



# Management of electrical storm

**Prof. Dr. Martin Borggrefe**

Mannheim

**Advances in cardiac arrhythmias and great innovations in cardiology**

**Turin, September 27-28, 2013**

# ACC/AHA/ESC Guidelines for Management of Patients with Ventricular Arrhythmias and the Prevention of Sudden Cardiac Death

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## CONSENSUS DOCUMENT

# **EHRA/HRS Expert Consensus on Catheter Ablation of Ventricular Arrhythmias**

*Developed in a partnership with the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA), a Registered Branch of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), and the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS); in collaboration with the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the American Heart Association (AHA)*

Etienne M. Aliot, MD, FESC, FHRS,<sup>1</sup> William G. Stevenson, MD, FHRS,<sup>2</sup>  
Jesus Ma Almendral-Garrote, MD, PhD,<sup>3</sup> Frank Bogun, MD,<sup>4</sup> C. Hugh Calkins, MD, FHRS,<sup>5</sup>  
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# Management of electrical storm

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## Definition of electrical storm

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**Three or more separate arrhythmia episodes leading to ICD therapies [antitachycardia pacing (ATP) or shock] occurring over a single 24 h time period**

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# Electrical storm – clinical approach

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- **underlying cardiac disease**
- **electrical stability**
- **hemodynamic stability**
- **configuration of QRS**
- **morphology**
- **antiarrhythmic drugs**  
(QT prolongation, QRS width)

# Electrical storm – clinical approach

underlying cardiac disease

YES

CAD ± infarction  
DCM  
HCM  
ARVD  
Valvular heart disease

NO

Idiopathic VT / VF  
LQTS  
Brugada syndrome  
J-wave syndromes

# Brugada Syndrome

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## Yew intoxication (*Taxus baccata*)

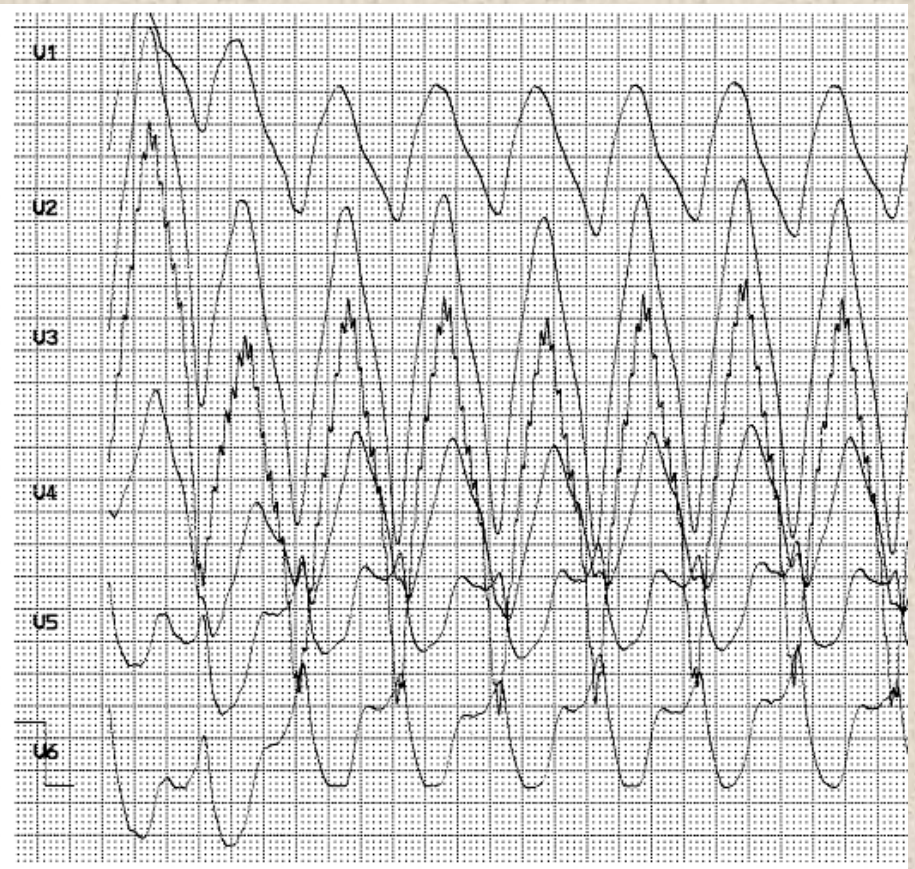
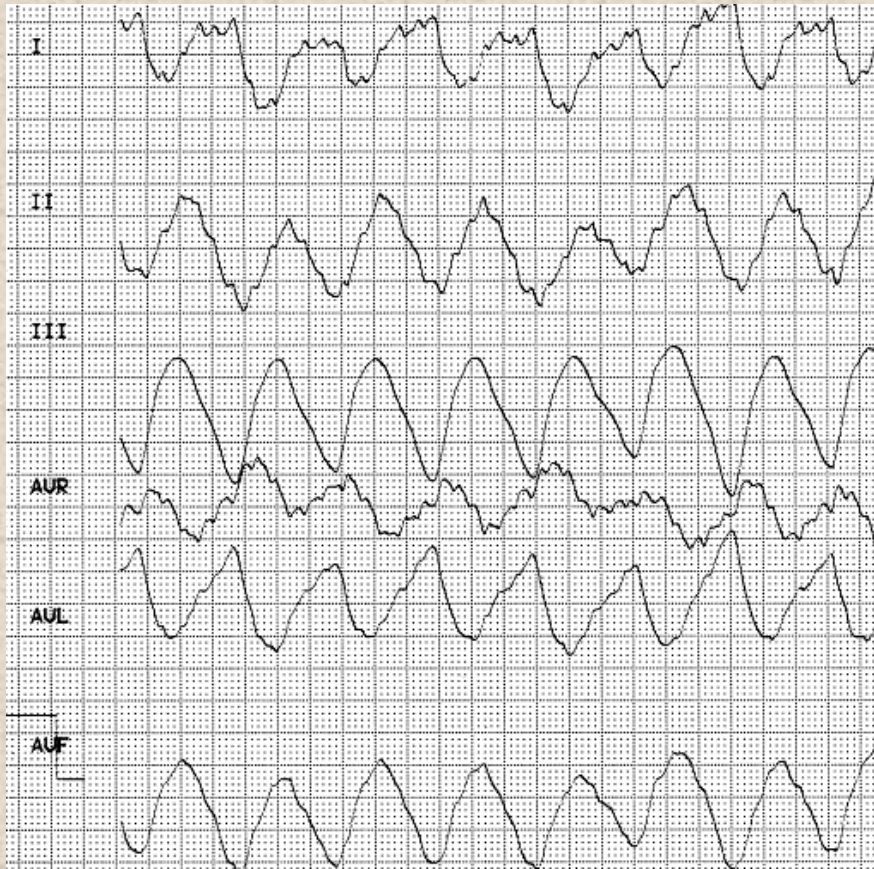


