



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO



TURIN  
October  
24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>  
2019

## 31 GIORNATE CARDIOLOGICHE TORINESI

*Everything you always  
wanted to know about*  
Cardiovascular Medicine

# Recurrent VTs in structural heart disease: the role of neuromodulation

Torino, 25 ottobre 2019

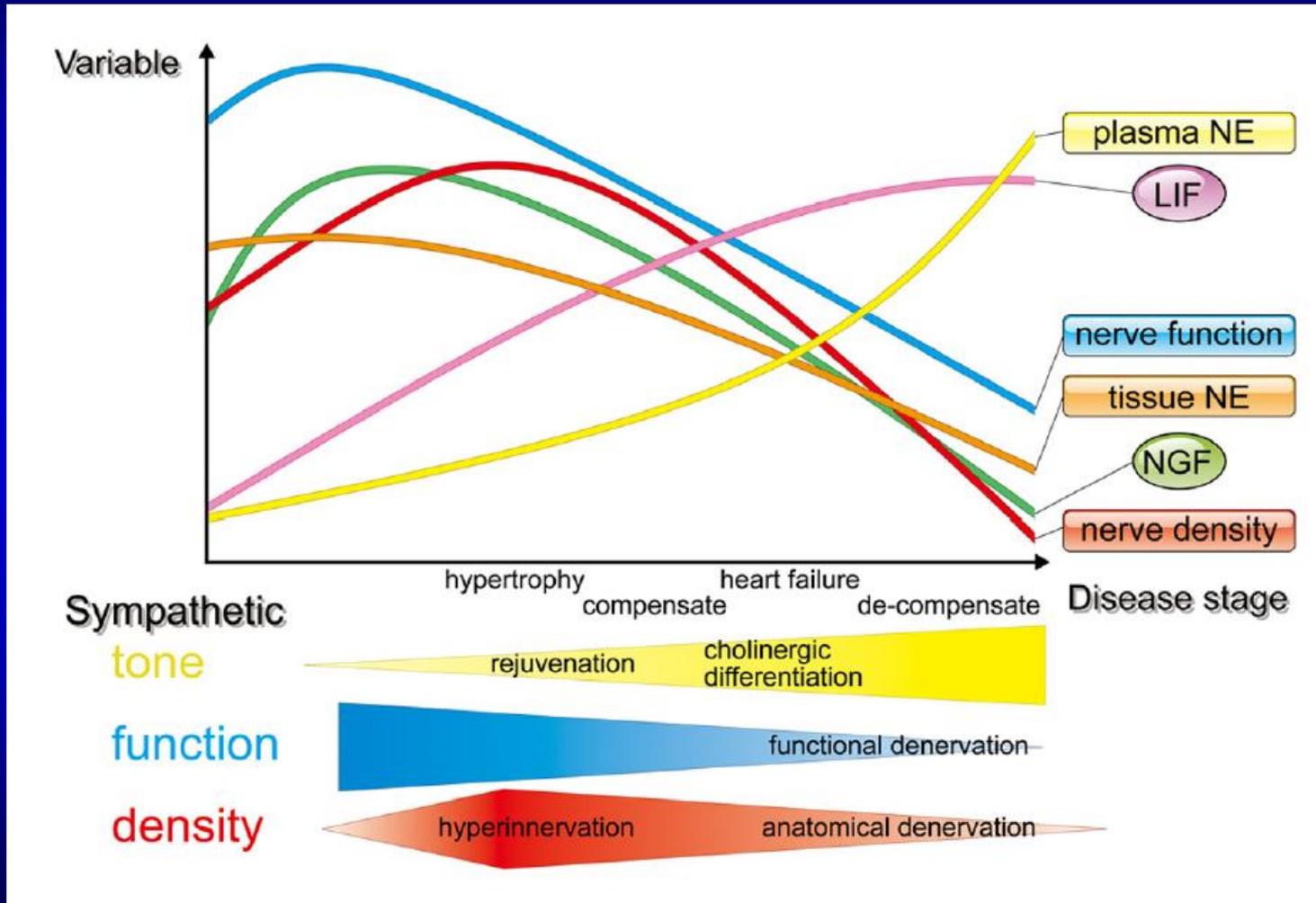
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Dipartimento di Cardiologia, Università degli Studi di Pavia e Centro di  
Ricerca Clinica Cardiovascolare, Fondazione IRCCS

