent overheating
- The **catheter-tissue contact** can be monitored.



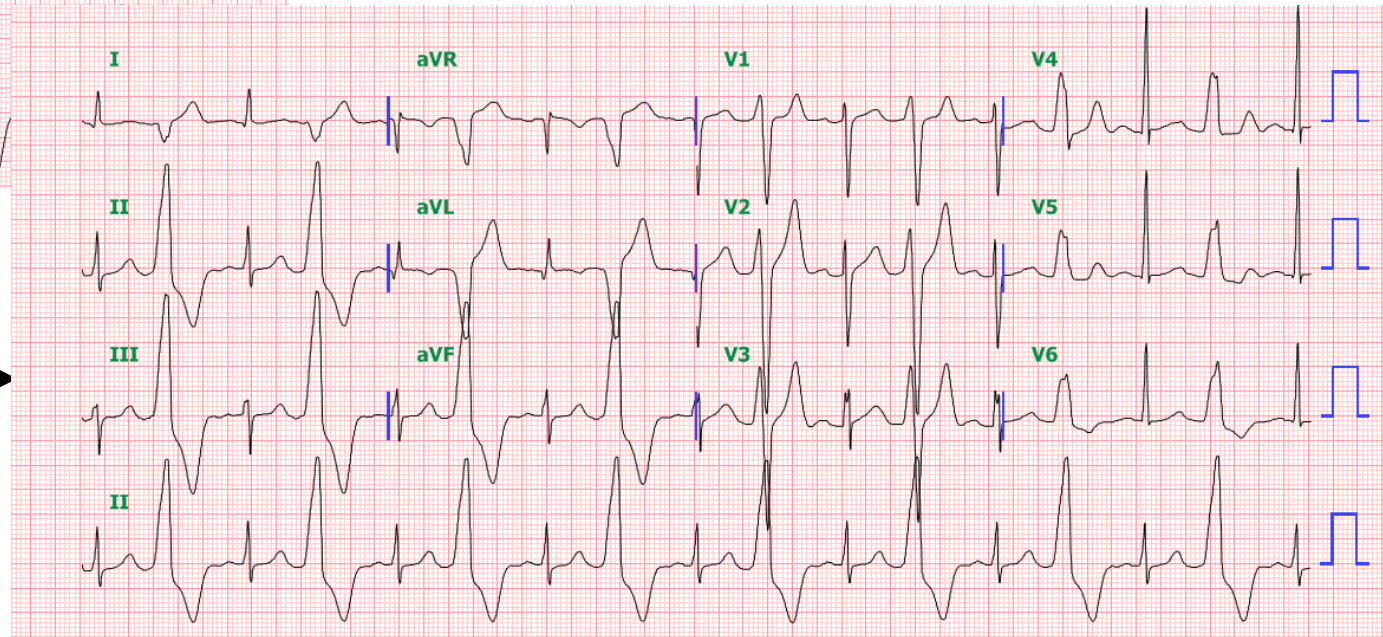
**Real case : ablation lesion formation
in LVOT**

Summary case

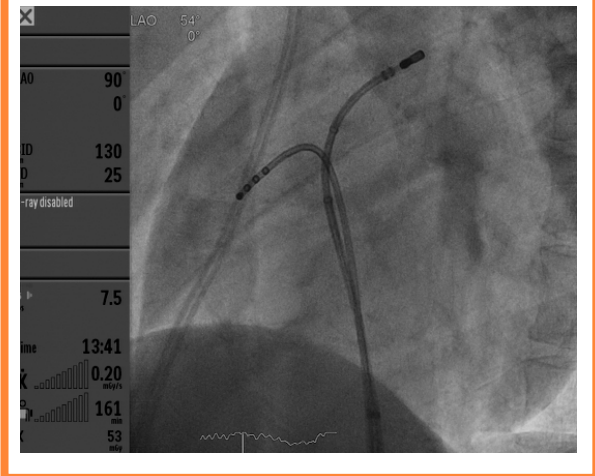
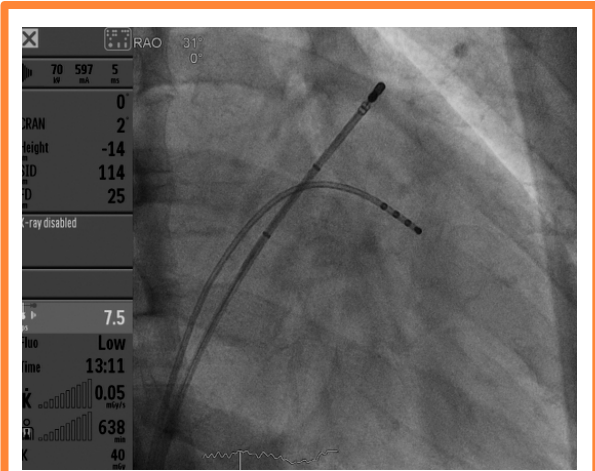
- 40-year old male with recurrent outflow tract VPCs



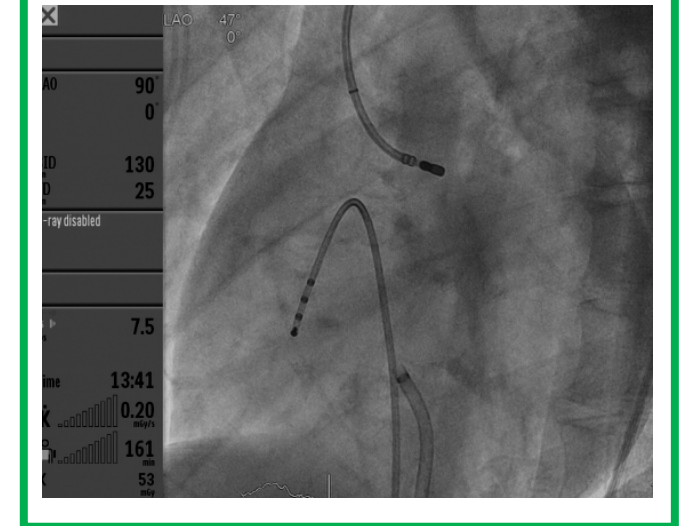
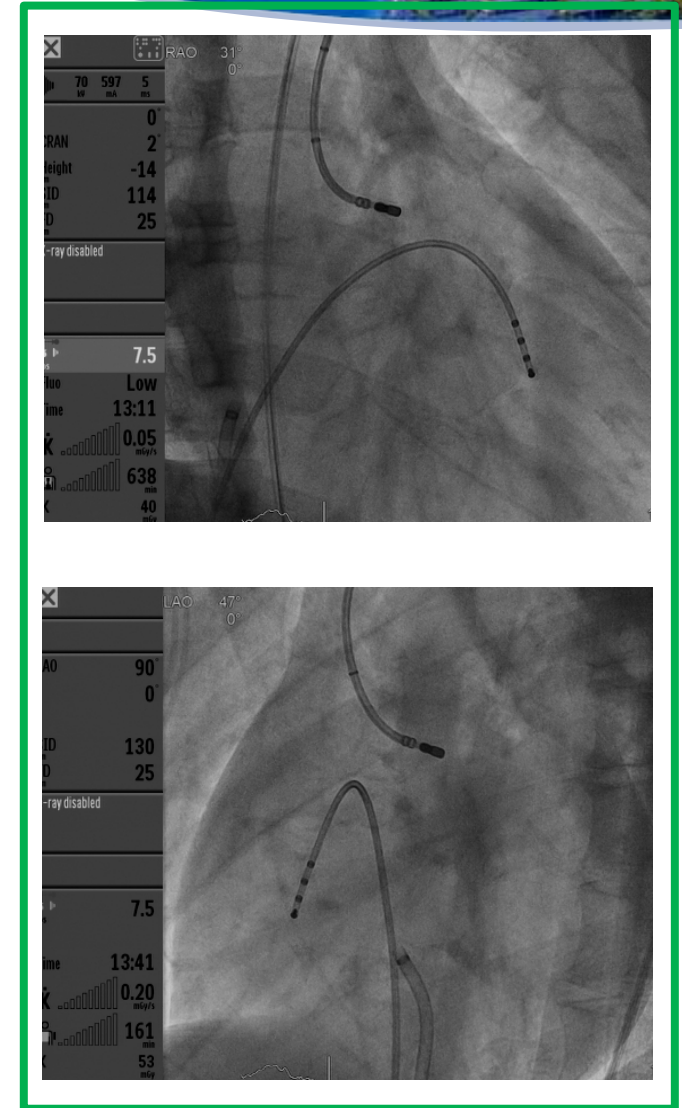
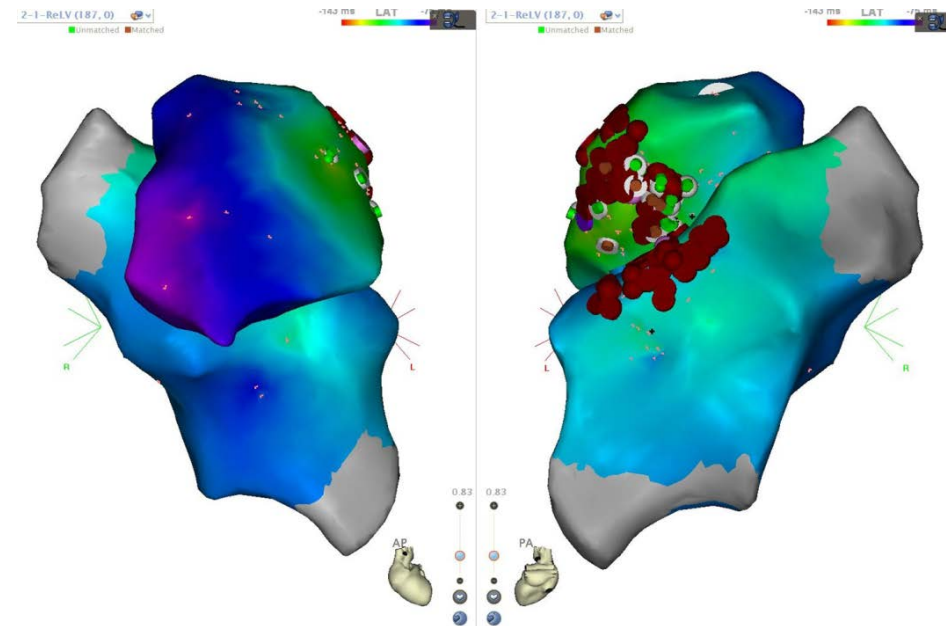
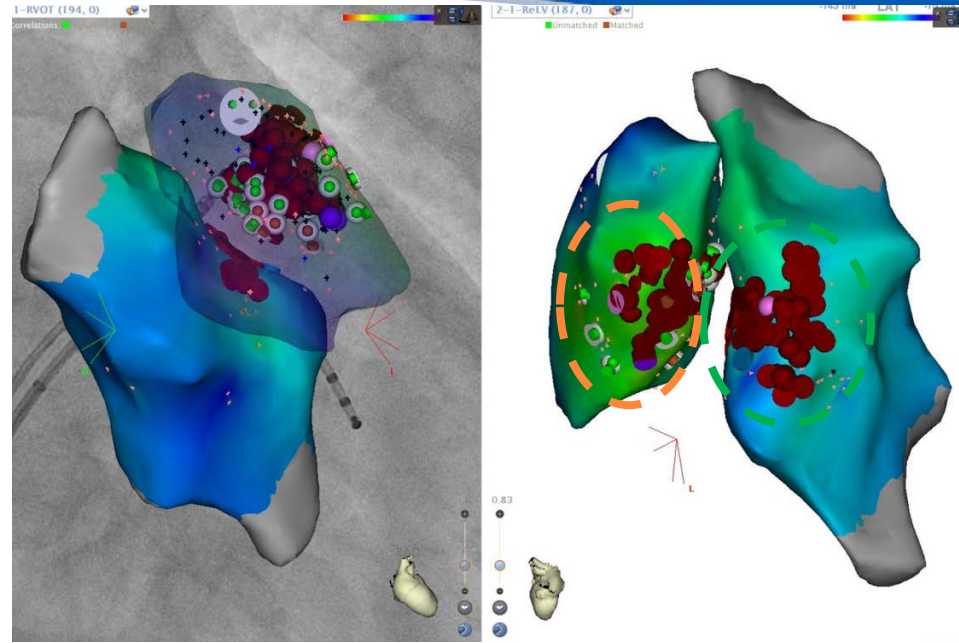
Recur at 1 month from the 1st ablation