Veltmann et al. *Circulation* 2009; 119:1836-1837



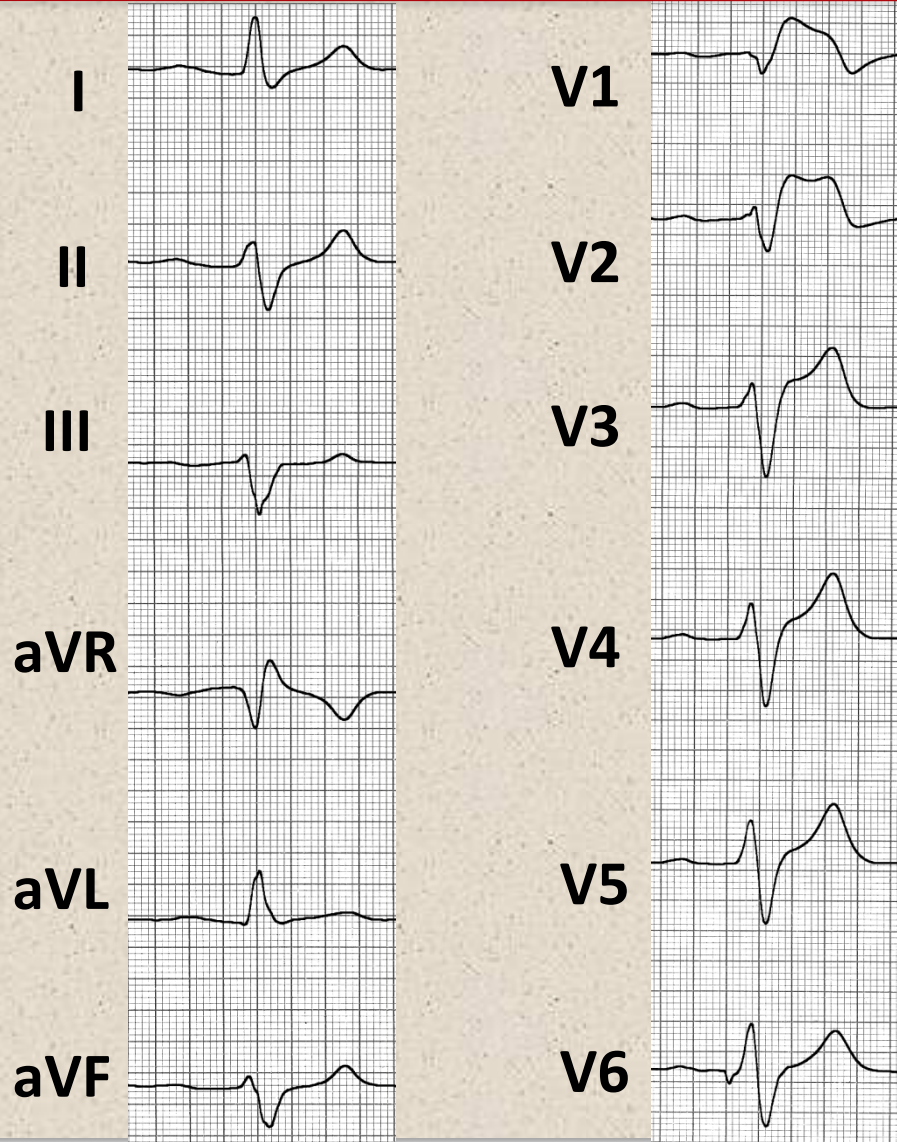
# Brugada Syndrome

## Yew Intoxication (taxine A, B)





# Brugada Syndrome



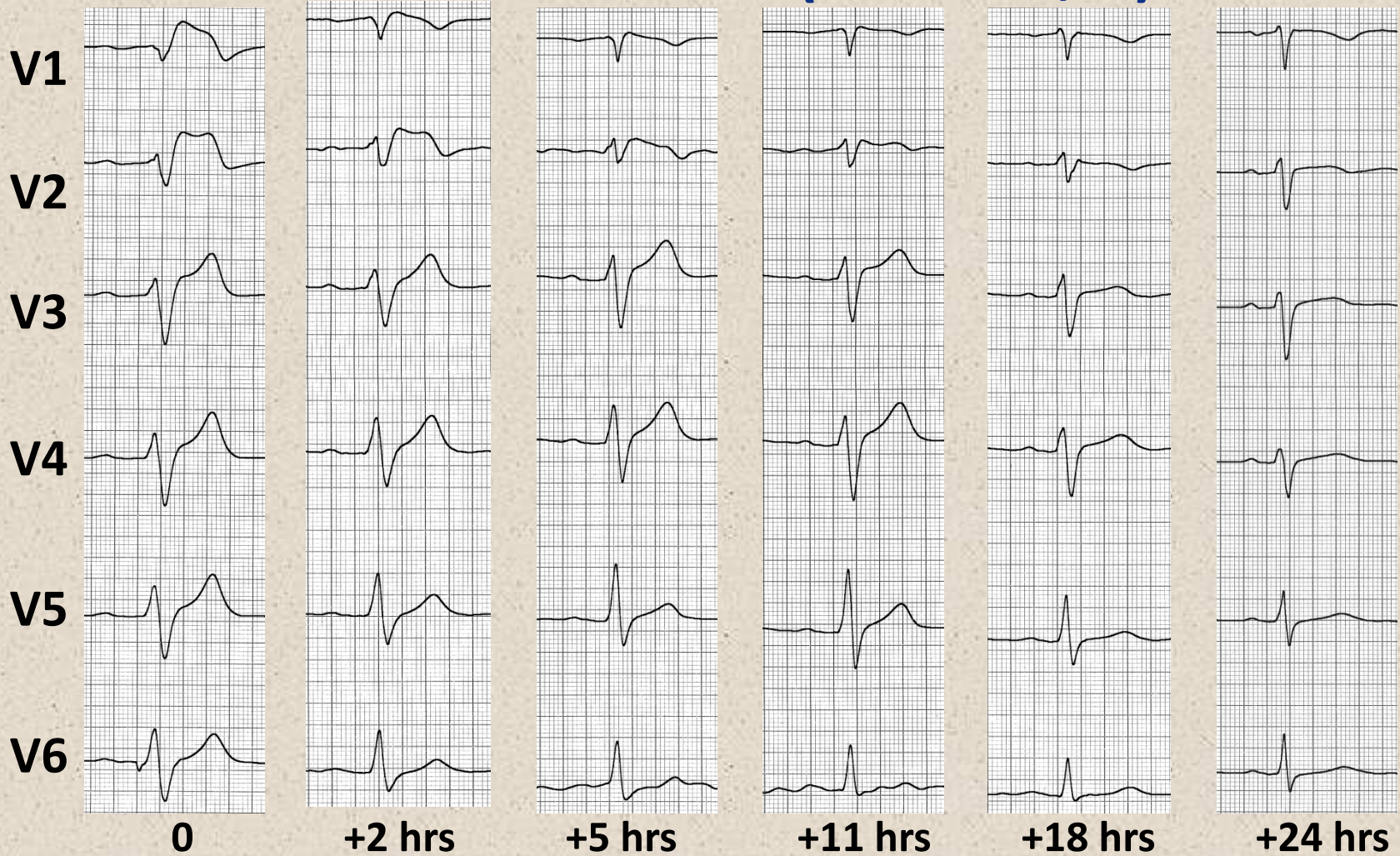
**Yew Intoxication  
(taxine A, B)**

Veltmann et al. *Circulation* 2009; 119:1836-1837



# Brugada Syndrome

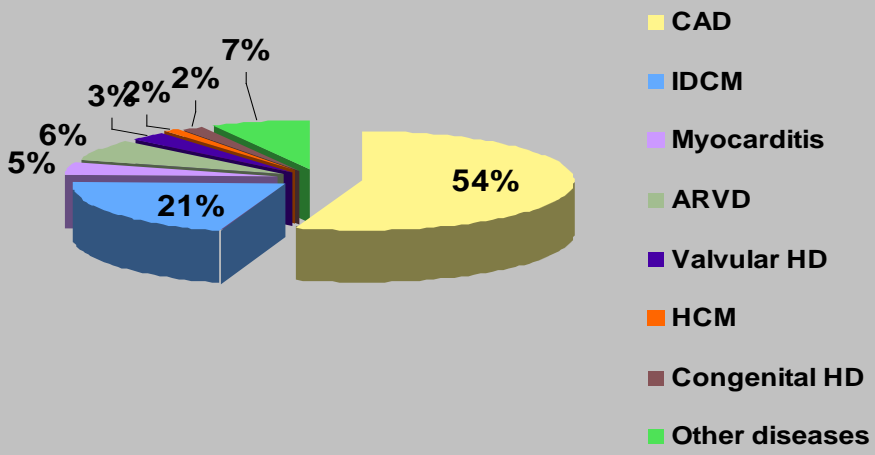
## Yew Intoxication (taxine A, B)



# Management of Ventricular Tachycardia in the Setting of a Dedicated Unit for the Treatment of Complex Ventricular Arrhythmias

## Long-Term Outcome After Ablation

Paolo Della Bella, MD; Francesca Baratto, MD; Dimitris Tsiachris, MD; Nicola Trevisi, MD; Pasquale Vergara, MD; Caterina Bisceglia, MD; Francesco Petracca, MD; Corrado Carbucicchio, MD; Stefano Benussi, MD; Francesco Maisano, MD; Ottavio Alfieri, MD; Federico Pappalardo, MD; Alberto Zangrillo, MD; Giuseppe Maccabelli, MD