Policlinico San Matteo, Pavia

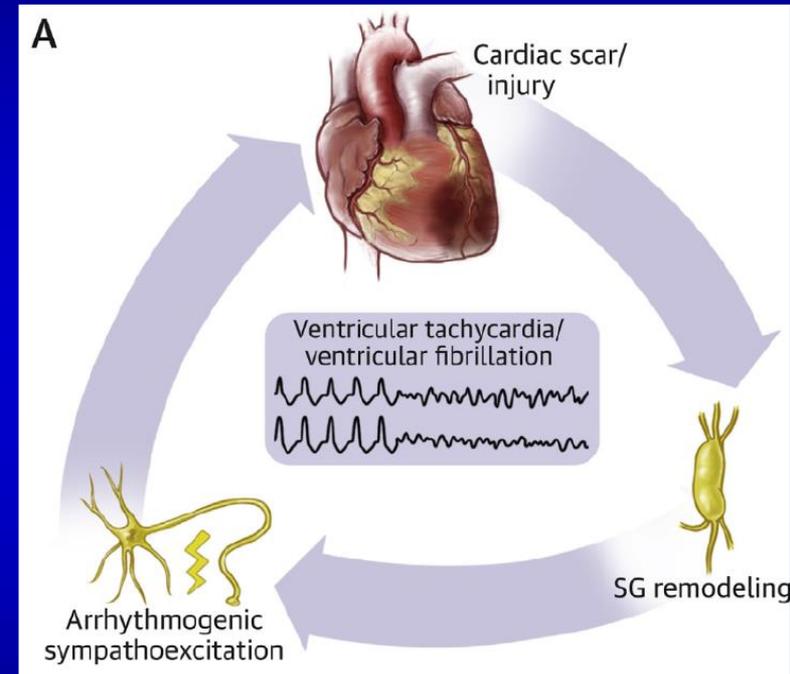


# Temporal Changes in Cardiac Innervation With Disease Progression



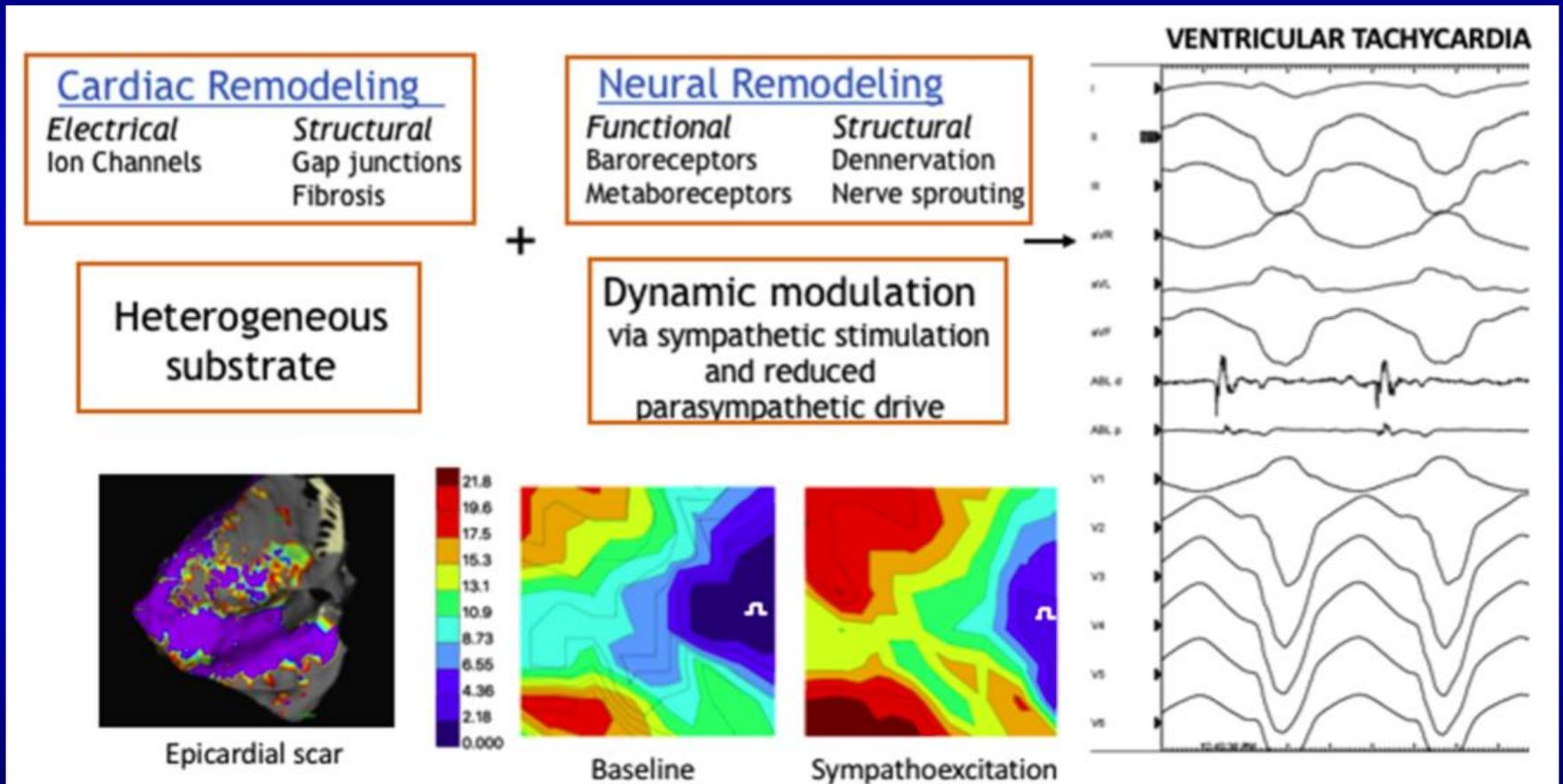
# Arrhythmogenic Effects of Sympathetic Hyperactivity/Remodeling

- Increased impulse formation (EADs and DADs)
- Shortened refractoriness
- Increased spatial and temporal dispersion of refractoriness
- Increased directionally dependent impulse propagation
- EADs facilitated re-entry
  
- HR rise+VO<sub>2</sub> rise increase ischemic and EP changes
- HR rise increases likelihood of conduction blocks
  
- Denervation and reinnervation are heterogeneous and dynamic processes



*J Am Coll Cardiol EP 2019; 5: 881*

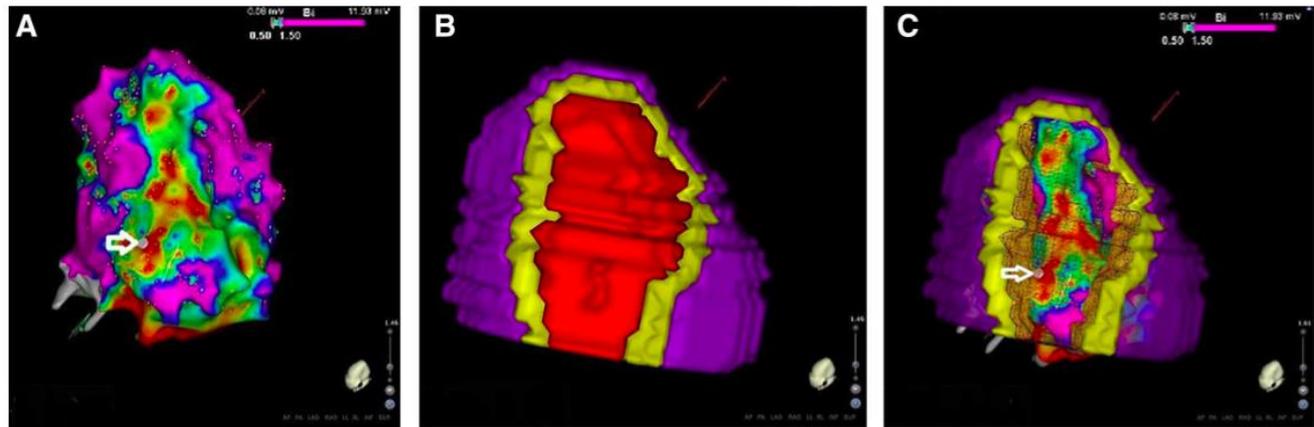
# VTs in SHD: a unifying framework



# Three-Dimensional $^{123}\text{I}$ -*Meta*-Iodobenzylguanidine Cardiac Innervation Maps to Assess Substrate and Successful Ablation Sites for Ventricular Tachycardia