First ablation

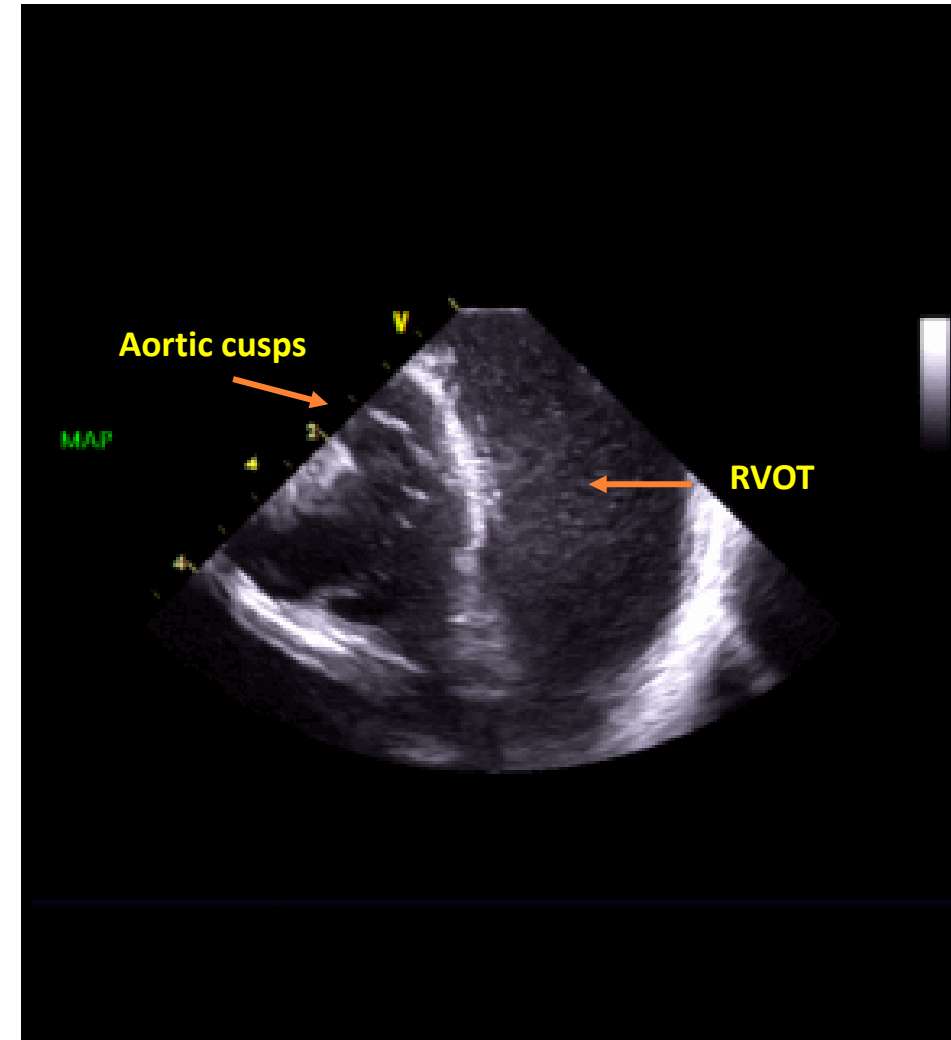


RVOT ablation site



LVOT ablation site

2nd ablation



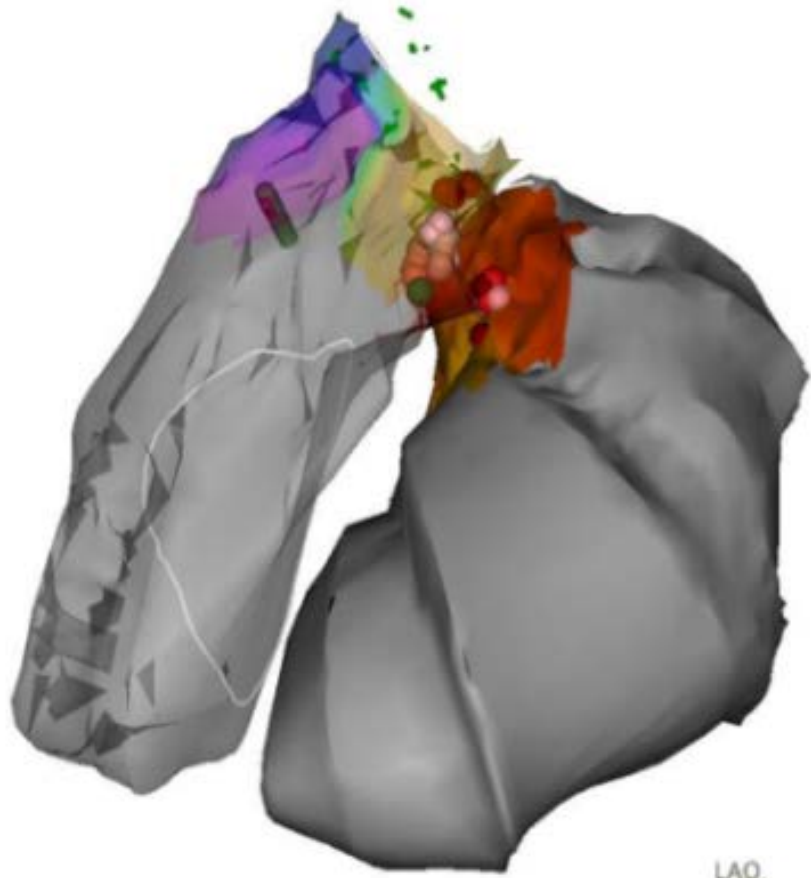
ICE-guided anatomic mapping of both ventricles



C-RV (1/5, 9/7)

Mismatched Matched

129 gr FTI 300 gr



1.33

1.33



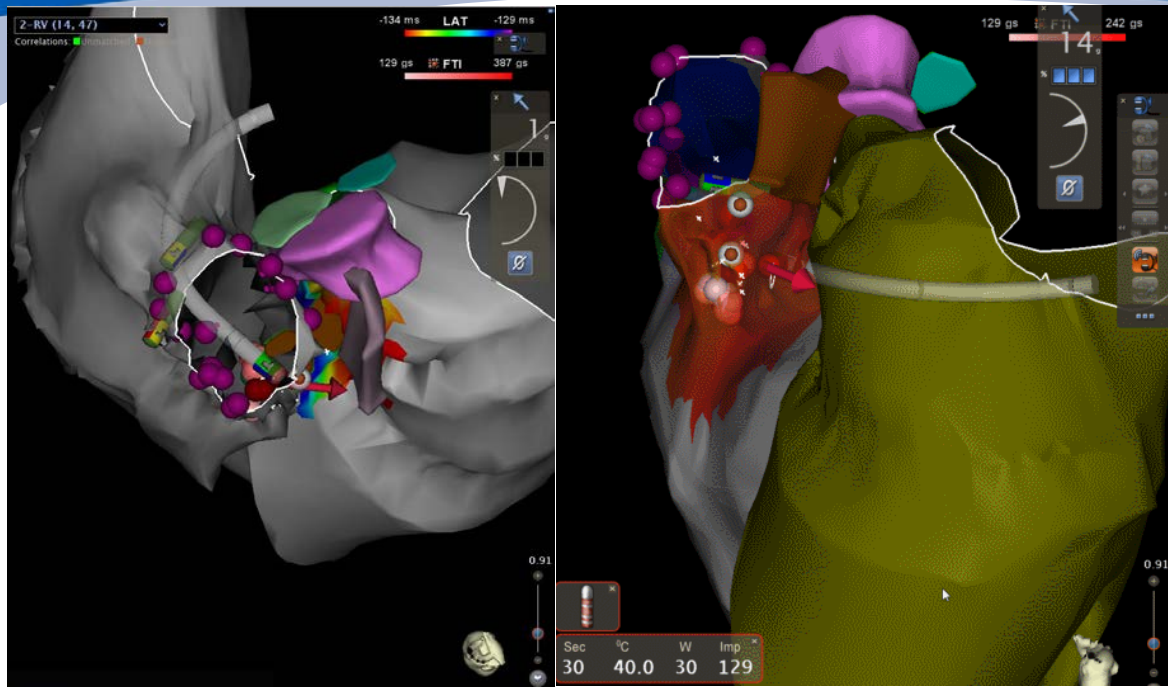
R-LV (1/5, 2/7)

129 gr FTI 300 gr

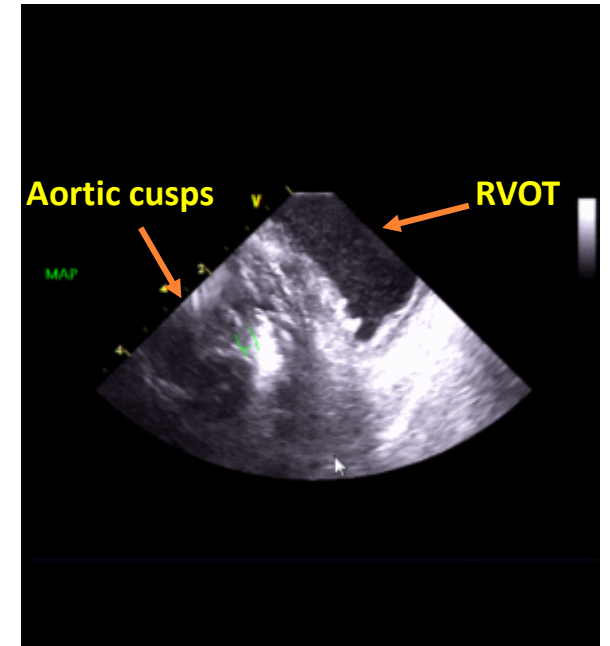
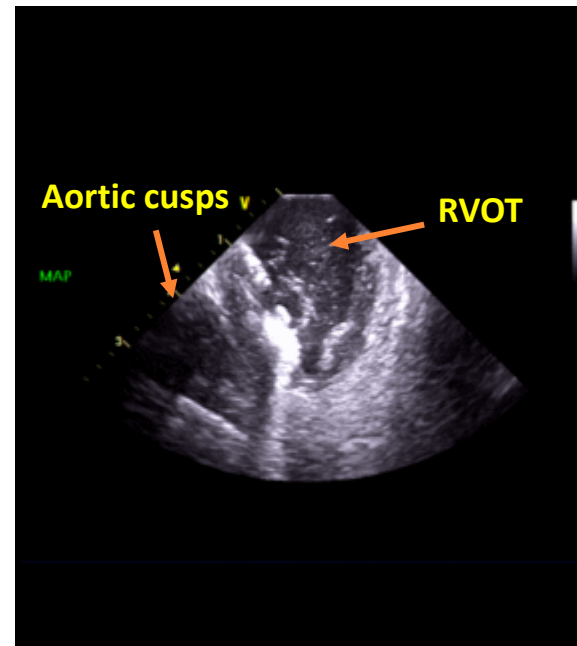


1.33

1.33



Ablation sites at the 2nd ablation



Role of ICE during VT ablation

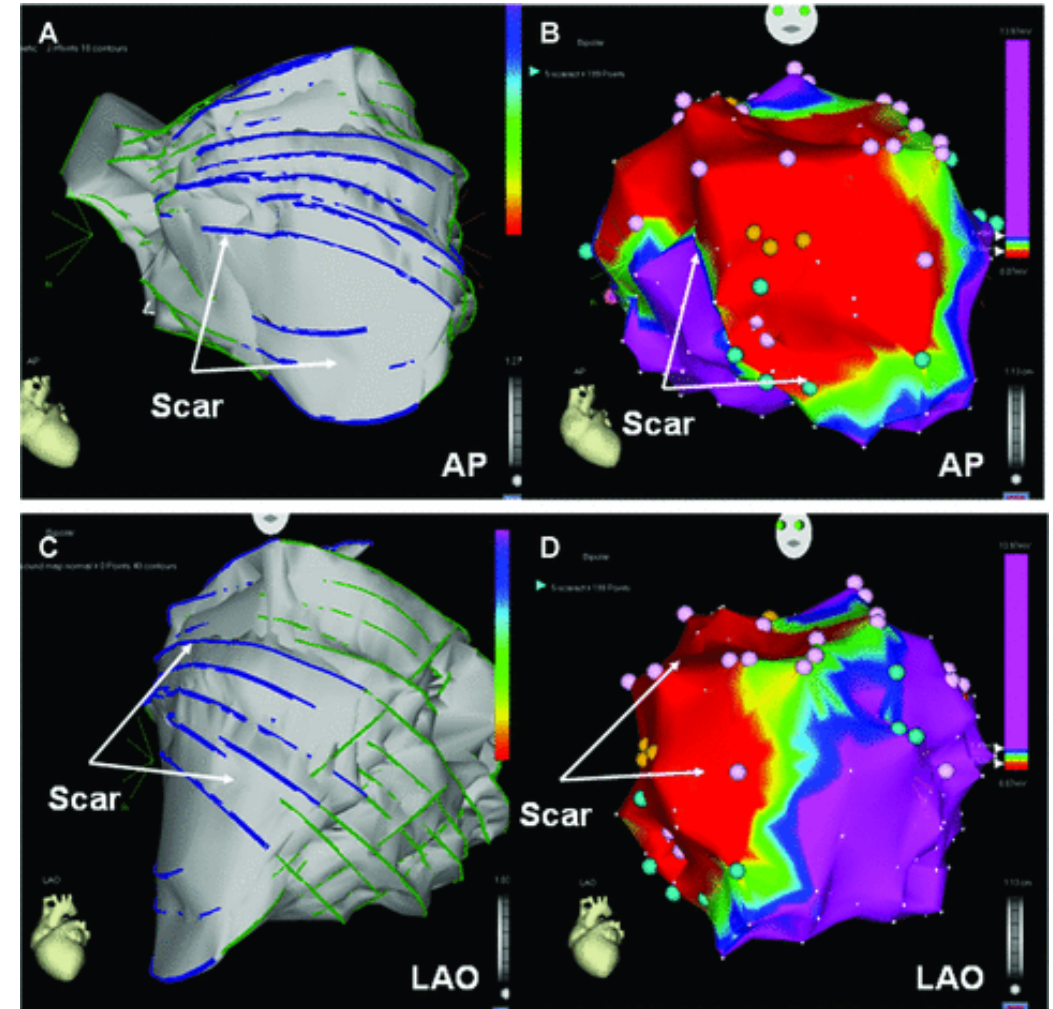
Direct visualization of anatomy, catheter, and lesion formation

