

Donnerstag, 16. April 2009 (Posterbereich B) 09:30-11:00

Postervorträge

- Katheterablation von Vorhofflimmern – Neue Technologien
Diskussionsleiter: T. Meinertz (Hamburg), C. Schmitt (Karlsruhe)

Acute Efficacy and Safety of a Novel Circular Multielectrode Radiofrequency Ablation Catheter for Pulmonary Vein Isolation in Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation

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Background: Pulmonary vein isolation (PVI) is the standard ablation strategy in paroxysmal atrial fibrillation (AF). In order to reduce procedure and fluoroscopy times, novel ablation tools have recently been introduced.

Aim: To assess the acute efficacy and safety in achieving PVI using a low energy phased radiofrequency circular multielectrode ablation catheter (Pulmonary Vein Ablation Catheter™ [PVAC], Ablation Frontiers, Carlsbad, CA, USA) in patients (pts) with paroxysmal AF.

Methods and Results: A total of 119 pts (59% males, mean age 60.5 ± 9.9 yrs, NYHA class 1.3 ± 0.6 , CHADS2 score 1.3 ± 1.2 , LVEF $58.6 \pm 7.2\%$, LA diameter 38.8 ± 5.9 mm) with paroxysmal AF referred for catheter ablation were included in this analysis. PVI was performed using the PVAC system. PVs were considered isolated by demonstration of entry and exit block during pacing and after adenosine challenge. In case of failure in isolating the vein with the PVAC, a 4 mm irrigated tip catheter was used to complete the isolation. Isolation of the pulmonary veins was achieved in all pts at the end of the procedure. Mean fluoroscopy time was 36.5 ± 13.9 min. In the whole population, PVI was achieved in 78 pts (66%) with PVAC alone. By analyzing the time course of the success rates, a learning curve was evident: variable success rates were recorded in the first 69 pts (overall 55%) whereas the rate of PVI with PVAC alone was higher in the last 50 pts (80%). Only two complications related to the use of the PVAC occurred in our population: 1 self-limiting hemoptysis due to the guidewire wedging into a small PV branch, and 1 PV-stenosis that remained asymptomatic after > 6 months.

Conclusions: PVI using the PVAC is safe and its acute efficacy is higher than alternative recently introduced radiofrequency ablation tools for PVI but it is strongly influenced by a learning curve.

<http://ft2009.dgk.org/abstracts//P131.htm>