## Feasibility Study for a Novel Paradigm of Innervation Imaging

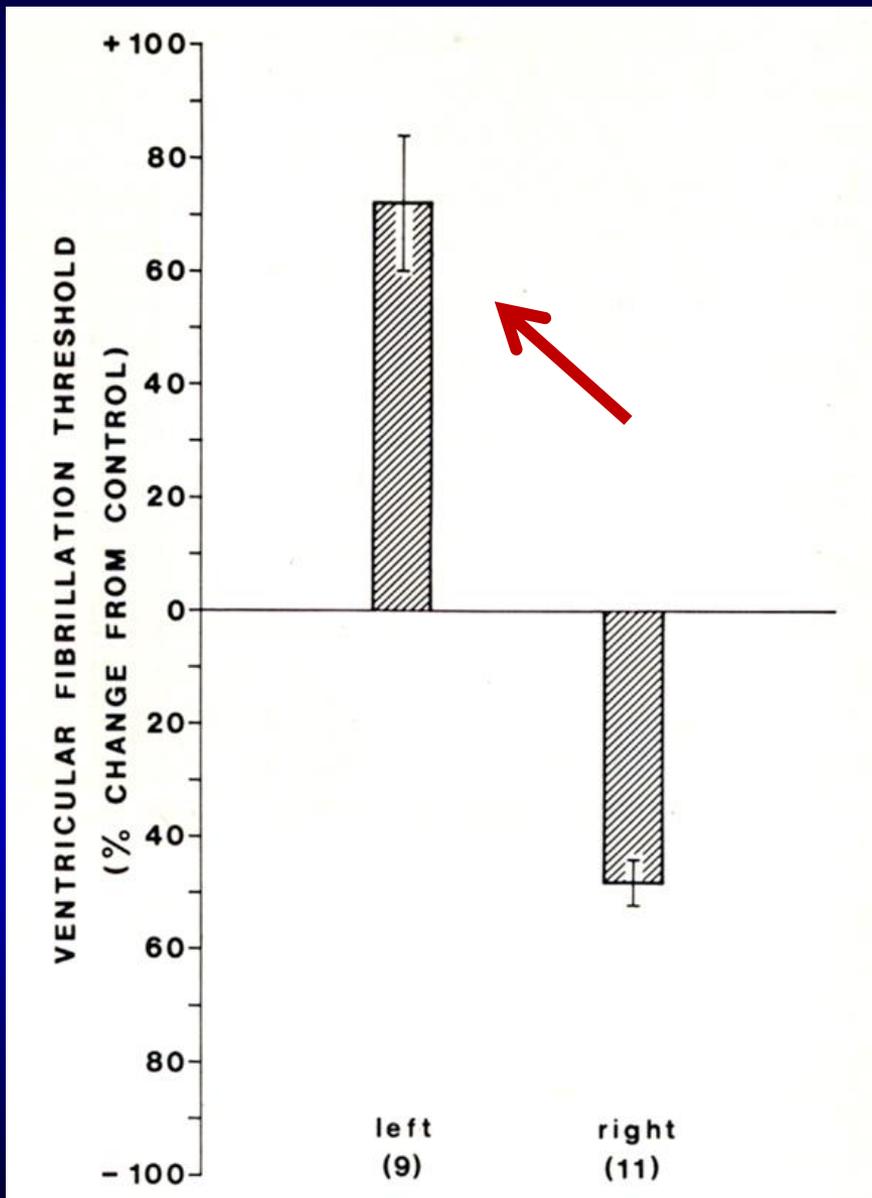
Thomas Klein, MD; Mohammed Abdulghani, MD; Mark Smith, PhD; Rui Huang, MD; Ramazan Asoglu, MD; Benjamin F. Remo, MD; Aharon Turgeman, MSc, MBA; Olurotimi Mesubi, MD; Sunjeet Sidhu, MD; Stephen Synowski, PhD; Anastasios Saliaris, MD; Vincent See, MD; Stephen Shorofsky, MD, PhD; Wengen Chen, MD, PhD; Vasken Dilsizian, MD; Timm Dickfeld, MD, PhD



**Figure 5.** Comparison of 3-dimensional innervation map and electroanatomic map. Concordant voltage scar-denervation location of successful ablation site. **A**, Bipolar electroanatomic map, inferior view, demonstrating inferior scar (red) and border zone (yellow-blue) with successful ablation site (white dot; white arrow) within scar. **B**, Reconstructed  $^{123}\text{I}$ -*meta*iodobenzylguanidine scar map, inferior view, demonstrating regional denervation in the inferior wall (denervated myocardium in red, transition zone in yellow, and normally innervated myocardium in purple). **C**, Coregistration of electroanatomic map and innervation map demonstrates that area of denervation (red transparent mesh) extends beyond the area of bipolar scar (and border zone). Successful ablation site (white dot; white arrow) is located in area of voltage-defined scar (as shown in **A**), but also in the area of myocardial denervation close to the interface of denervation (red mesh) and neuronal transition zone (nontransparent yellow).

**Conclusions**— $^{123}\text{I}$ -*m*IBG innervation defects are larger than bipolar voltage-defined scar and cannot be detected with standard voltage criteria. Thirty-six percent of successful VT ablation sites demonstrated normal voltages ( $>1.5$  mV), but all ablation sites were within the areas of abnormal innervation.  $^{123}\text{I}$ -*m*IBG innervation maps may provide critical information about triggers/substrate modifiers and could improve understanding of VT substrate and facilitate VT ablation.

# Stellate Ganglion Block and VFT



## NEURAXIAL LEVEL

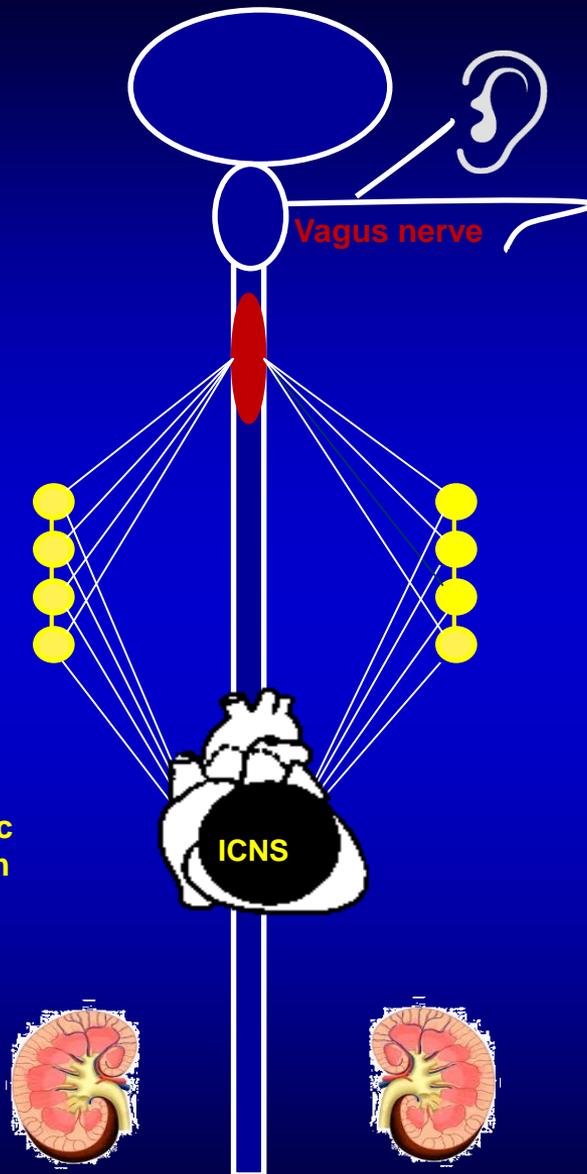
Brainstem and higher centers

Thoracic T1-T4 spinal cord

Thoracic sympathetic chain and ganglia T1-T4

Intrinsic cardiac nervous system

Renal artery sympathetic fibers



## ANTIARRHYTHMIC INTERVENTION

### Electrical vagal stimulation

- Auricular Branch of the Vagus Nerve Stimulation
- Cervical Vagal Nerve Stimulation