**Table 1. Baseline Clinical Characteristics of Patients Who Underwent Ablation of VT**

Age, y	62.1±14
Males/females, n	473/55
Left ventricular ejection fraction, %	38.5±13
Left ventricular ejection fraction ≤30%	190 (36)
New York Heart Association class	
Class I	183 (34.7)
Class II	194 (36.7)
Class III	129 (24.4)
Class IV	22 (4.2)
Prior amiodarone therapy	410 (77.7)
Amiodarone adverse reaction	79 (15)
Renal disease	117 (22.2)
Atrial fibrillation	124 (23.5)
Implantable cardioverter defibrillator	432 (81.8)
Nontolerated VT	196 (37.1)
Electrical storm	151 (28.6)
Incessant VT	58 (11)
High risk/low risk, n	221/307

**Advanced VT Care Unit (2007- 2011)**  
**616 Patients with VT in the setting of structural heart disease – Catheter ablation in 528 (86%)**

# Management of electrical storm

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## Predictors of electrical storm recurrences in patients with ICD

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1993 – 2008

955 patients

Follow-up  $54 \pm 35$  months

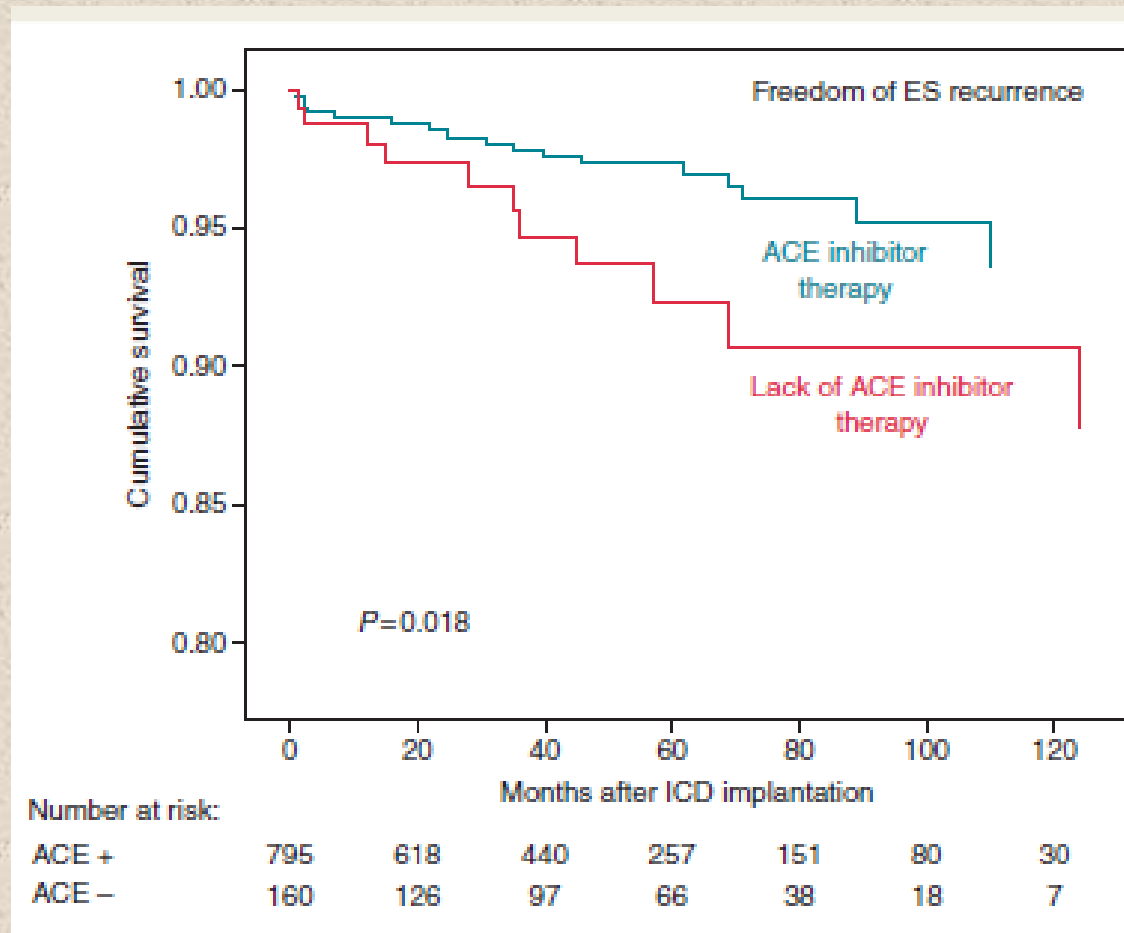
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63/955 patients with ES (6.6%)

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# Management of electrical storm

## ES recurrences according to patients with or without angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor therapy