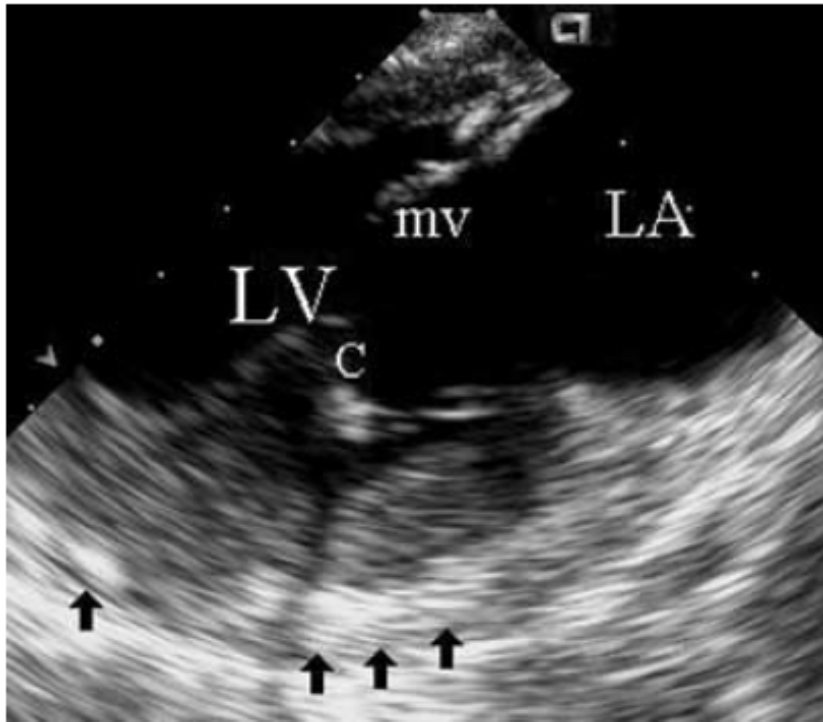
Identification of substrate

Continuous monitoring for complication

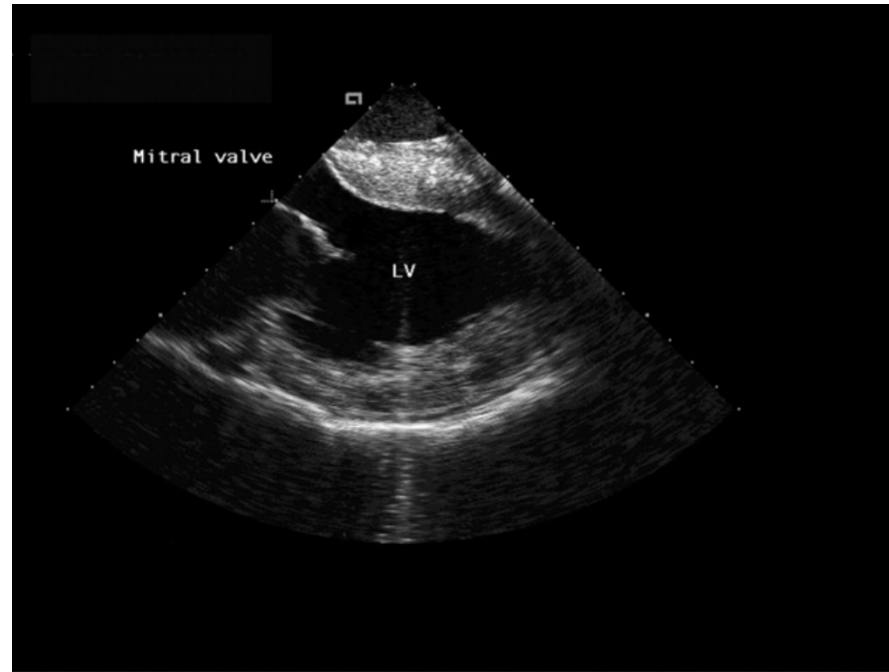


- Real time ICE images provide accurate chamber geometries and scar boundaries of the left ventricle. These **scar borders** were more accurate than transthoracic echocardiography and illustrate the feasibility of ICE for substrate-based ablation for VT.
- Infarcted myocardium can be identified by wall thinning and increased echodensity of the infarcted tissue.

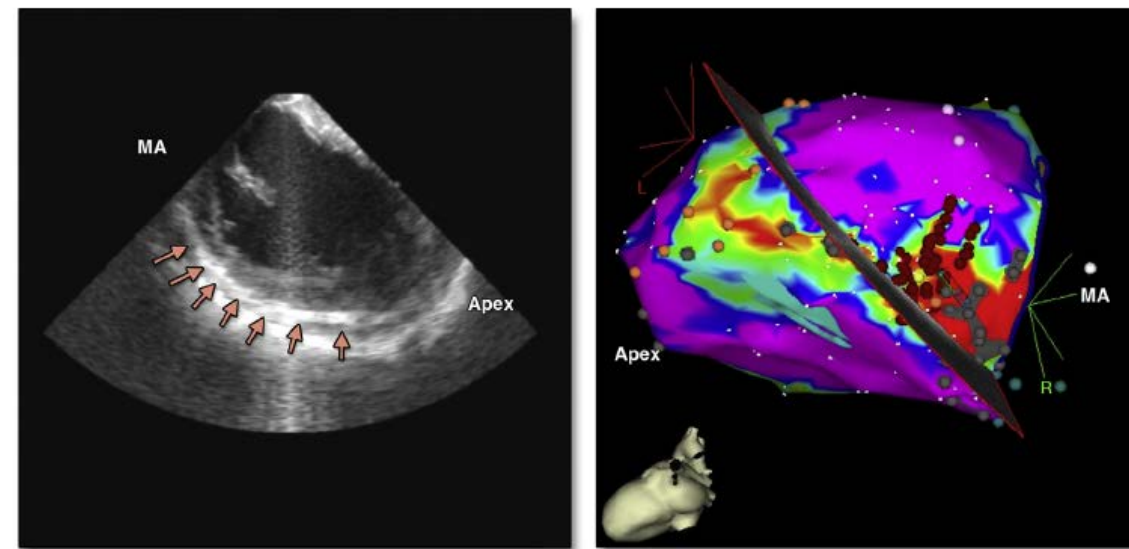
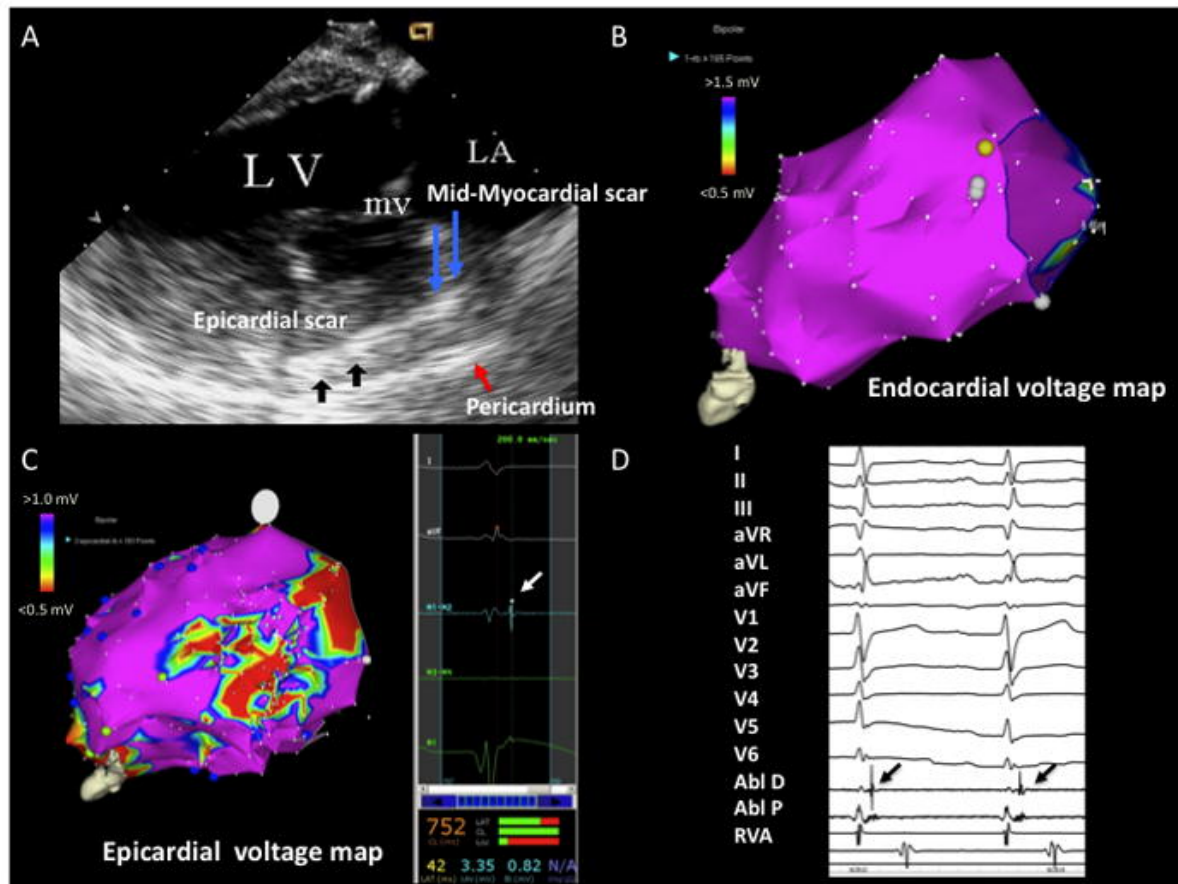