### Spinal cord interventions

- Thoracic Epidural Anesthesia
- Spinal Cord Stimulation

### Interventions on Stellate ganglion/sympathetic chain

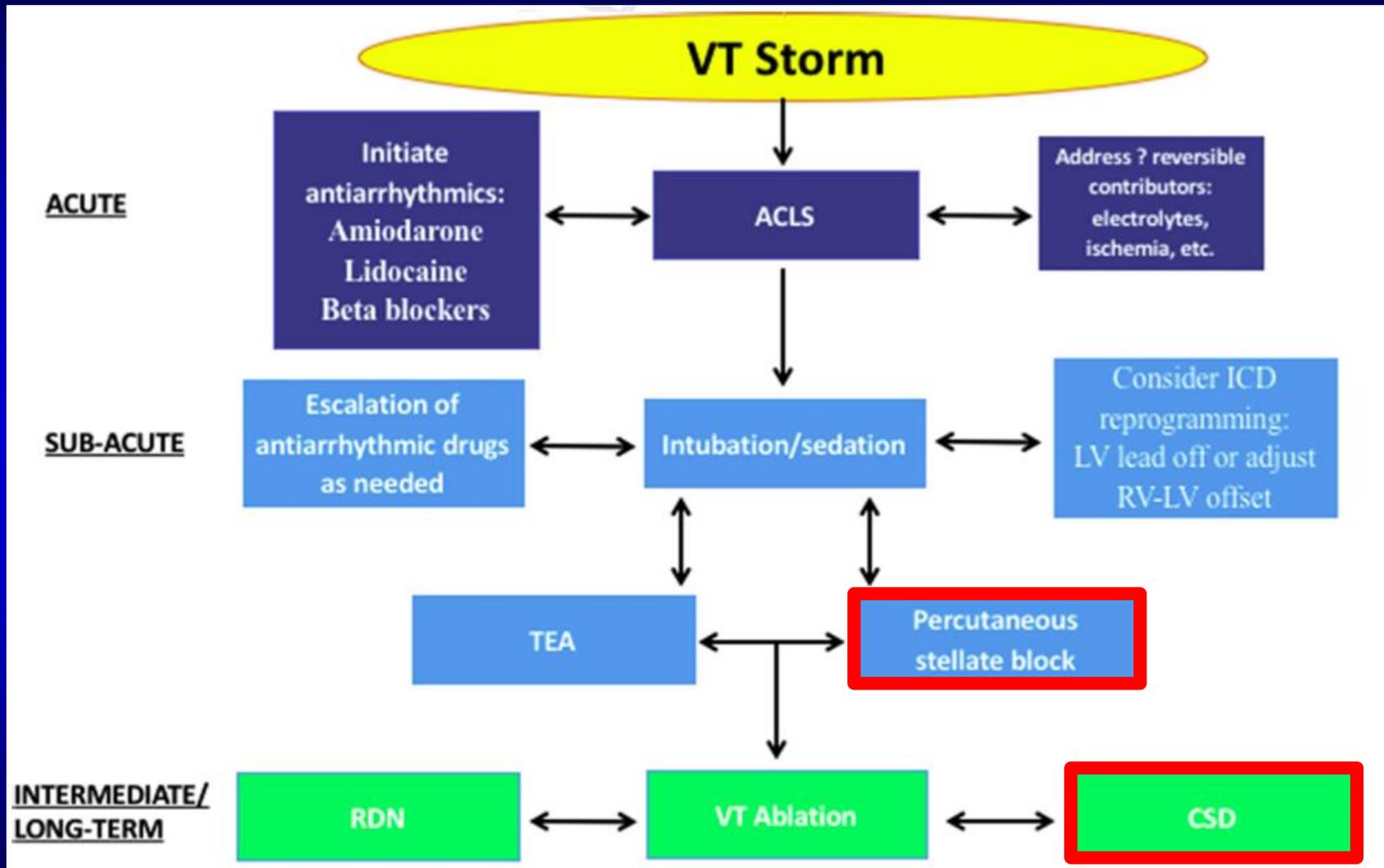
- Percutaneous stellate Ganglion Block
- Stellate Ganglion Radiofrequency Ablation
- Cardiac Sympathetic Denervation (cervicothoracic sympathectomy)