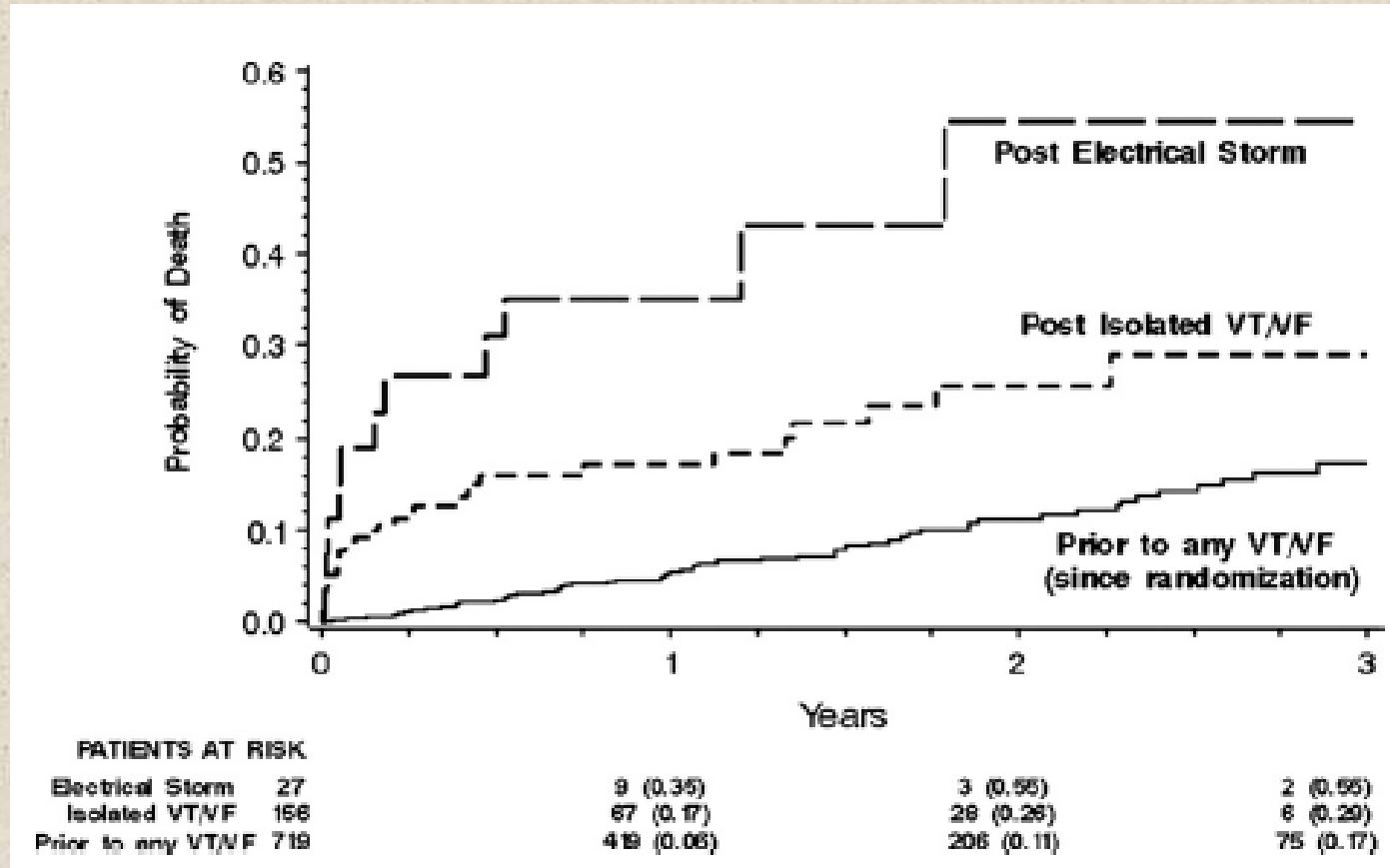


Streitner et al. Europace 2011; 13: 668-774



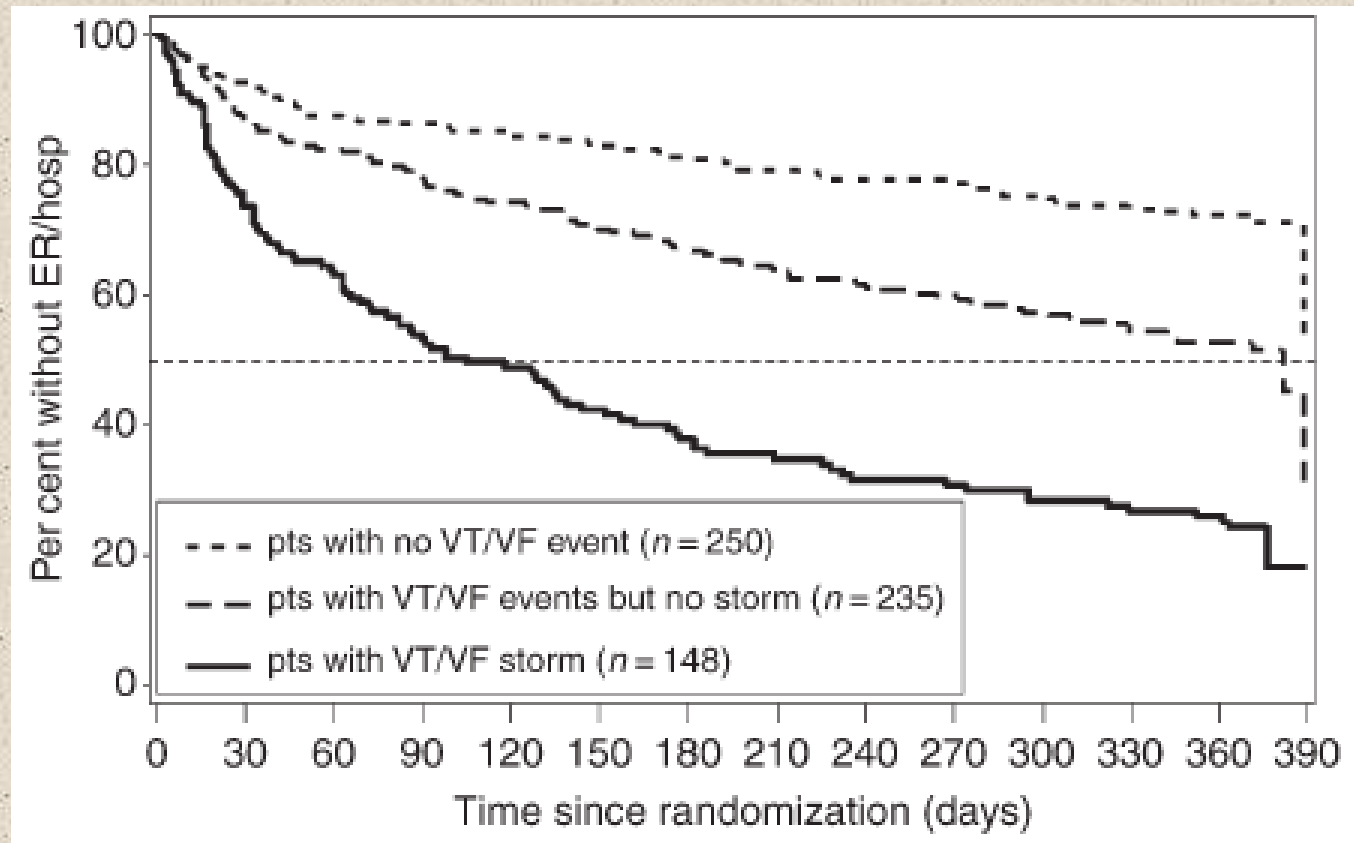
# Management of electrical storm

## Electrical storm in MADIT-II



# Management of electrical storm

## Electrical storm in SHIELD



# Electrical storm – clinical approach

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➤ **electrical stability**

{ **stable**  
**unstable**

➤ **hemodynamic stability**

{ **tolerable**  
**intolerable**

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➤ **configuration of QRS**

{ **monomorphic**  
**polymorphic**

➤ **morphology**

{ **TdP**  
**QRS discernible**  
**VF**



# Management of electrical storm

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## Ischemia

(exercise)

- no prior infarction
- VF, polymorphic VT
- significant coronary lesion  
(main stem)

## arrhythmogenic substrate

(at rest)

- infarction
- monomorphic VT
- occluded coronary vessel



# Early Repolarization Syndrome

## Lambda-like ST segment elevation in acute myocardial infarction – a new risk marker for ventricular fibrillation? Three case reports

Uniesienie odcinka ST o kształcie litery lambda w ostrej fazie zawału serca – nowy wskaźnik ryzyka wystąpienia migotania komór? Opis trzech przypadków

Piotr Kukla<sup>1</sup>, Marek Jastrzębski<sup>2</sup>, Jerzy Sacha<sup>3</sup>, Leszek Bryniarski<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The H. Klimontowicz Hospital, Gorlice

<sup>2</sup>1<sup>st</sup> Department of Cardiology, *Collegium Medicum*, Jagiellonian University, Kraków

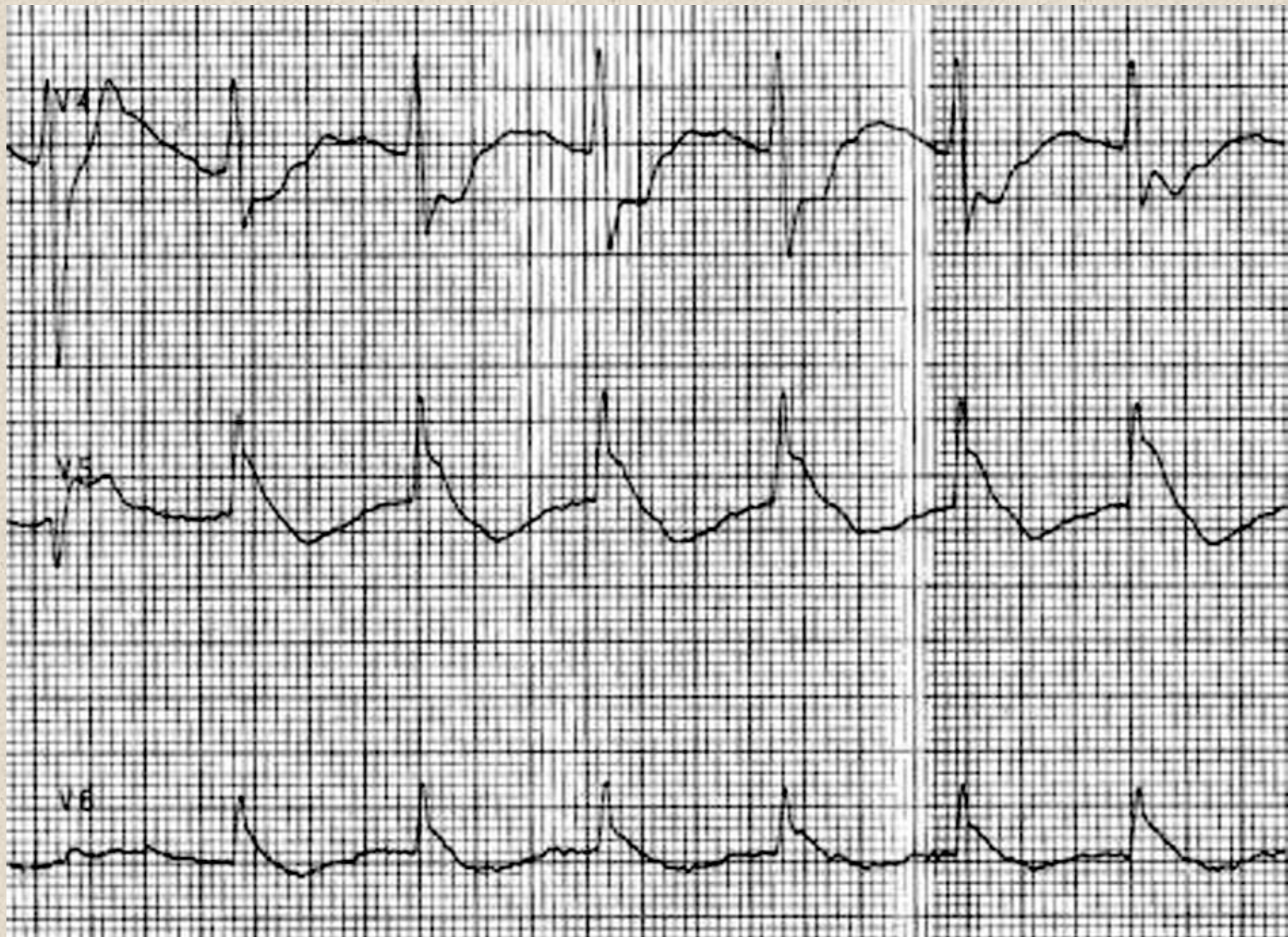
<sup>3</sup>Department of Cardiology, Medical Center, Opole