Epicardial scar

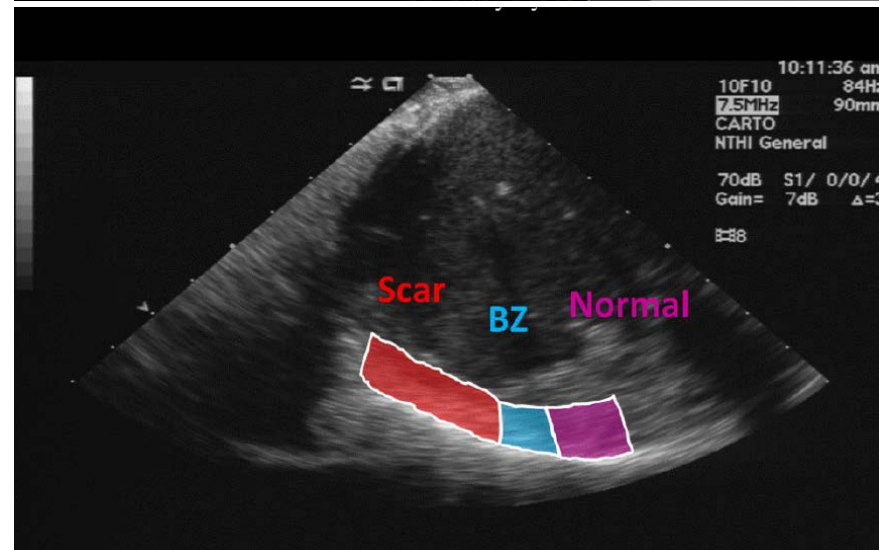
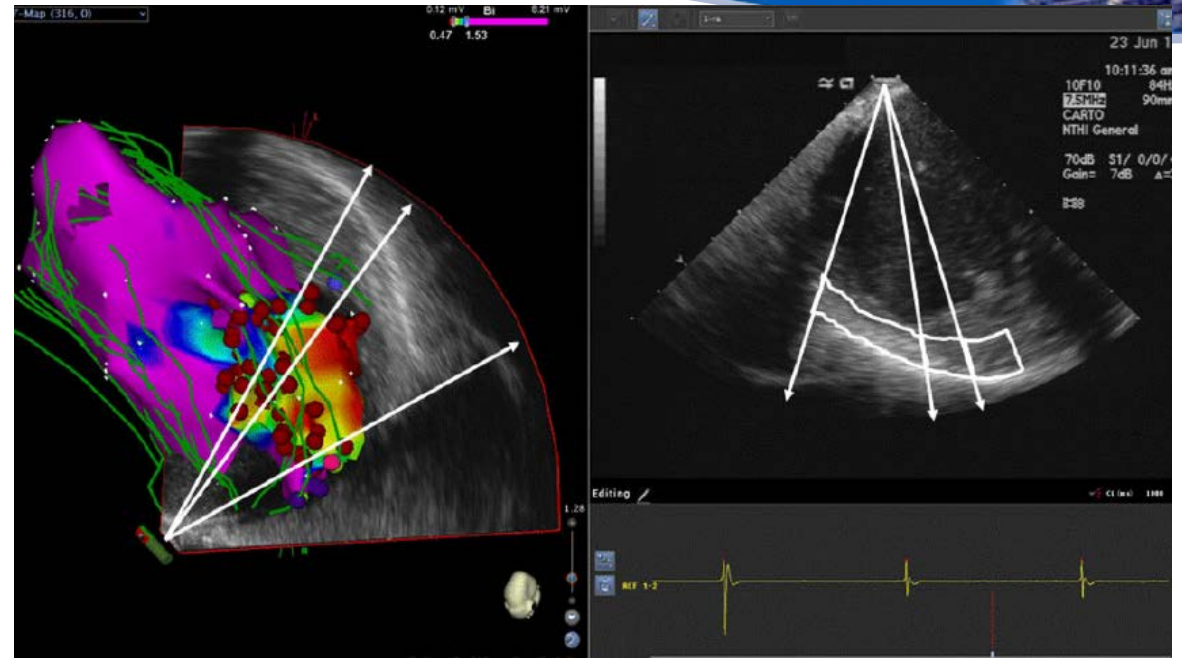
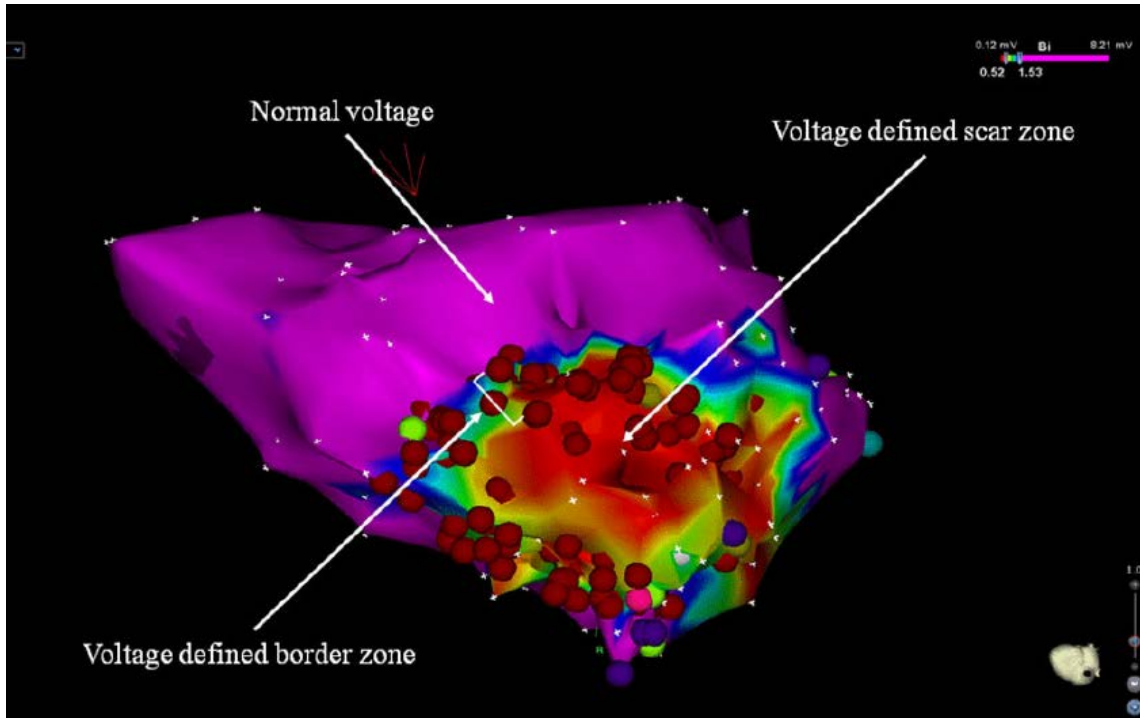


Aneurysmatic dilatation of the posterolateral LV wall



- In patients with epicardial scar tissue, an increased echodensity of epicardial tissue seen on ICE has been correlated with scarring.

Quantitative Assessment of VT scar substrate by ICE



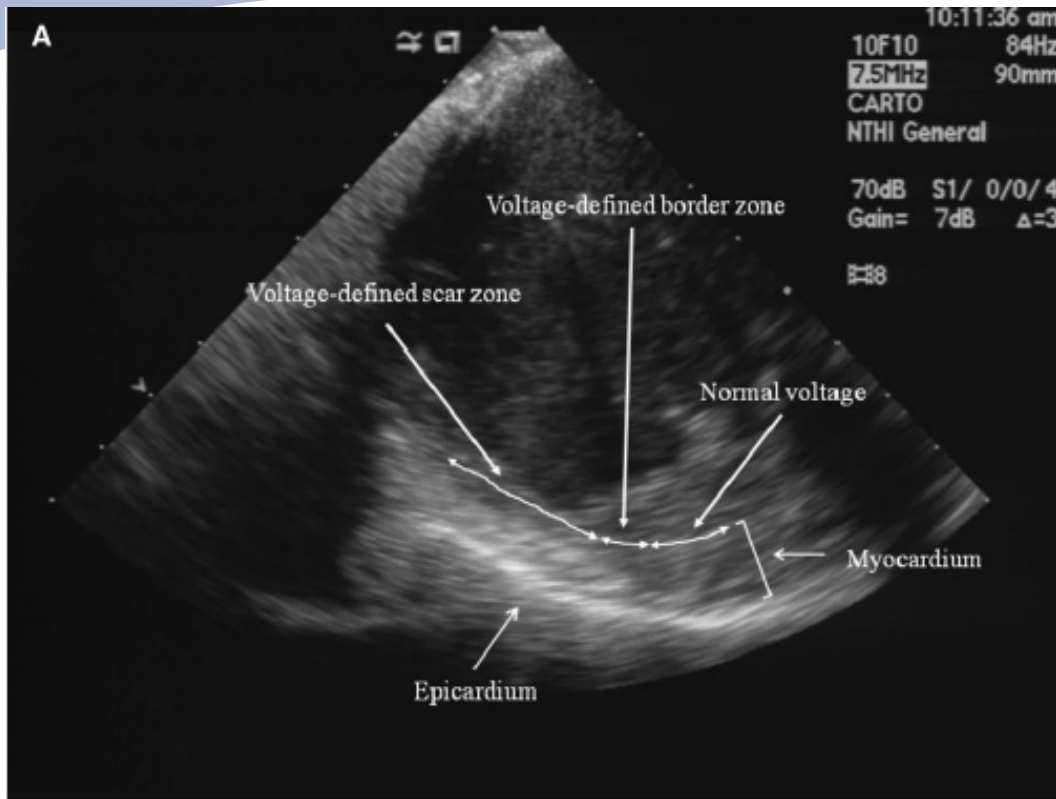
Side-by-side analysis of voltage maps and ICE images

voltage-defined

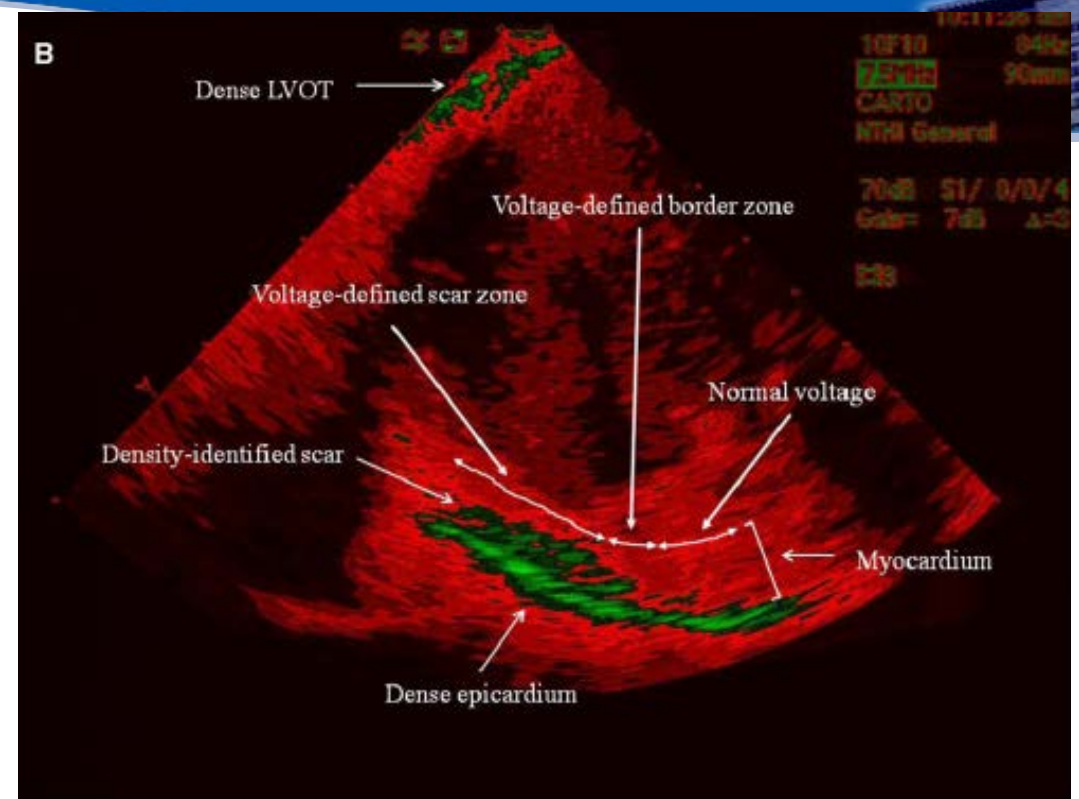
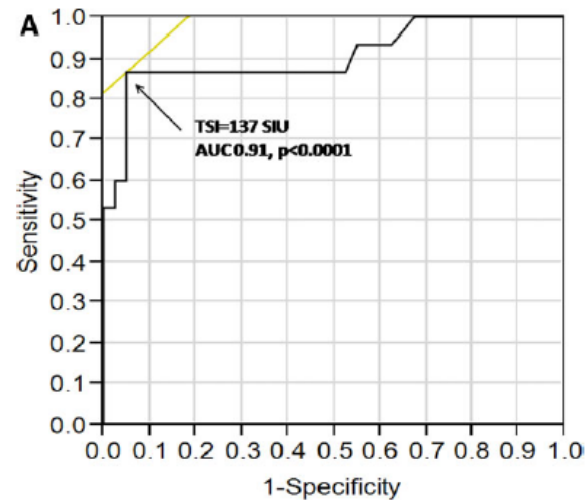
- Scar zones : bipolar voltage $< 0.5 \text{ mV}$
- Border zones (0.5–1.5 mV)
- Normal myocardium ($> 1.5 \text{ mV}$)

*Pacing Clin Electrophysiol. 2014 Apr;37(4):412-21.