### Interventions on ICNS

- Ganglionated Plexi Ablation
- Botulinum Toxin Injection

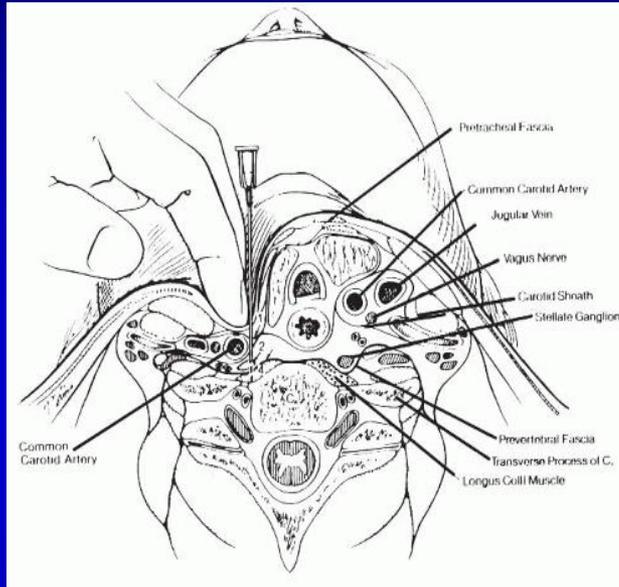
- Renal Denervation

# The UCLA's approach

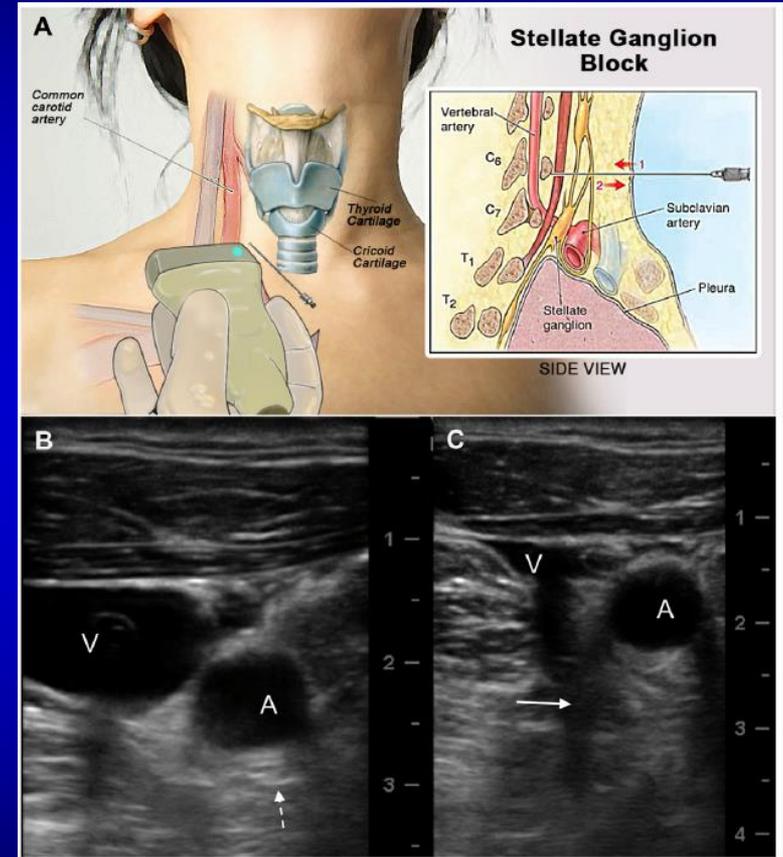


# Percutaneous stellate ganglion block (PSGB)

## Anatomical approach



## US-guided approach



## Pros:

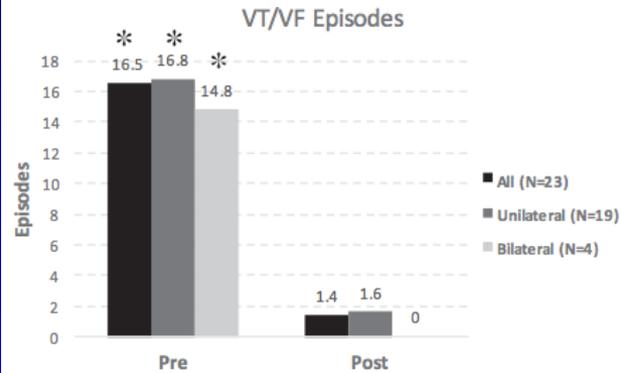
- Can be safely performed at bedside by a trained cardiologist
- Trivial infective and hemorrhagic risk

## Cons:

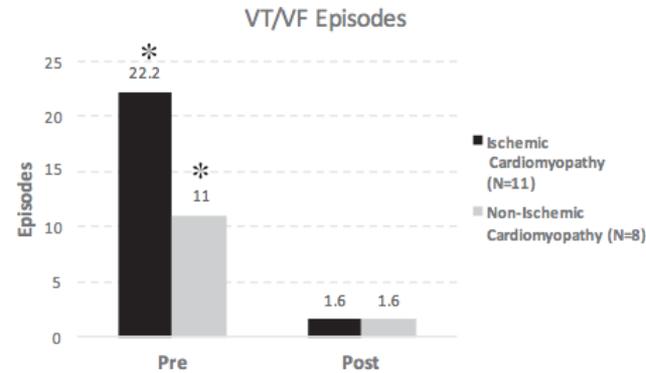
- Not quantifiable ipsilateral neuronal sympathetic block at cardiac level

# Arrhythmic burden 24 ore pre vs post PSGB

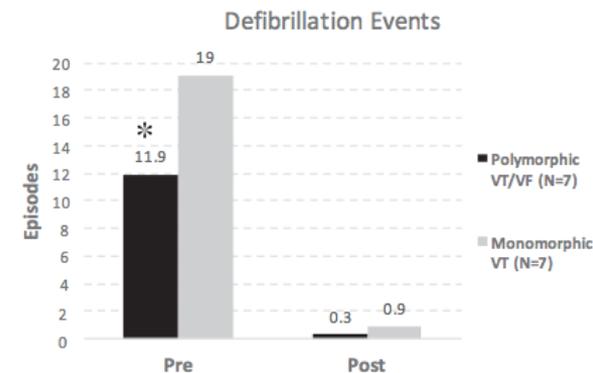
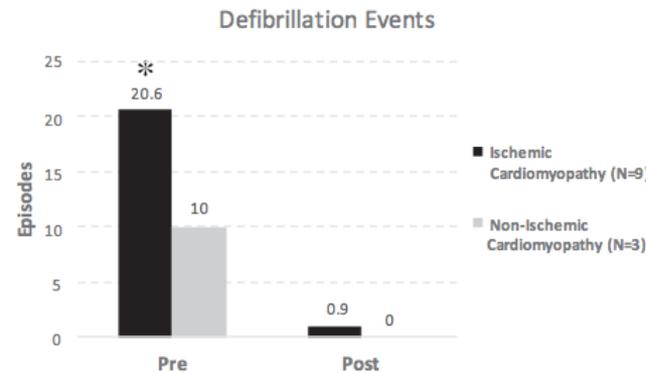
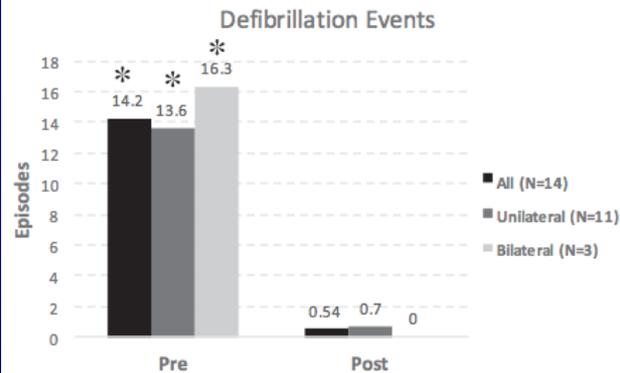
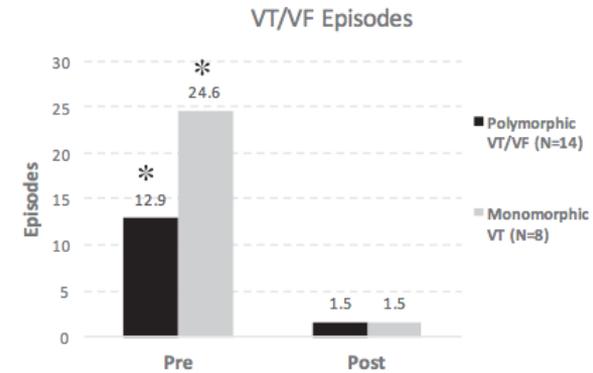
Location of the Stellate Ganglion Block