**Kardiologia Pol. 2008;66:873-7**

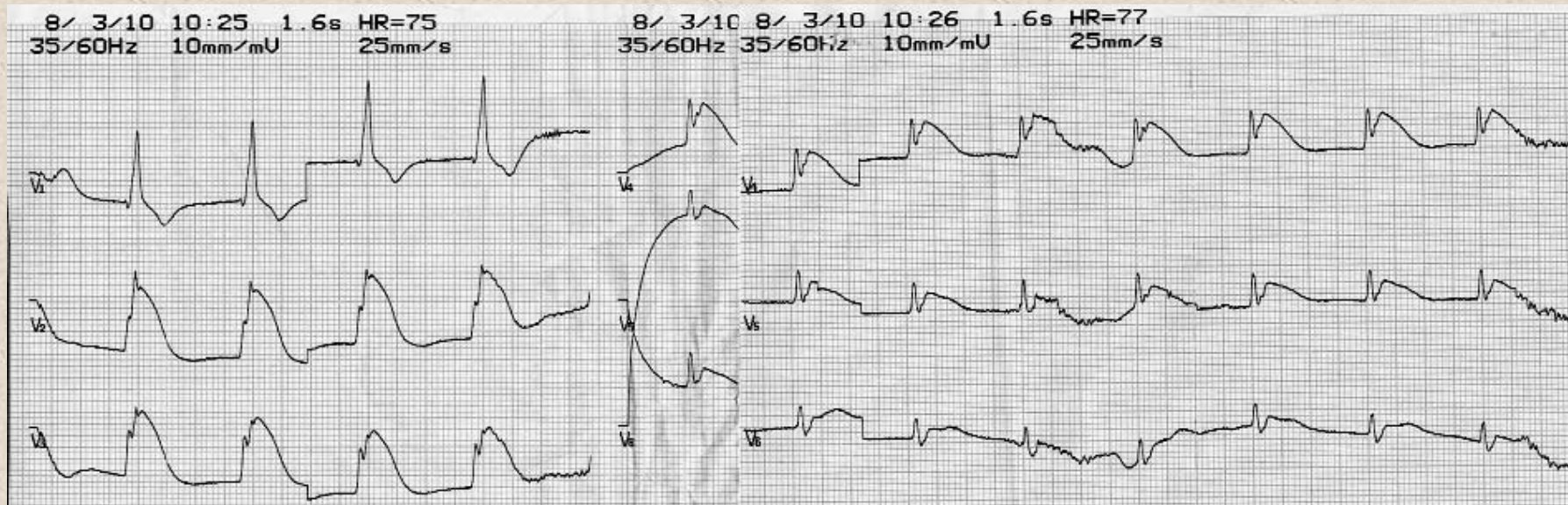
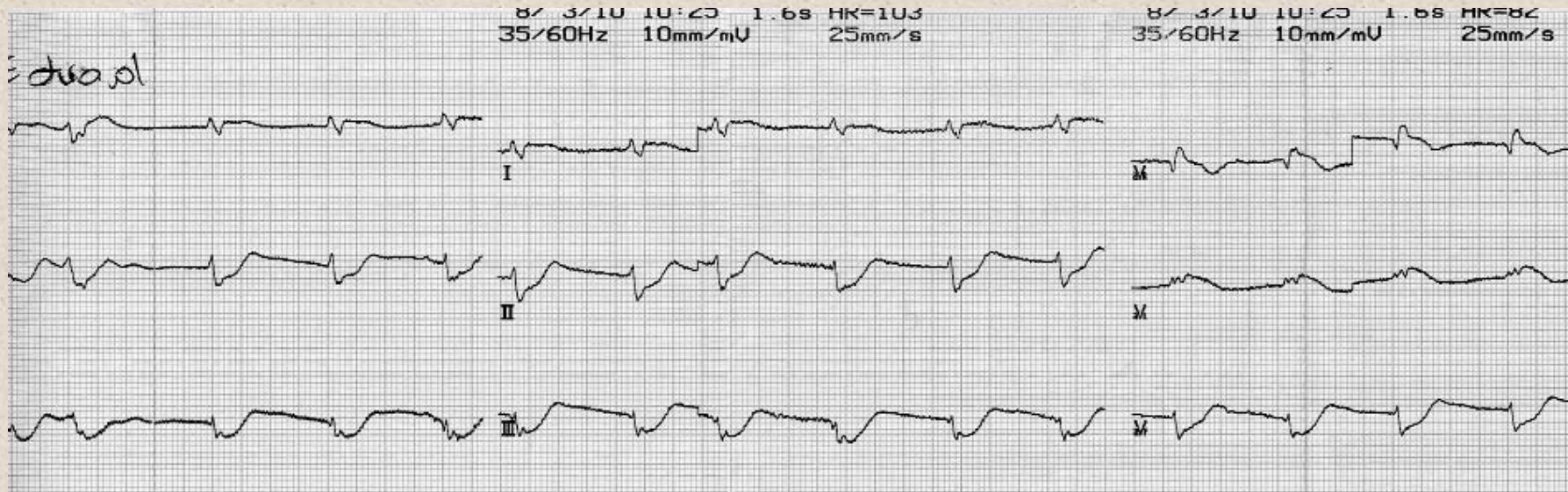
### Abstract

Sudden cardiac death (SCD) is responsible for almost 50% of all cardiac deaths in the U.S. The most common cause of SCD is coronary artery disease, especially during acute myocardial infarction (AMI). There are no publications concerning the shape of ST segment elevation in AMI and the risk of ventricular fibrillation (VF) or SCD. We present three cases with AMI and atypical ST segment elevation – lambda-wave-like complicated with episodes of VF.





# Early Repolarization Syndrome



# Management of electrical storm

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## Potential causes (I)

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- **slowing of conduction**  
(SR  $\longrightarrow$  VT)
  - **recurrent ischemia**
  - **intoxication / multiple antiarrhythmic drugs**
-

# Management of electrical storm

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## Potential causes (II)

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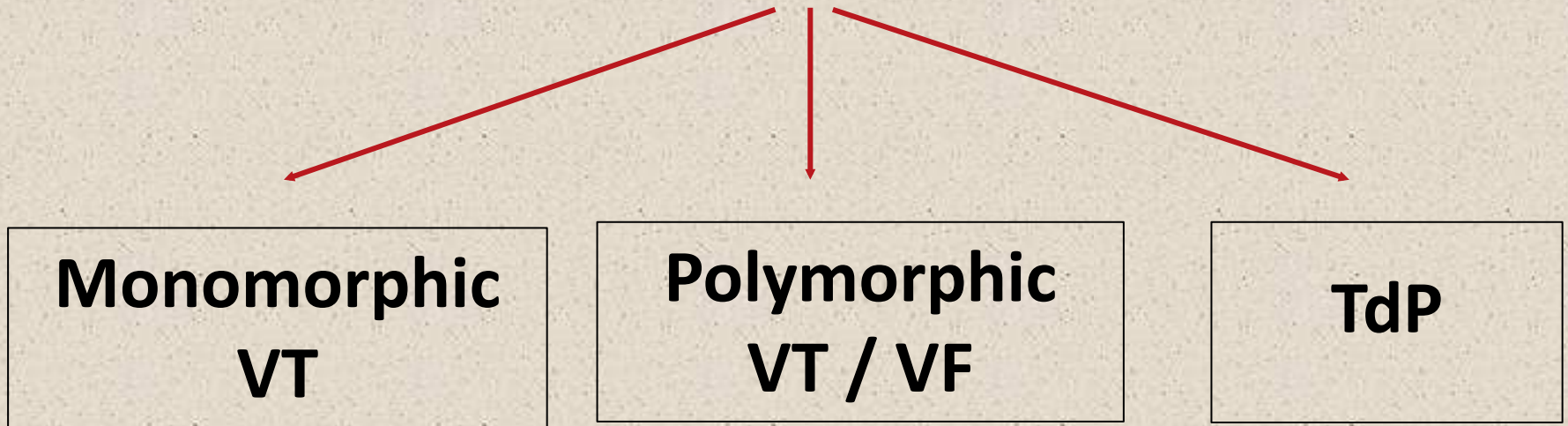
- **electrolyte disturbance**
  - **progression of CHF**
  - **alcohol, stress**
  - **mechanically induced VT**  
(temporary pacing lead)
- 