Image analyses of tissue density and heterogeneity in myocardium



Non-enhanced 2D ICE

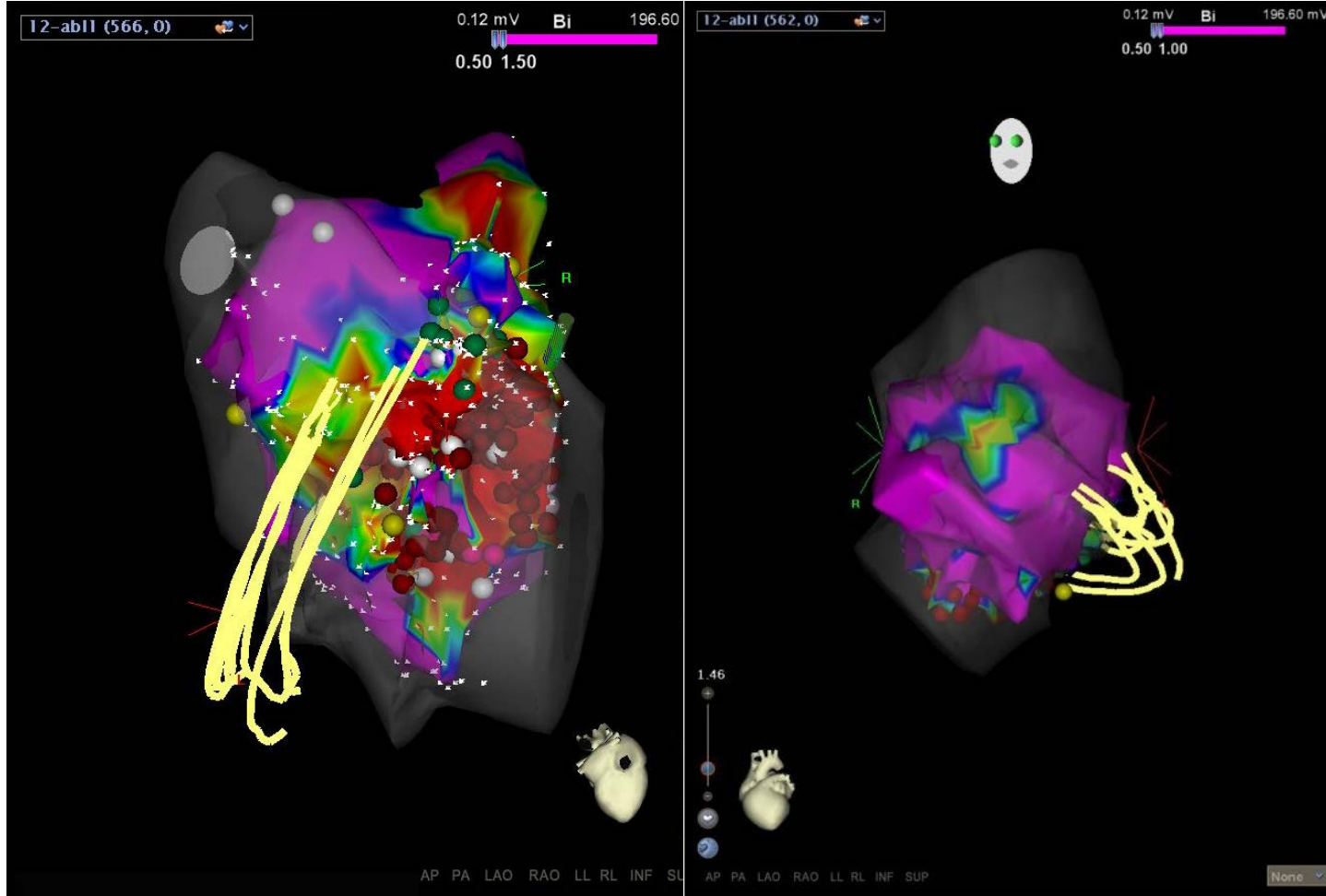


Signal intensity-based color enhanced image:

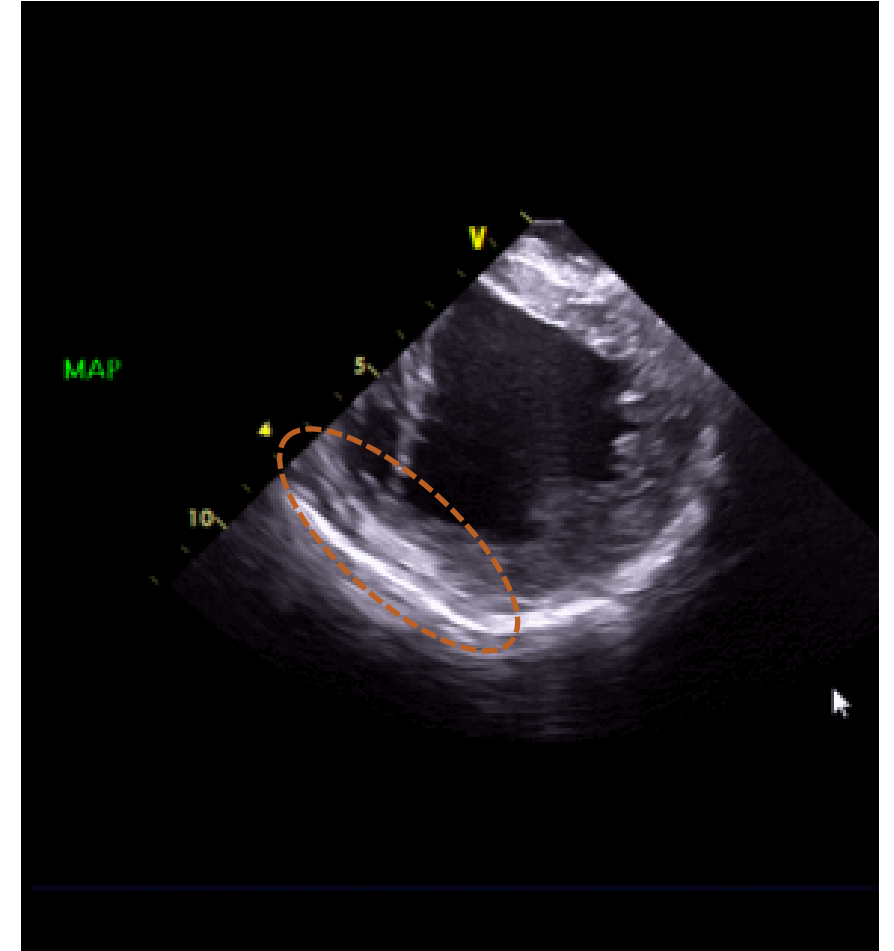
Software-based color enhancement employed to facilitate visual identification of scar zones (green, signal intensity ≥ 137 SIU)

*SIU = signal intensity units; gray level on 0–256 gray scale for 8-bit images

Real case: 64-year old male with scar-related VT



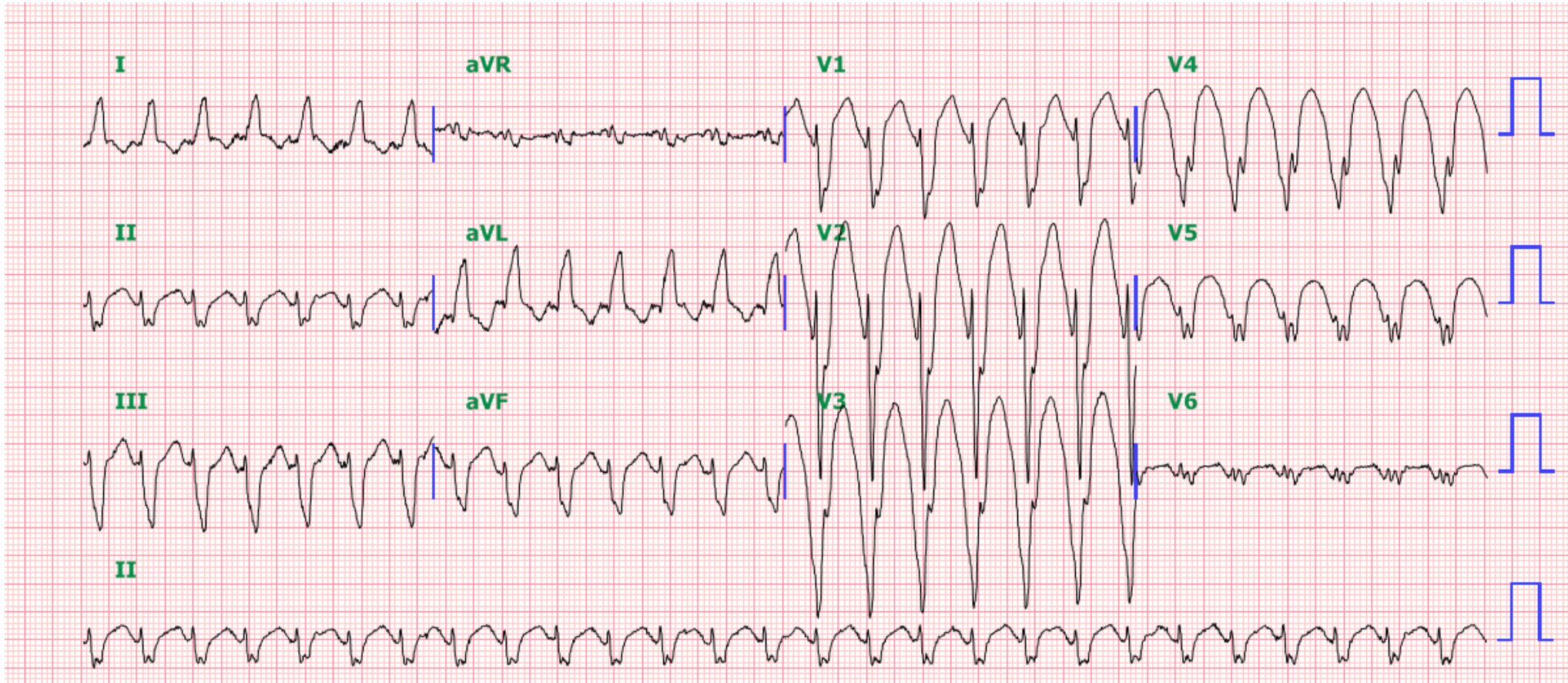
Scar area marked by yellow lines at LV posterior wall near posteromedial papillary muscle



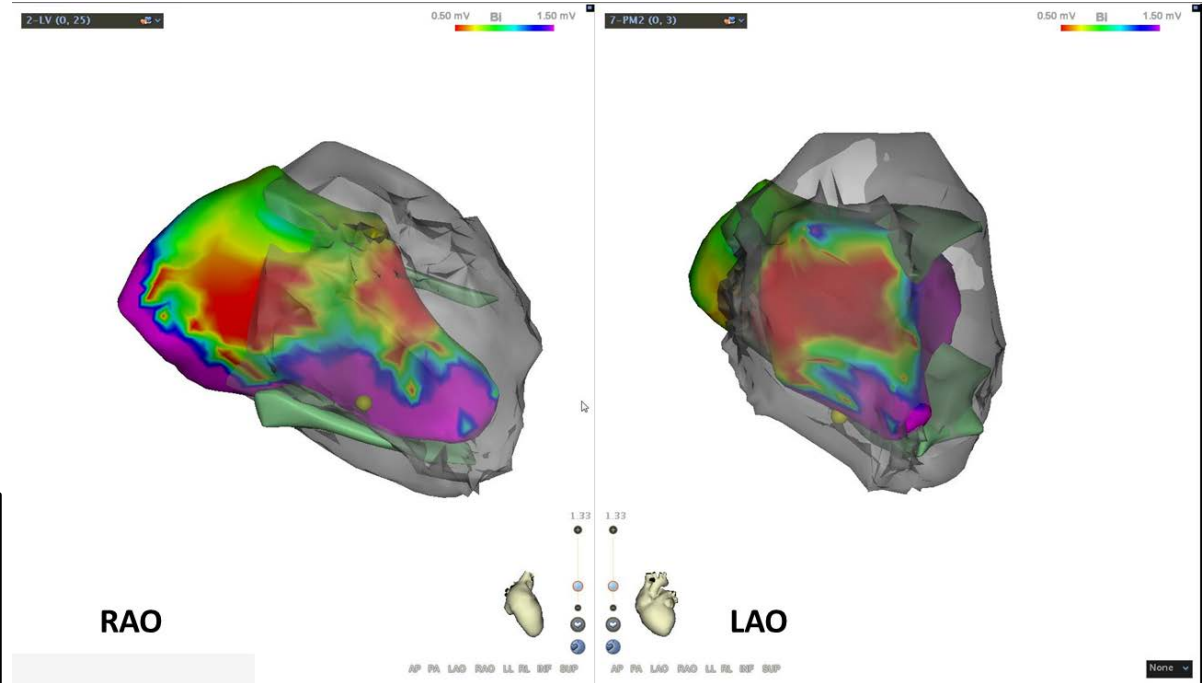
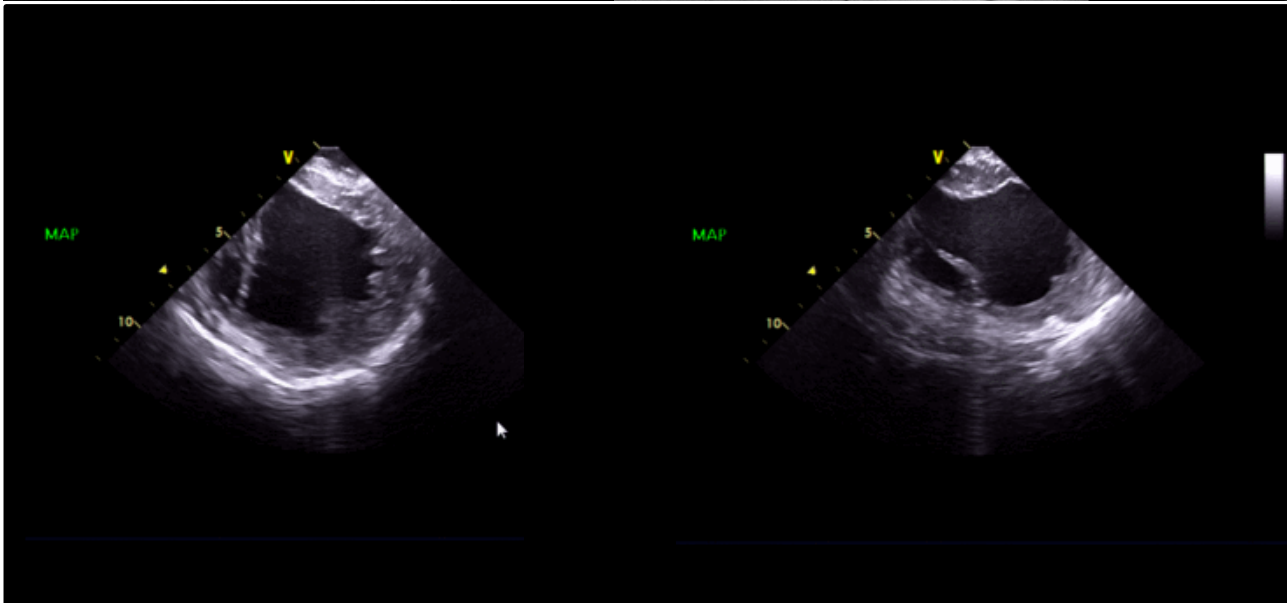
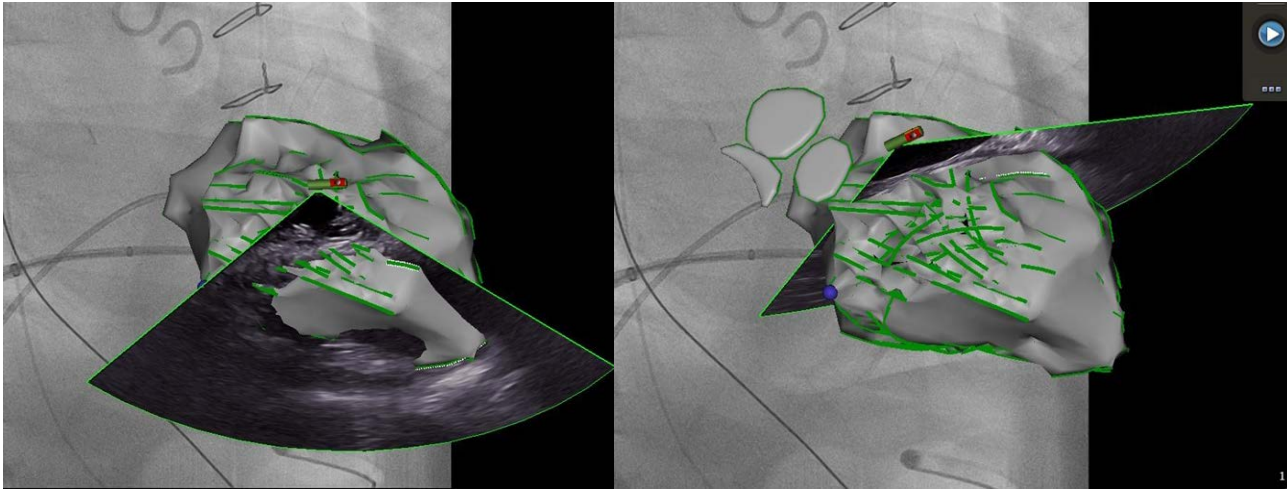
Hypokinetic LV wall with bright scar area noted by ICE