Etiology of Cardiomyopathy



Type of Ventricular Arrhythmia

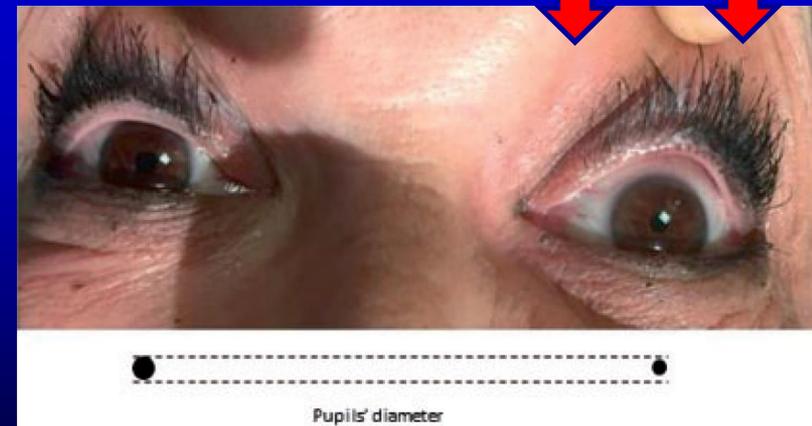
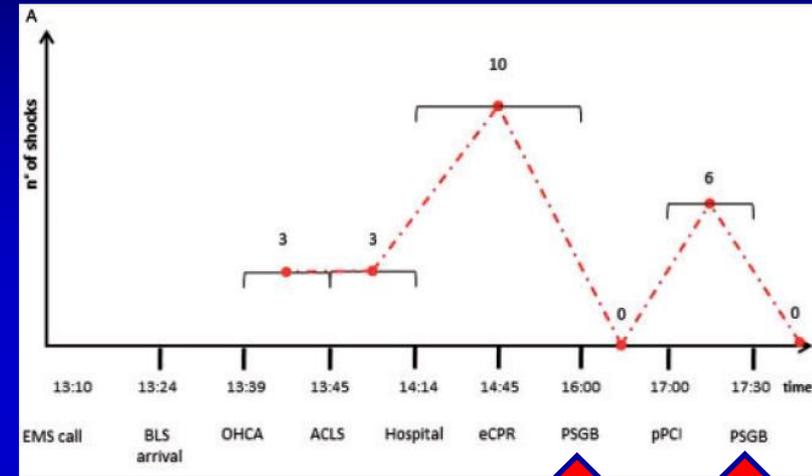




# PSGB in Pavia



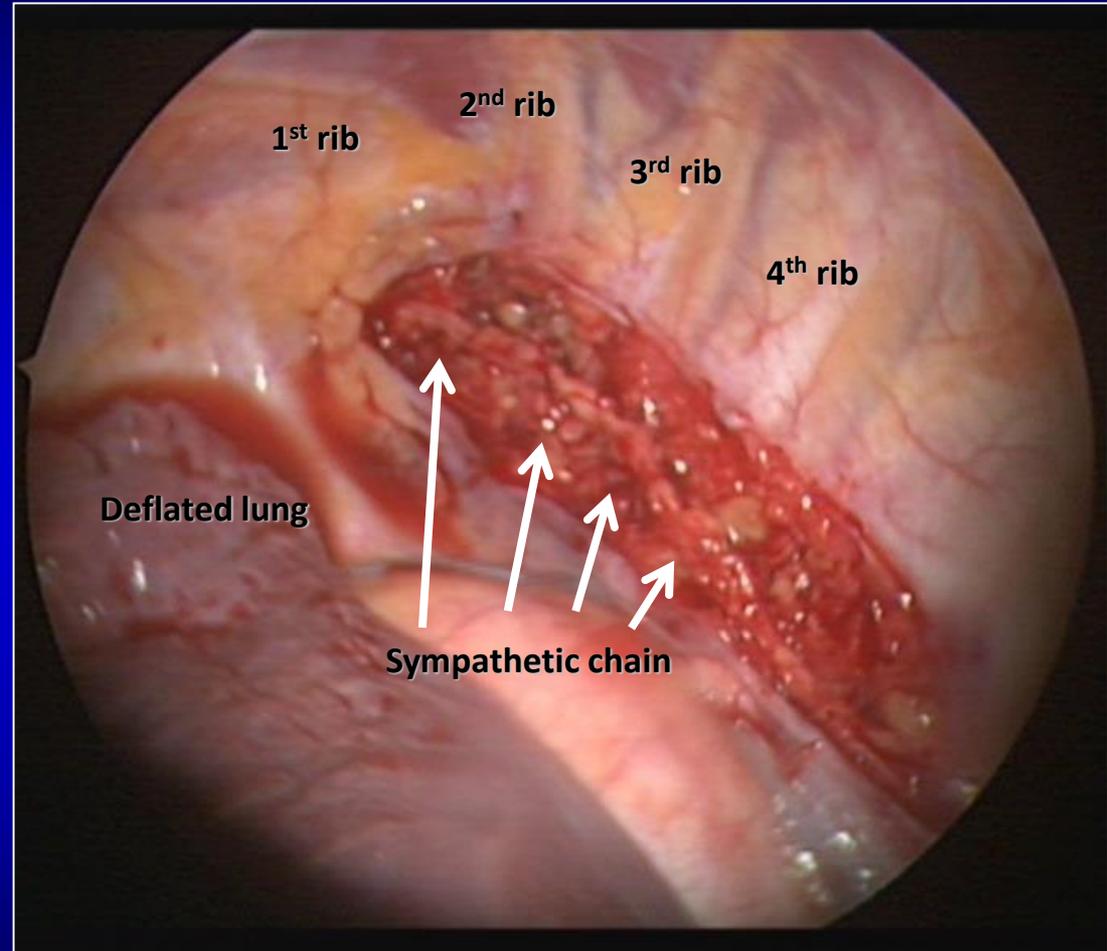
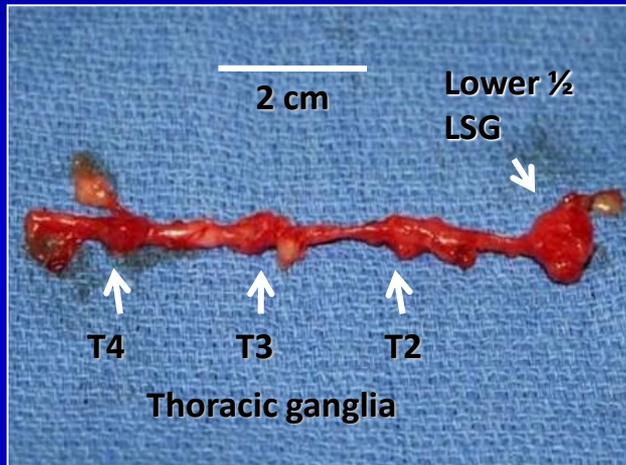
- First Italian Center to report about PSGB to treat ES/refractory VT/VF
- A prospective study of PSGB in patients with refractory ES was started on July 2017 (PI Savastano Simone)
- 17 left PSGBs (2 during ECMO) have been performed so far (including 2 continuous infusion as a bridge to CSD)
- A training course is now offered to internal and external cardiologist and anesthesiologist willing to learn the procedure



# VATS-CSD



# Anatomy of left sympathetic chain



# Left Cardiac Sympathetic Denervation in the Management of High-Risk Patients Affected by the Long-QT Syndrome

Peter J. Schwartz, MD; Silvia G. Priori, MD, PhD; Marina Cerrone, MD; Carla Spazzolini, PhD; Attilio Odero, MD; Carlo Napolitano, MD, PhD; Raffaella Bloise, MD; Gaetano M. De Ferrari, MD; Catherine Klersy, MD, MS; Arthur J. Moss, MD; Wojciech Zareba, MD; Jennifer L. Robinson, MS; W. Jackson Hall, PhD; Paul A. Brink, MD; Lauri Toivonen, MD; Andrew E. Epstein, MD; Cuilan Li, MD; Dayi Hu, MD