# Management of electrical storm

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## *Acute management*



# Management of electrical storm

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## Monomorphic VT (I)

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- **cardioversion  
(J↓)**
  - **overdrive pacing**
  - **electrolyte administration**
  - **Mg<sup>++</sup>**
-



# Management of electrical storm

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## Monomorphic VT (II)

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- **sedation / narcosis**
  - **(Betablocking agents, esmolol iv)**
  - **overdose of antiarrhythmic drugs**  
Na<sup>+</sup> lactate i.v.  
rate ↗ (class III, AA)  
rate ↘ (class I, AA)  
**CPR until drug elimination**
- 



# Management of electrical storm

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## Monomorphic VT (III)

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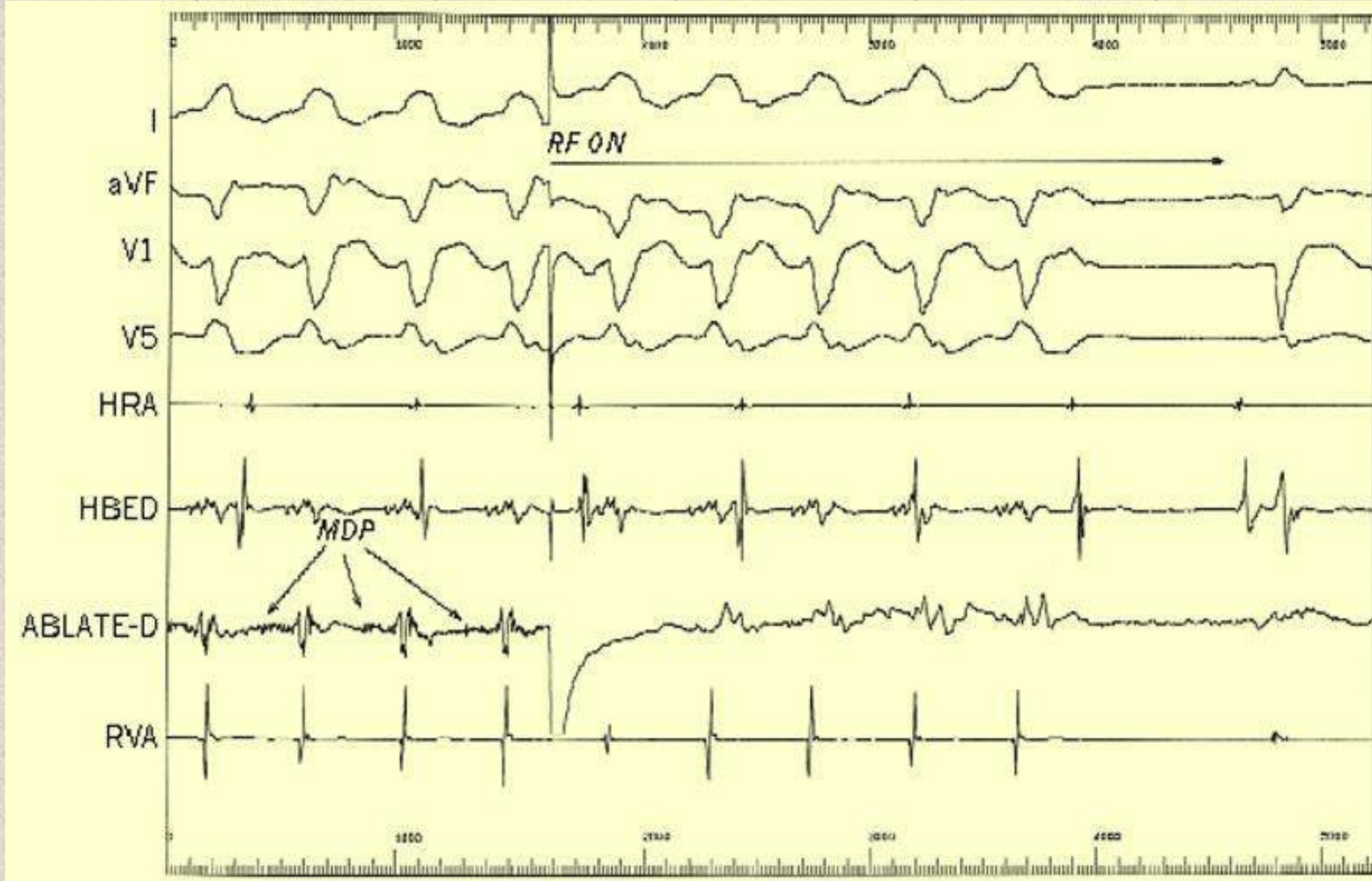
- **treatment of CHF**  
(catecholamine, diuretics, hemofiltration)
  - **exclude ongoing ischemia → angiography**
  - **amiodarone i.v (5 mg/kg – 5 min)**
- 

⇒ **Catheter ablation**

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**(TTE/TEE → exclude thrombus formation)**

# Termination of incessant VT during RF ablation



# Management of electrical storm

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## Unstable VT / VF

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➤ IAPP

➤ ECMO

➔ Stabilize circulation

➔ Emergency ablation

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# Management of electrical storm

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Stabilisation of medically refractory ventricular arrhythmia by intra-aortic balloon counterpulsation

G D Fotopoulos, M J Mason, S Walker, N S Jepson, D J Patel, A G Mitchell, C D J Ilesley, V E Paul

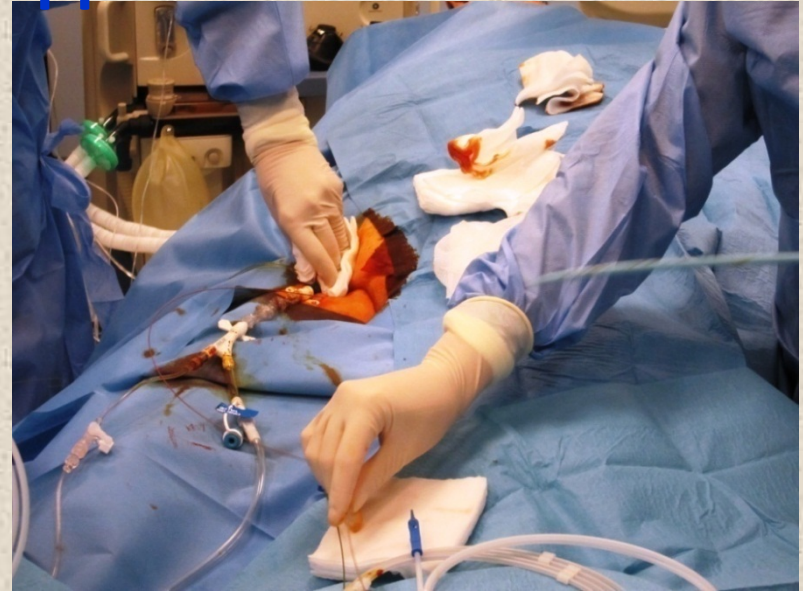
**Heart 1999; 82: 96-100**

- **IABP is an effective support to achieve pts stabilization before the treatment of the arrhythmia by catheter ablation.**
- **It allows extensive treatment with even in patients with severely depressed LV function.**