Summary case

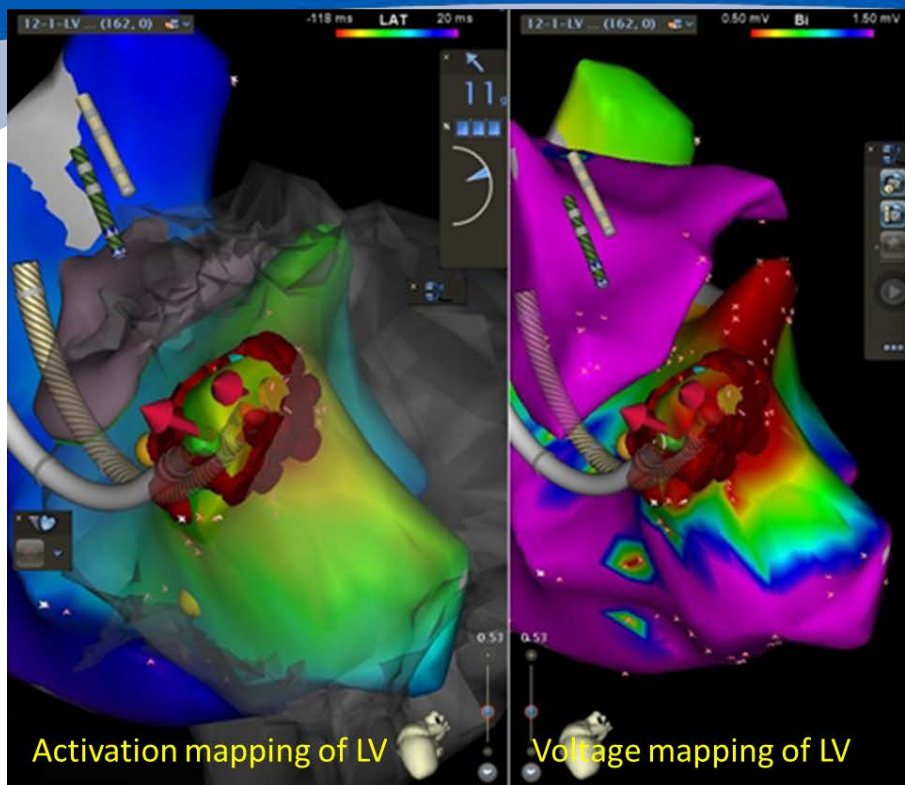
- 70-year old male with ischemic cardiomyopathy



ICE-guided anatomic mapping of LV

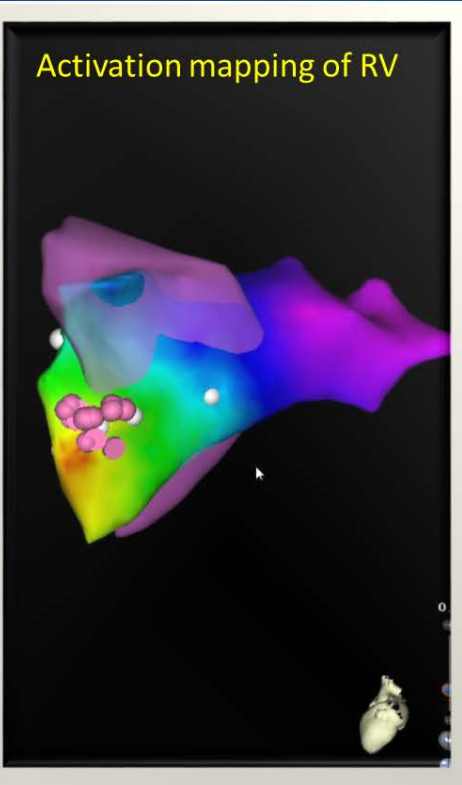


The voltage mapping showed that low voltage area was located in the septal aneurysm detected in ICE images.

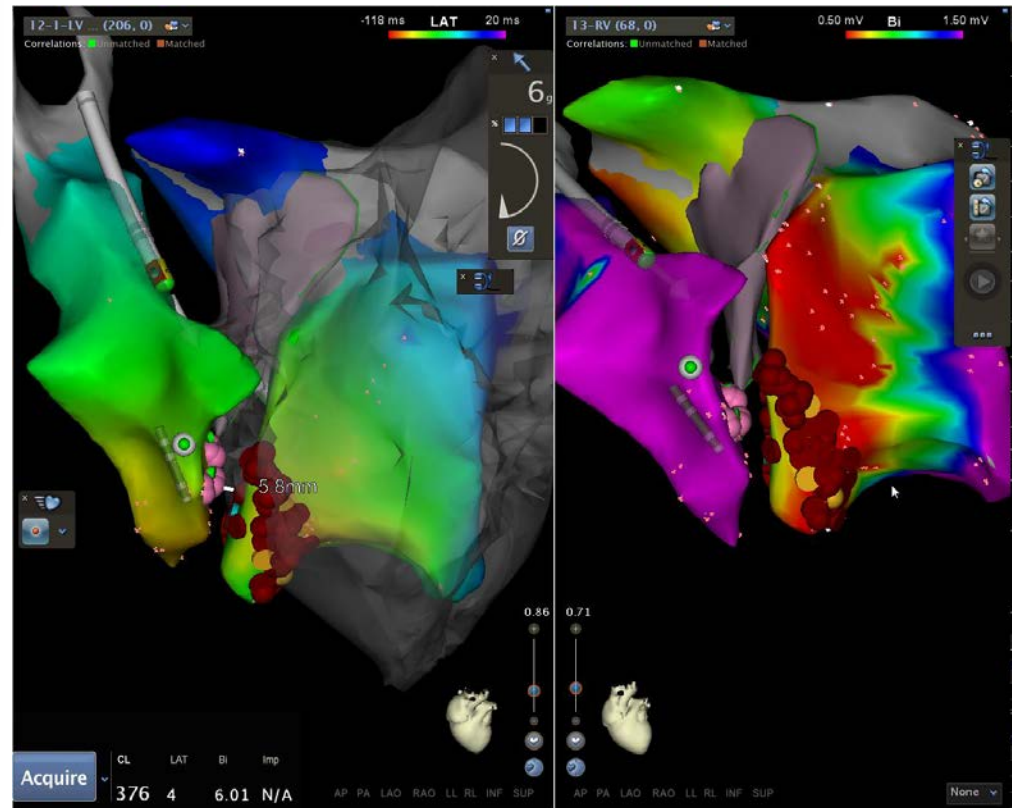


Activation mapping of LV

Voltage mapping of LV



Activation mapping of RV



Acquire

CL	LAT	BI	Imp
376	4	6.01	N/A

AP PA LAO RAO LL RL INF SUP

CL	LAT	BI	Imp
68	0	0.71	

AP PA LAO RAO LL RL INF SUP

Role of ICE during VT ablation

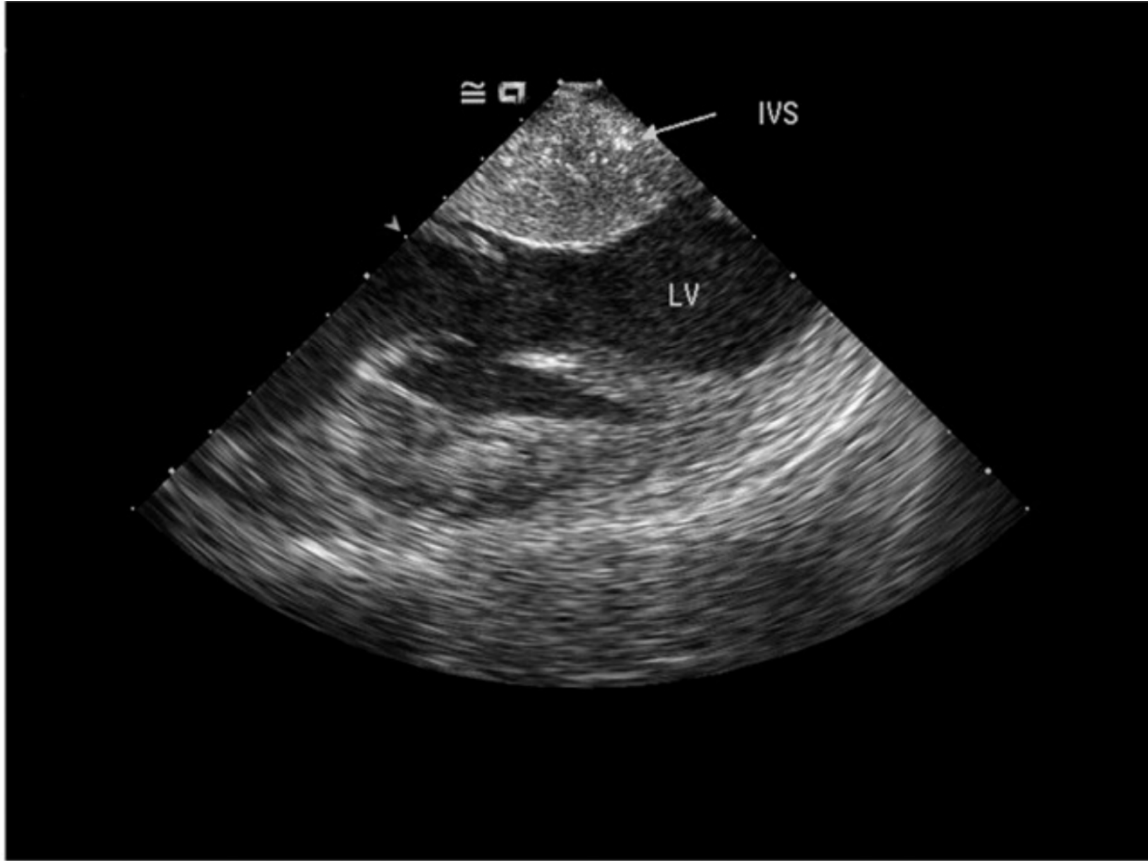
Direct visualization of anatomy, catheter, and lesion formation