*(Circulation. 2004;109:1826-1833.)*

**L → LQTS** { **2015 ESC GL: Class IIa indication**  
**2017 AHA/ACC/HRS GL: Class I for symptoms**  
**2017 AHA/ACC/HRS GL: Class IIb for asymptom**

## Clinical Management of Catecholaminergic Polymorphic Ventricular Tachycardia

### The Role of Left Cardiac Sympathetic Denervation

Gaetano M. De Ferrari, MD\*; Veronica Dusi, MD\*; Carla Spazzolini, DVM, MS\*;  
J. Martijn Bos, MD, PhD\*; Dominic J. Abrams, MD, MRCP; Charles I. Berul, MD;  
Lia Crotti, MD, PhD; Andrew M. Davis, MB, BS, MD; Michael Eldar, MD; Maria Kharlap, MD;  
Asaad Khoury, MD; Andrew D. Krahn, MD; Antoine Leenhardt, MD; Christopher R. Moir, MD;  
Attilio Odero, MD; Louise Olde Nordkamp, MD; Thomas Paul, MD; Ferran Rosés i Noguera, MD;  
Maria Shkolnikova, MD; Jan Till, MD; Arthur A.M. Wilde, MD; Michael J. Ackerman, MD, PhD†;  
Peter J. Schwartz, MD†

*(Circulation. 2015;131:2185-2193)*

**L → CPVT** { **2015 ESC GL: Class IIb indication**  
**2017 AHA/ACC/HRS: Class I for symptoms**

**Mar 2014**

Single center  
Study (UCLA)

## Cardiac sympathetic denervation in patients with refractory ventricular arrhythmias or electrical storm: Intermediate and long-term follow-up

Marmar Vaseghi, MD, MS,<sup>\*</sup> Jean Gima, RN, MSN, NP,<sup>\*</sup> Christopher Kanaan, BS,<sup>\*</sup> Olujimi A. Ajijola, MD, PhD,<sup>\*</sup> Alexander Marmureanu, MD,<sup>\*†</sup> Aman Mahajan, MD, PhD,<sup>\*‡</sup> Kalyanam Shivkumar, MD, PhD, FHRS<sup>\*</sup>

*From the <sup>\*</sup>UCLA Cardiac Arrhythmia Center, <sup>†</sup>Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, and <sup>‡</sup>Department of Anesthesiology, UCLA Health System, Los Angeles, California.*

n=41, 34% LCSD, LVEF 31 ± 13%, **80% with MMVT**

**June 2017**

Multicenter  
Study (n=5)

## Cardiac Sympathetic Denervation for Refractory Ventricular Arrhythmias



Marmar Vaseghi, MD, PhD,<sup>a,b</sup> Parag Barwad, MD, DM,<sup>c</sup> Federico J. Malavassi Corrales, MD,<sup>d</sup> Harikrishna Tandri, MD, MBBS,<sup>e</sup> Nilesh Mathuria, MD,<sup>f</sup> Rushil Shah, MBBS,<sup>c</sup> Julie M. Sorg, RN, MSN,<sup>a</sup> Jean Gima, RN, MSN, NP,<sup>a</sup> Kaushik Mandal, MD, MBBS,<sup>e</sup> Luis C. Sàenz Morales, MD,<sup>d</sup> Yash Lokhandwala, MD, DM,<sup>c</sup> Kalyanam Shivkumar, MD, PhD<sup>a,b</sup>

n=121, 19% LCSD, LVEF 30 ± 12%, 71% NICM

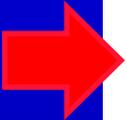
**71% with MMVT**, 64% >1 VT morphology

66% previous VT ablation, median 2/pt (IQR 1-2)

# 2017 AHA/ACC/HRS Guideline for Management of Patients With Ventricular Arrhythmias and the Prevention of Sudden Cardiac Death

## 5.6. Autonomic Modulation

Recommendations for Autonomic Modulation		
References that support the recommendations are summarized in Online Data Supplement 13 and 14.		
COR	LOE	Recommendations
IIa	C-LD	1. In patients with symptomatic, non-life-threatening VA, treatment with a beta blocker is reasonable (1).
IIb	C-LD	2. In patients with VT/VF storm in whom a beta blocker, other antiarrhythmic medications, and catheter ablation are ineffective, not tolerated, or not possible, cardiac sympathetic denervation may be reasonable (2-4).

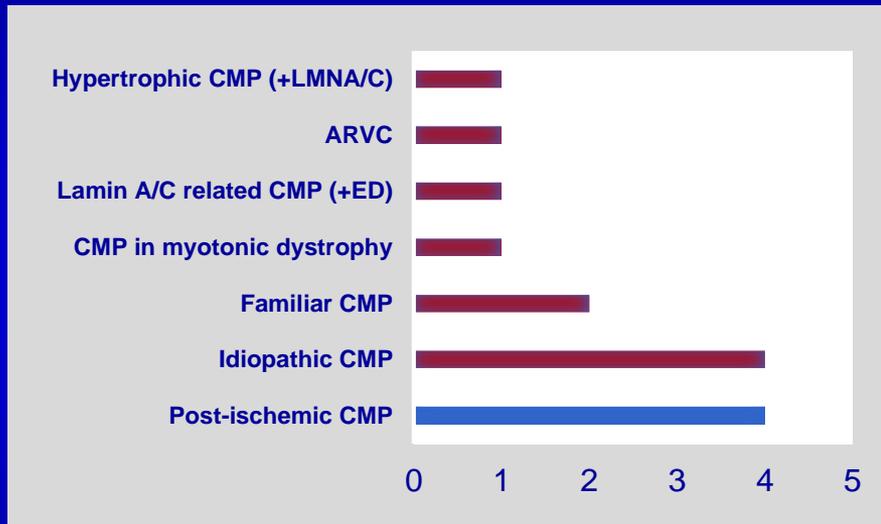
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2. Vaseghi M, et al. Cardiac sympathetic denervation for refractory ventricular arrhythmias. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2017;69:3070-80.
  3. Vaseghi M, et al. Cardiac sympathetic denervation in patients with refractory ventricular arrhythmias or electrical storm: intermediate and long-term follow-up. *HeartRhythm.* 2014;11:360-6.
  4. Schwartz PJ, et al. Prevention of sudden cardiac death after a first myocardial infarction by pharmacologic or surgical antiadrenergic interventions. *J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol.* 1992;3:2-16.