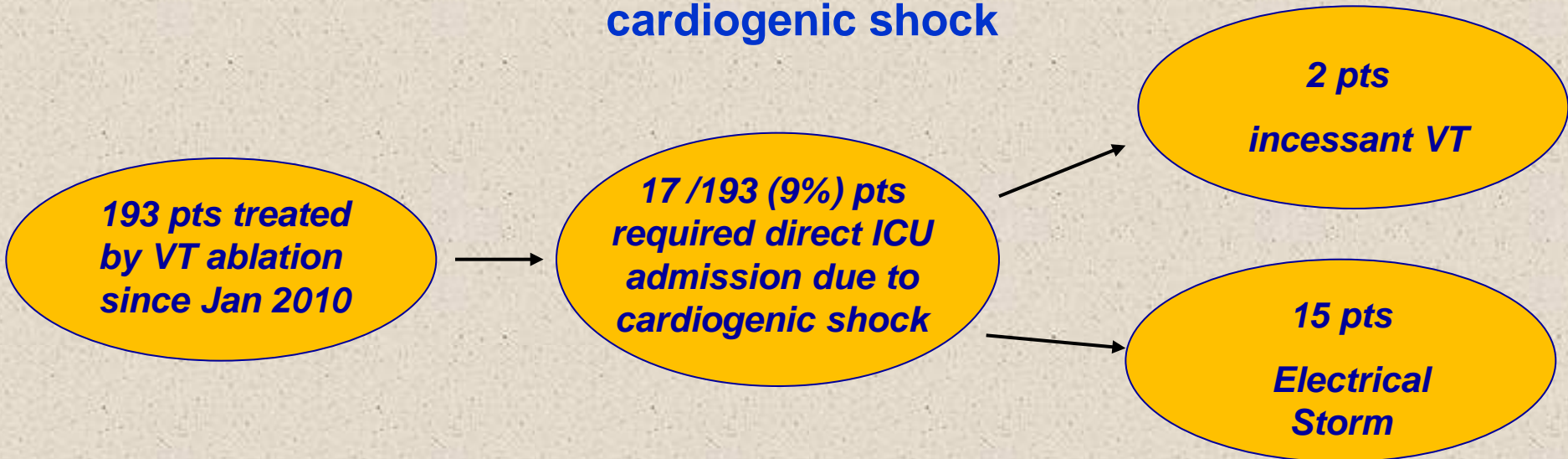
# Management of electrical storm

ECMO hemodynamic support was instituted



# Management of electrical storm

## Patients with recurrent Ventricular Tachycardia presenting cardiogenic shock



CAD	11 / 17 (65%)
IDCM	5 / 17 (29%)
ARVD	1 / 17 (6%)

ECMO	3 / 17 (18%)
IABP	14 / 17 (82%)

Age, Mean $\pm$ SD, Years	68 $\pm$ 10
LVEF	28 $\pm$ 6
Unresponsive to chronic Amiodarone	11 / 17 (65%)
Unresponsive to ev lidocaine	15 / 17 (88%)
Renal Disease , N, %	5 / 17 (29%)
AFib , N, %	9 / 17 (53%)
ICD , N, %	14 / 17 (82%)

# Management of electrical storm

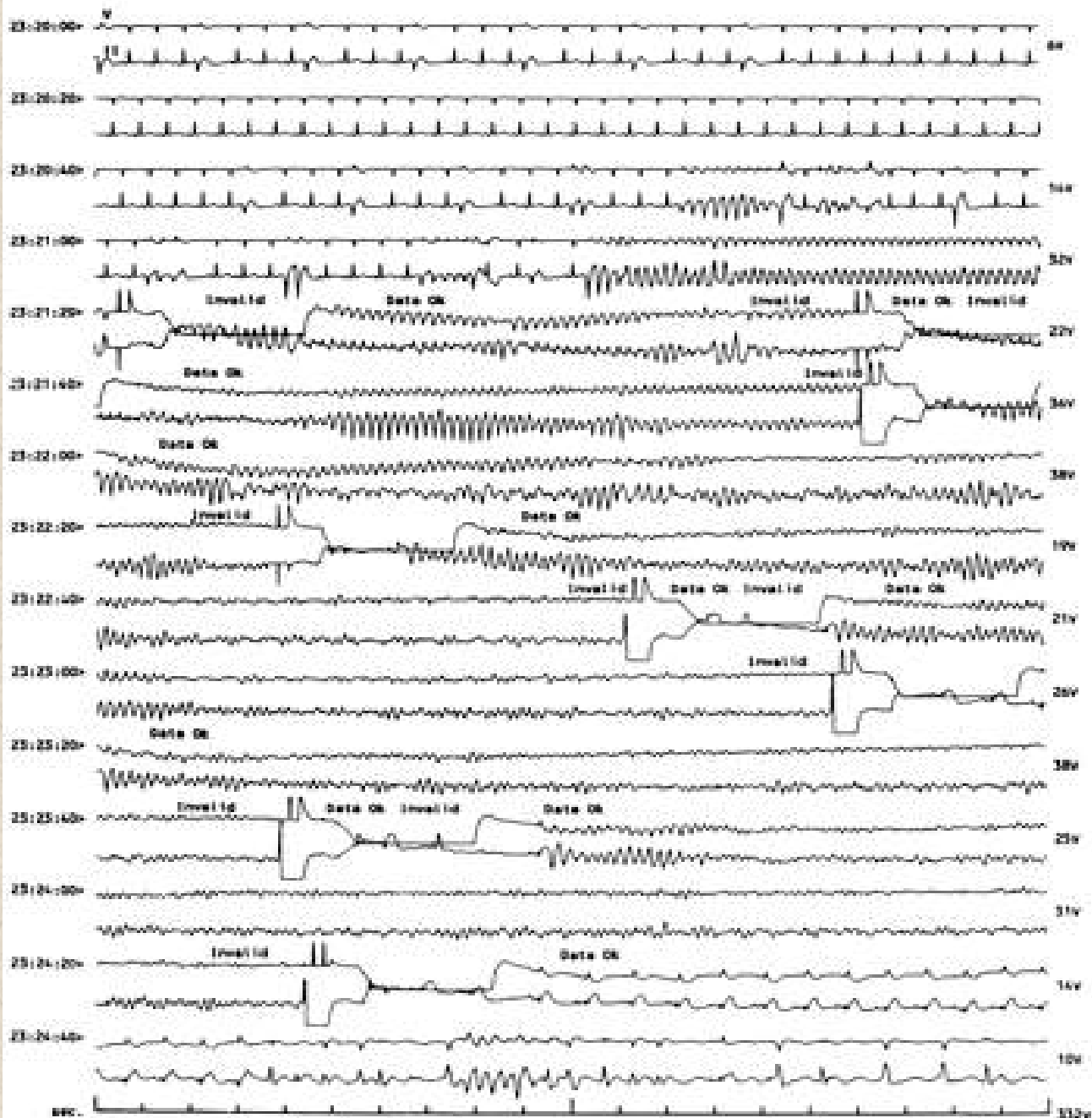
## Catheter ablation

<i>Number of ablation procedures</i>		
	1	16/17 (94%)
	2	1/17 (6%)
<i>Mapping system</i>		
	CARTO	12/17 (70%)
	Navx- Non contact Array	5/17 (30%)
<i>Ablation Site</i>		
	Endocardial	12/ 17 (70%)
	Endo-Epicardial	5 / 17 (30%)
<i>Late potentials abolition</i>		9/17 (53%)
<i>Post-procedural EP study</i>		10 /17 (58%)
	Prevention of any VT induction	9/17 (52%)
	Induction of VF	1/17 (6%)