Identification of substrate

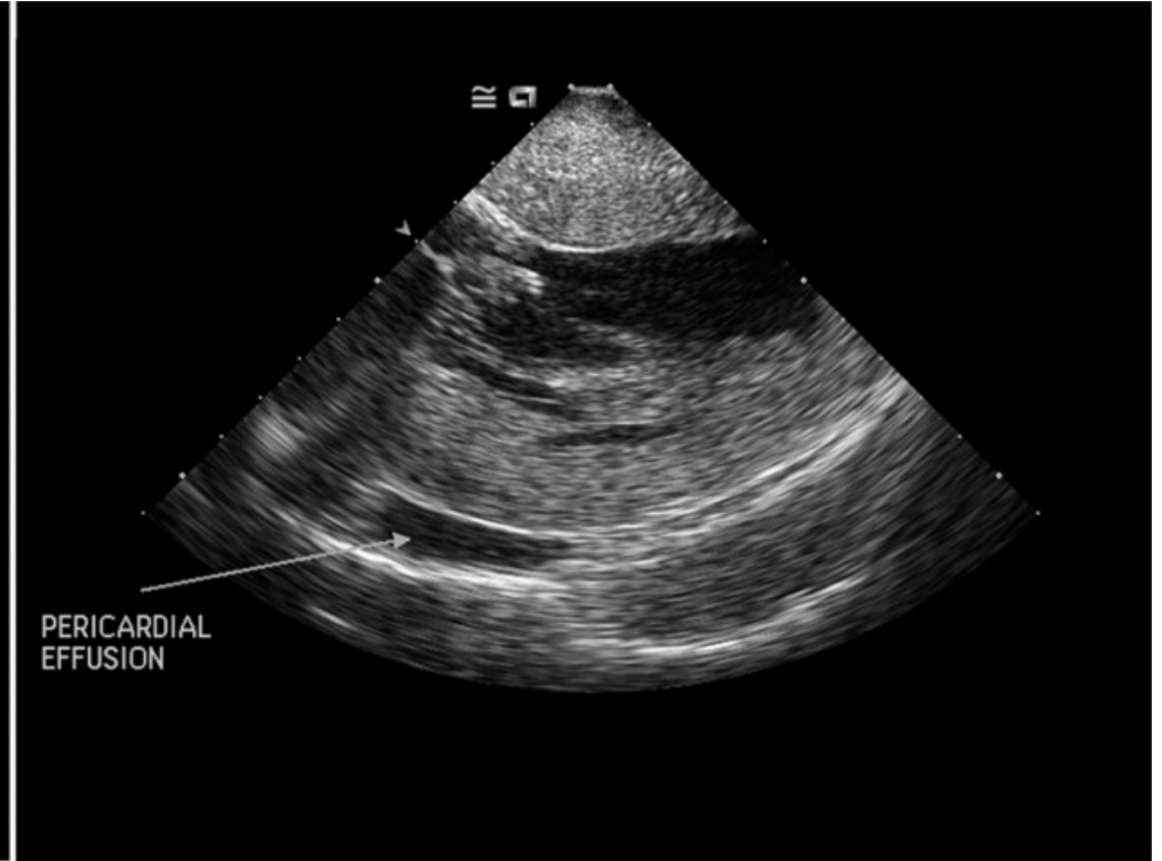
Continuous monitoring for complication



- One of the important roles of ICE imaging is in the early diagnosis and prevention of potential complications during ablation procedures.
- ICE has proven an effective real-time monitoring tool to enhance early detection of **pericardial effusion** in transseptal catheterization.
- ICE can typically detect
 - <20 cc of pericardial fluid at baseline assessment; no echo-free space or less than 1 to 2 mm of echo-free space seen posteriorly only during systole
 - Small amount (50 to 80cc); 2-5 mm of echo-free space
 - Easy to differentiate clot from fluid; more sensitive to detect small amount of pericardial effusion with greater resolution.



Pre-procedural small pericardial effusion

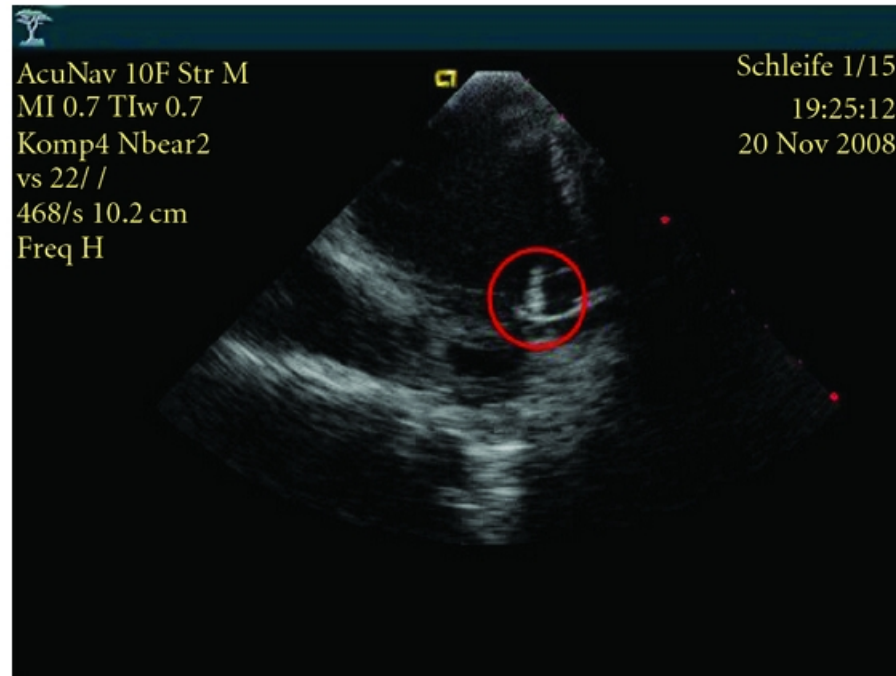


Constant quantity of effusion during procedure

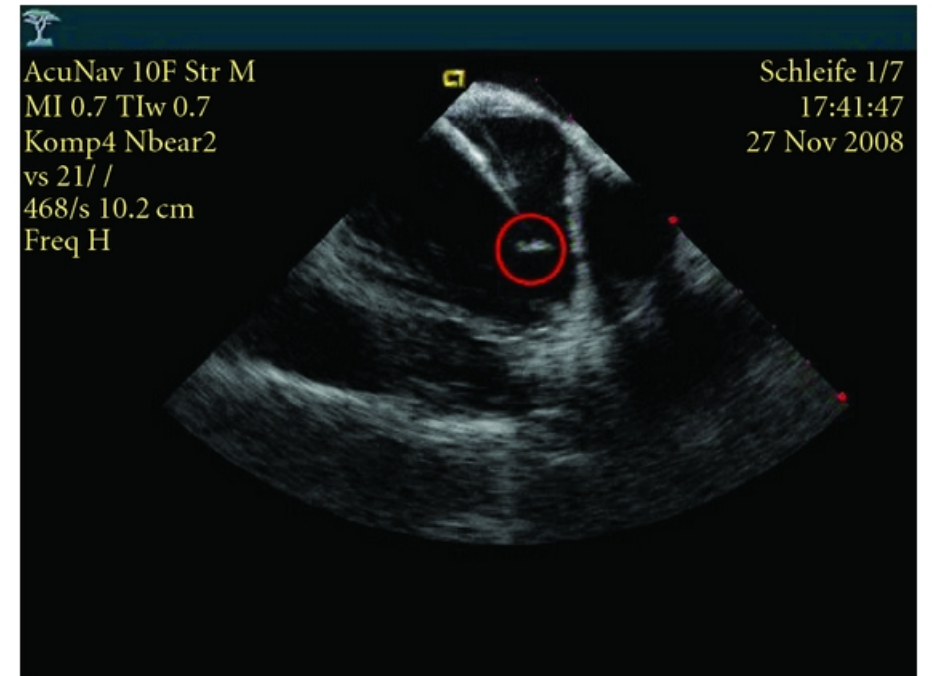
*Eur J Echocardiogr. 2004 Jan;5(1):34-40.



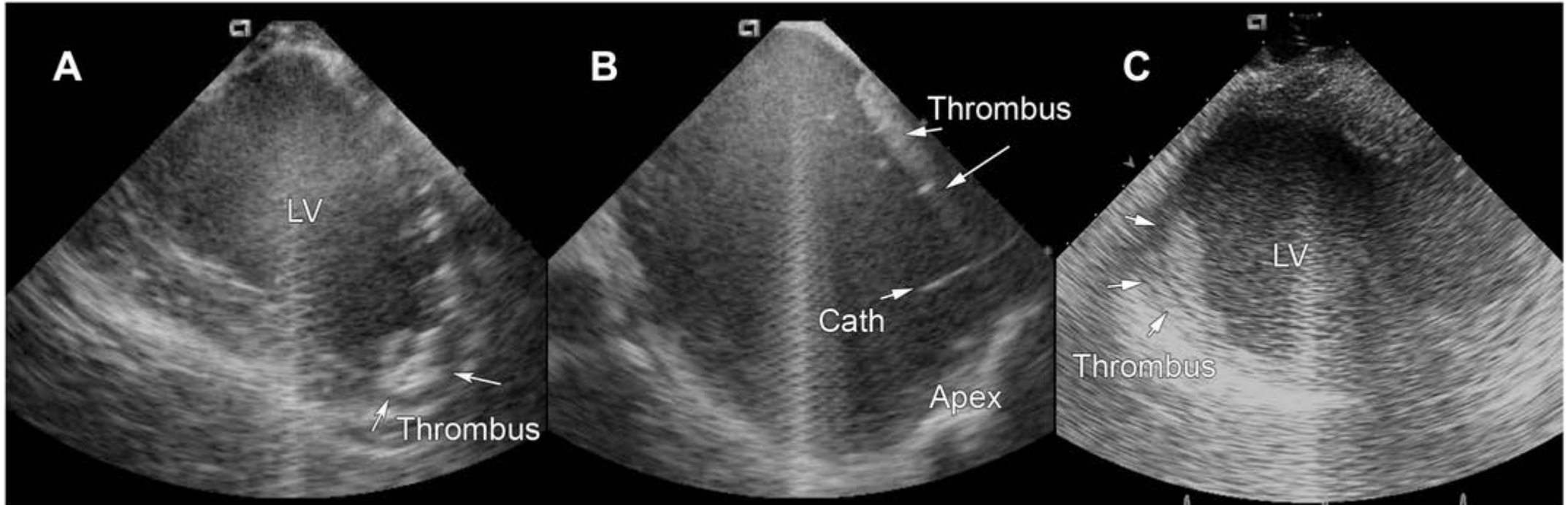
- The short dwell time of foreign material within the slow flow area of the left atrium is sufficient for thrombus formation.
- The thrombi are usually single, linear, and mobile, and are typically attached to a catheter or sheath.