# BCSD in SHD: Pavia's experience



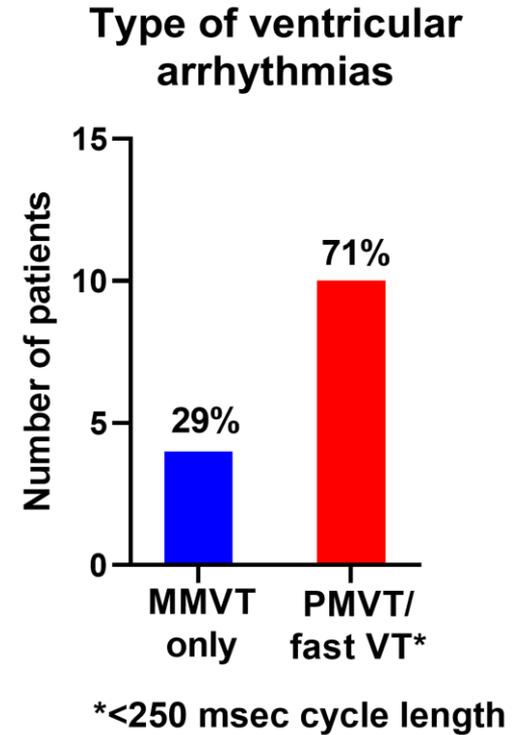
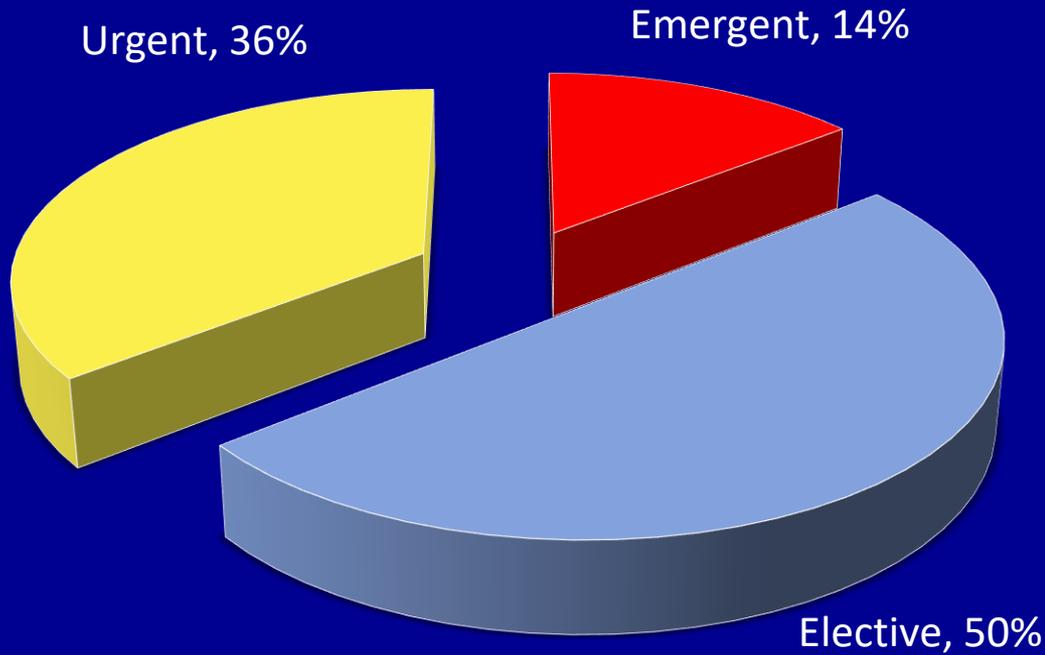
- First BCSD in SHD (VATS): April 2016



**71% NICM**

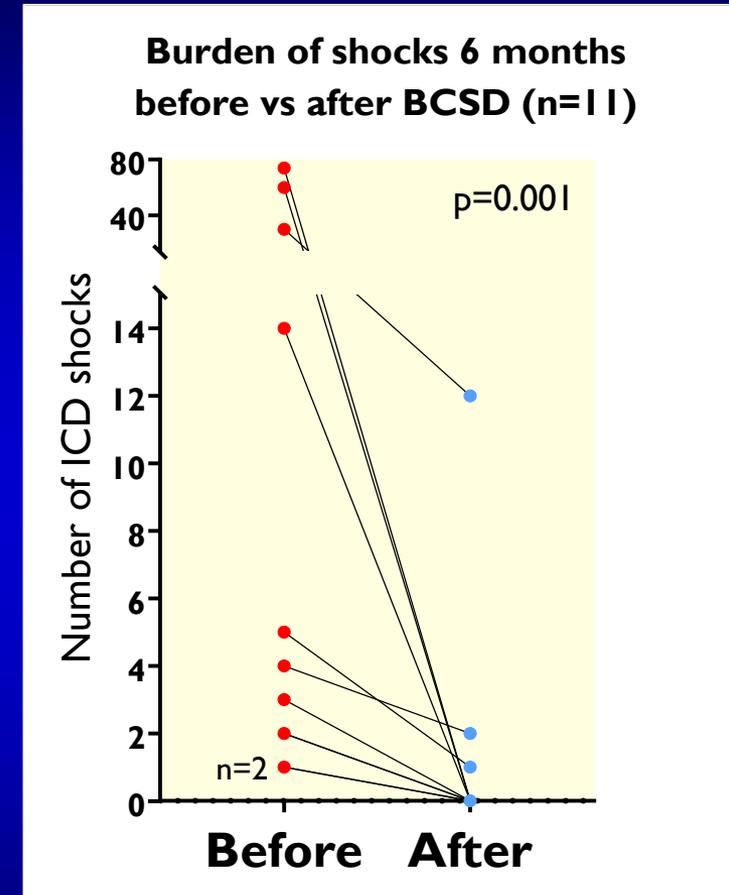
Baseline characteristics, N = 14	N, %
Male	12, 86%
Mean age	56 ± 16
Robotic VATS	2, 14%
ICD (transvenous)	13, 93%
CRT-D	5, 36%
History of AT/AF	6, 43%
LVEF (%)	31 ± 13
NYHA Class ≥ 3	4, 29%
VAD/OHT indication (for HF)	6, 43%
History of electrical storm	10, 71%
Chronic amiodarone	9, 64%
>1 chronic AAD	3, 21%
Previous VT/PVC ablation	5/1, 43%
Previous PLSGB	1, 7%

# Indication/Presentation



# Outcomes

- Median FU 12 months (IQR 6-23)
- Procedural related complications:
  - No major complications
  - 8 (57%) patients had transient post-operative neuropathic pain
- Hard events, n=3 (21%)
  - 1 Death due to refractory VAs in AHF (NYHA III, severe MR)
  - 1 LVAD implantation due to refractory VAs in AHF (NYHA III, severe MR, MMVT, Lamin A/C CMP)
  - 1 Heart transplantation (no VAs before)
- Incidence of VAs, total n=6 (43%) :
  - ICD shock: 5/14 (36%)
  - ATP only: 1/14 (7%)



**Median 3 (2-22) versus 0 (0-0.5)**



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