Thrombus attached to the circular mapping catheter



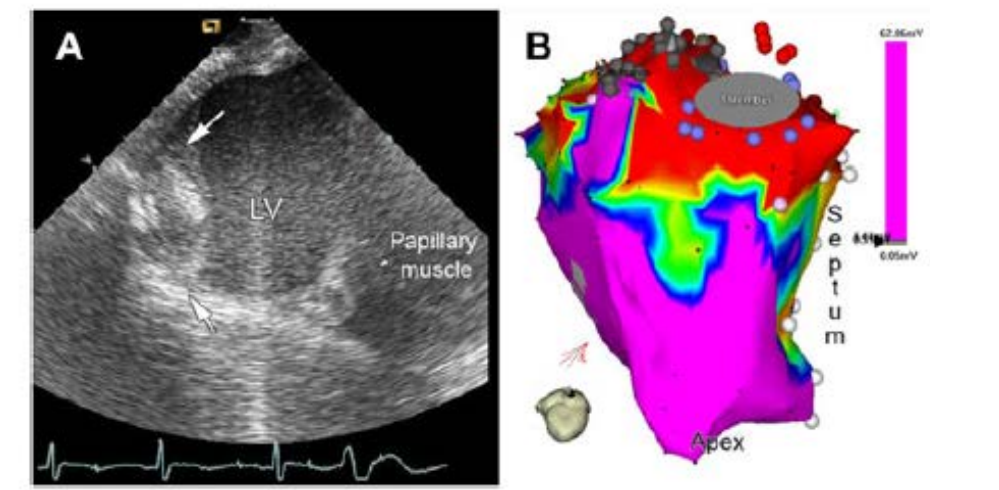
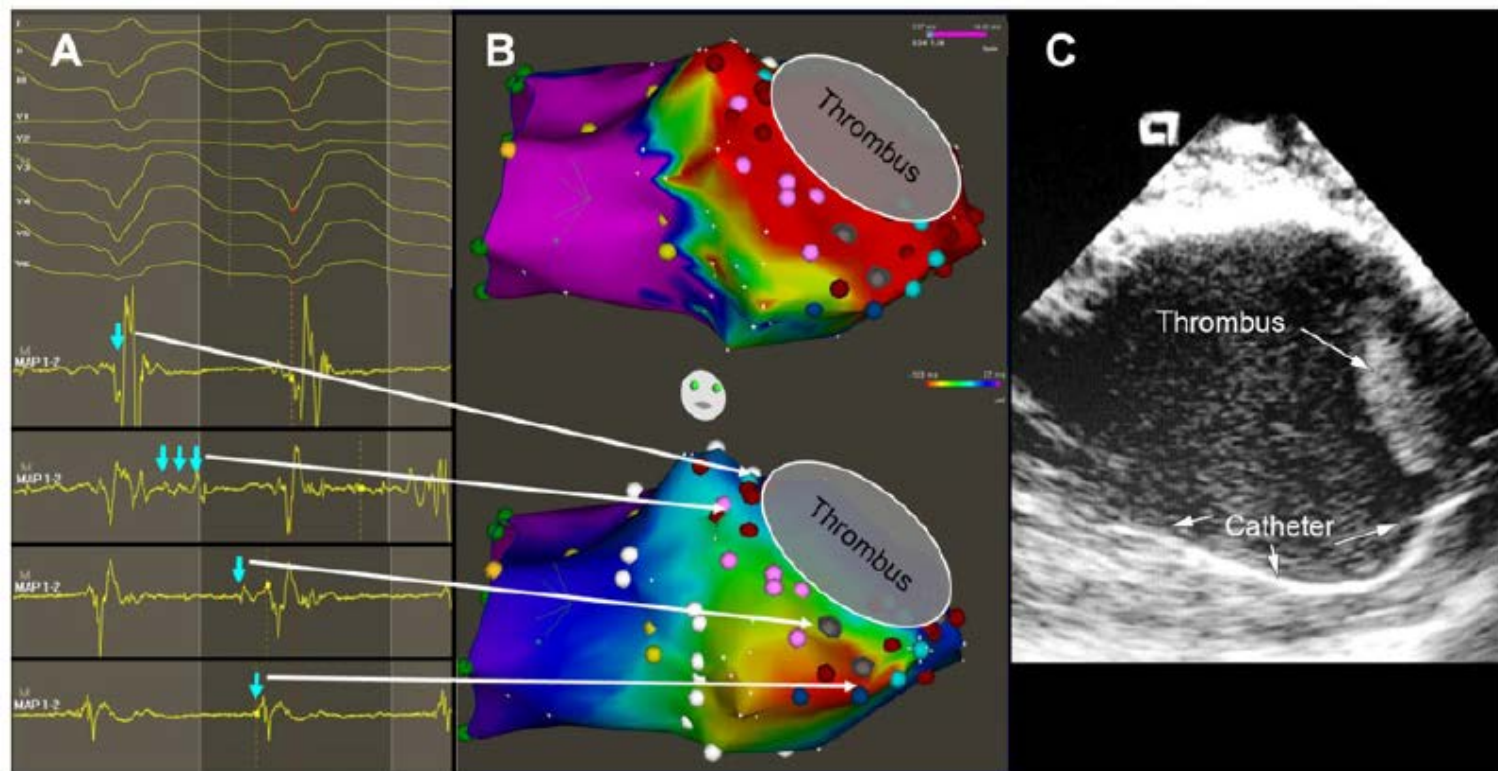
Thrombus attached to the tip of transseptal sheath



Small apical thrombus

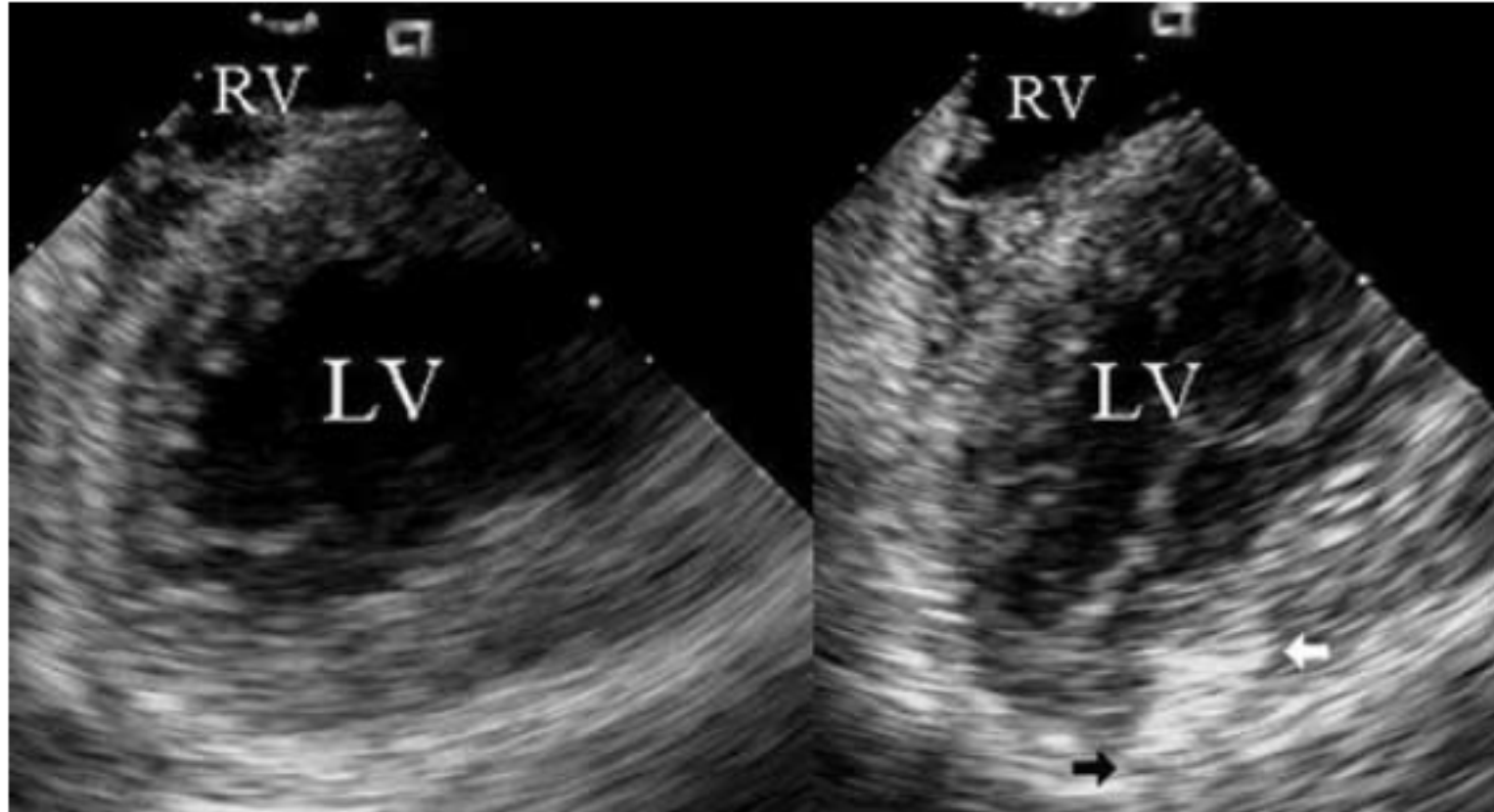
Thin-layered mural thrombus at the septum

Small mural thrombus in the aneurysm



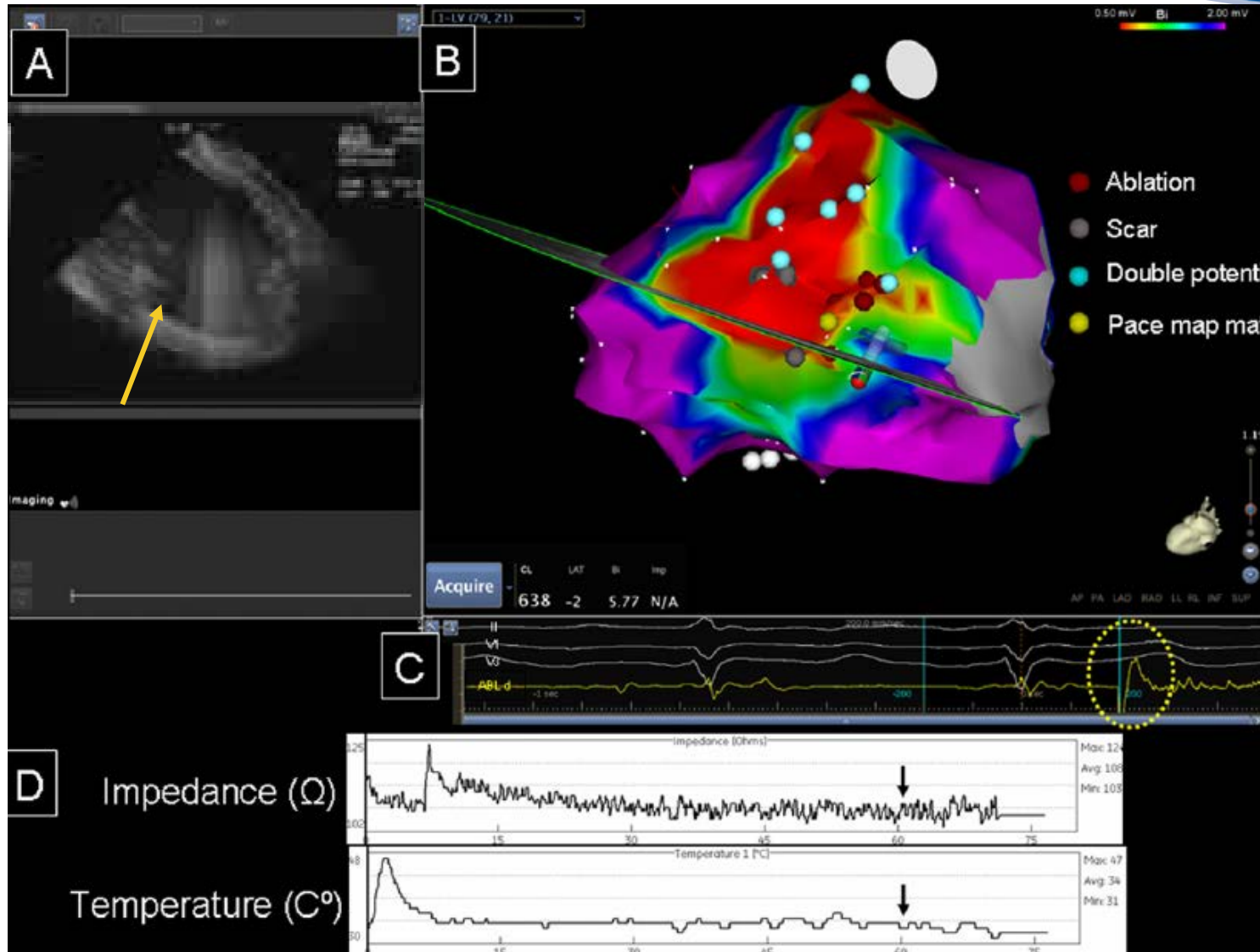
Patient	LVEF (%)	Aneurysm Location	History of Bypass Surgery	Interval between Ablation and MI (Months)	Clinical VT CL (ms)	Thrombus Detected by TTE	Size of Thrombus (mm)	Number of Ablation Procedures	Epicardial Ablation	Outcome
1.	25–30	Anterior	Yes	336	428	No	12 × 18	5	No	No recurrence
2.	30–35	Anterior	Yes	372	350	Yes	10 × 31	1	No	Two VT episodes treated with ATP
3.	35	Anterior	No	132	500	Yes	11 × 24	2	No	No recurrence
4.	25–30	Inferior	No	N/A	521	No	16 × 30	2	Yes	Single VT episodes treated with ATP
5.	25–30	Anterior	Yes	216	272	Yes	16 × 18	2	No	Implantation of VAD
6.	40	Anterior	No	288	500	No	12 × 21	3	Yes	No recurrence
7.	20	Anterior	No	66	400	Yes	6 × 33	3	Twice	Died
8.	35–40	Inferior	No	240	461	No	7 × 27	1	No	No recurrence

*Pacing Clin Electrophysiol. 2016 Jun;39(6):581-7.



Before coronary angiography

After coronary angiography



Summary

- The recent advance of the real time ICE with Doppler capabilities and integration into the 3D mapping system provides the ability to directly image cardiac anatomy and intracardiac events during various procedures.

Identification of substrate

- ICE is feasible in guiding VT ablation. The use of ICE in adjunction with fluoroscopy and mapping procedures will facilitate treatment of VT and may contribute to the safety of the procedure.

Continuous monitoring for complication



Thank you