**Stable hemodynamically efficient sinus rhythm was achieved in all patients.**



5 minute page



## Recurrent VF

Nademanee et al,  
Circulation 2000;102:3080

# Management of electrical storm

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## Polymorphic VT / VF

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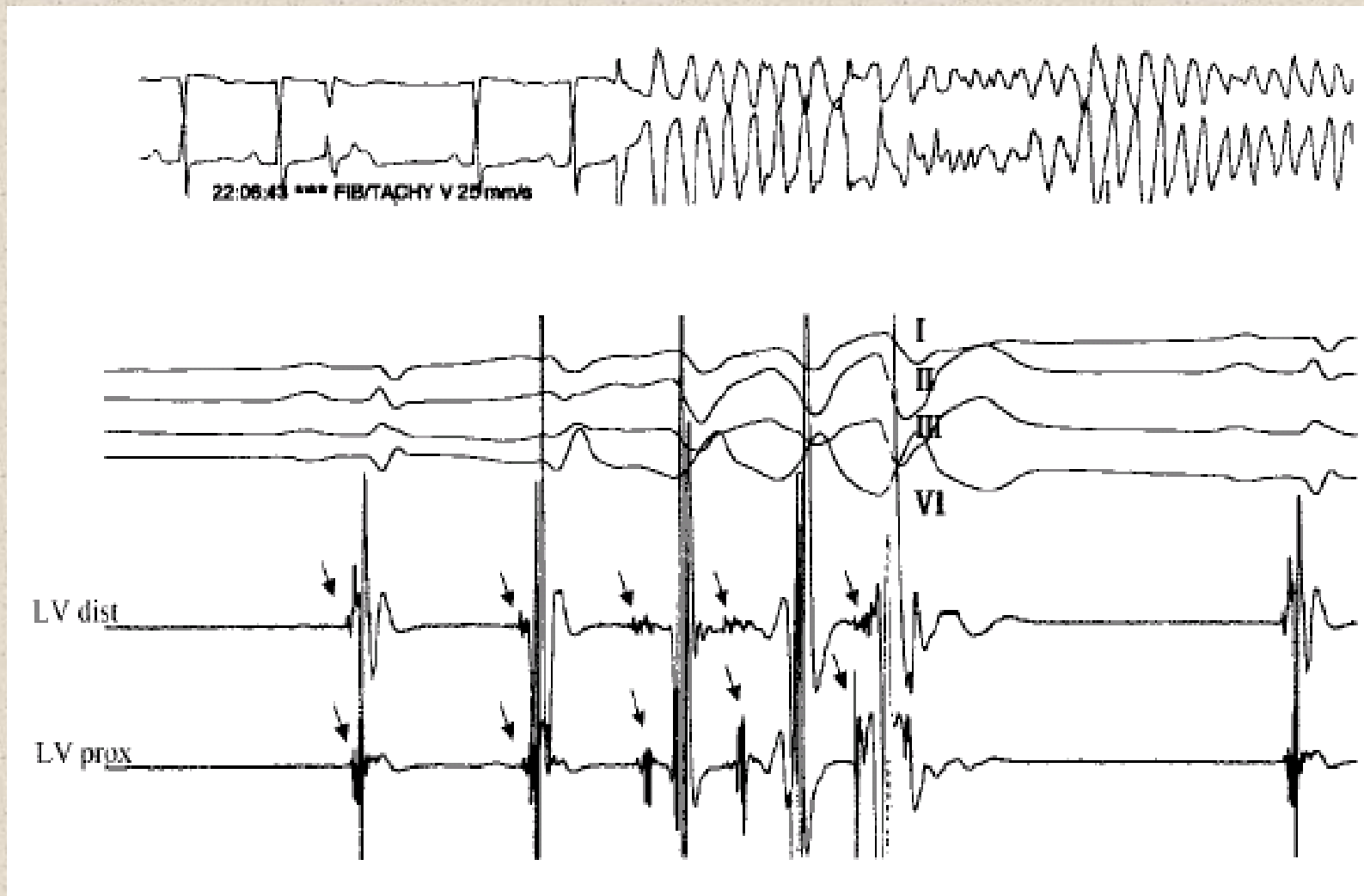
### *Acute management*

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- **defibrillation**
  - **recurrent ischemia ?**
  - **amiodarone i.v., betablocker i.v.**
  - **Mg<sup>++</sup> sulfate i.v.**
  - **emergency angiography**  
(PTCA, CABG)
  - **bradycardia induced?**  
catecholamine, temporary pacing
  - **emergency ablation**
- 



# Mapping and ablation of idiopathic VF



# Mapping and ablation of idiopathic VF

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**n = 27**

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➤ **HP system**                      **23 / 27 pts**

left ventricular septum              **10 pts**

anterior right septum                **9 pts**

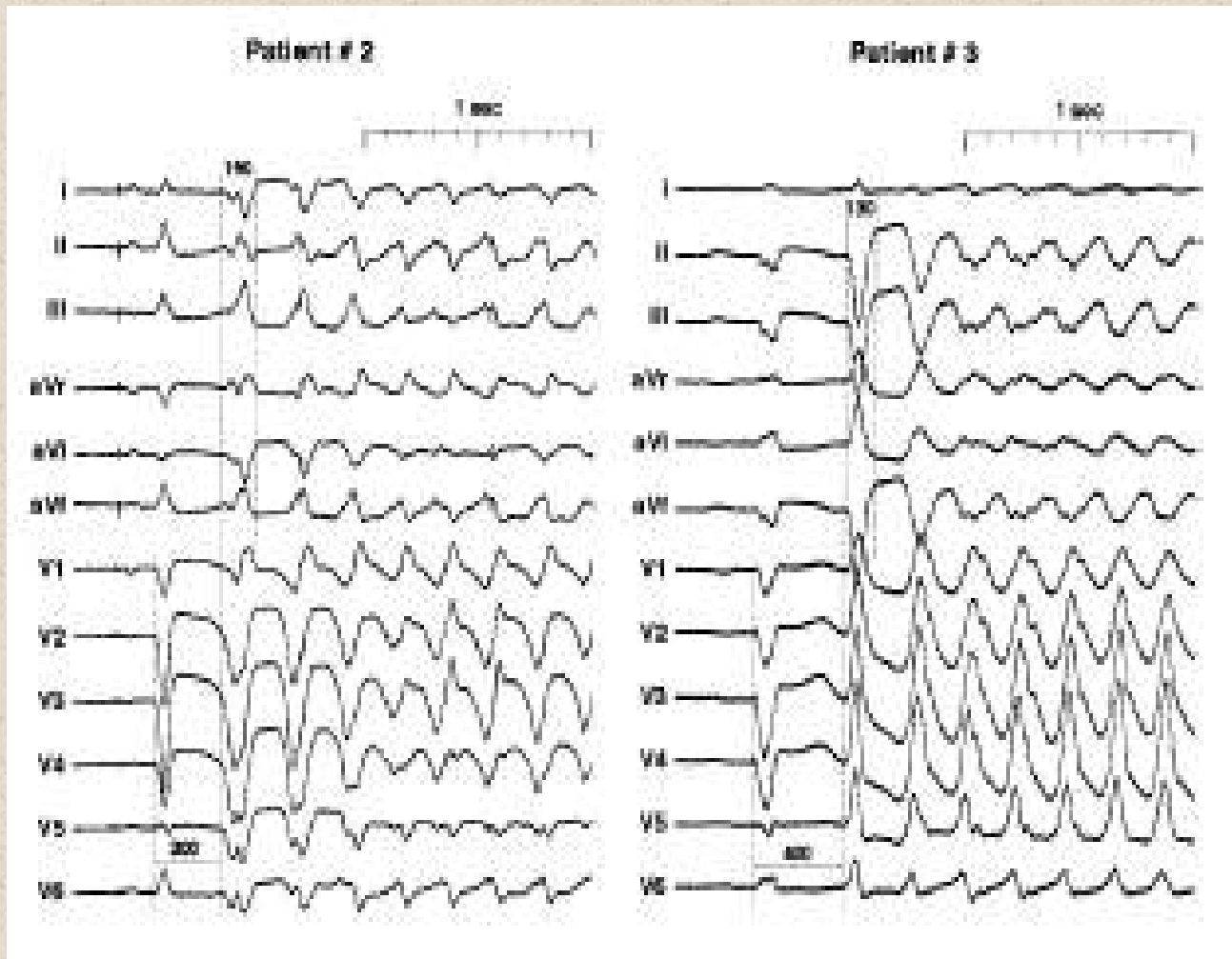
both                                        **4 pts**

➤ **RVOT 4 / 27 pts**

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➔ **24 ± 28 months**                      **89% no VF**  
**(ICD back-up)**

# Ablation of polymorphic VT/VF after MI



# Ablation of VT/VF

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## Conclusions

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### ➤ Ablation of unstable VT is possible



VT palliation



rescue procedure

### ➤ Ablation of VF is possible



VF palliation

### ➤ ICD back-up is still mandatory

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# Management of electrical storm

TdP



# Management of electrical storm

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## TdP

### *Acute management*

- **increase rate**
  - ➔ isoproterenol i.v.
  - ➔ temporary pacing
  
- **betablocker agents i.v.**
  - ➔ (mexilitine)
  
- **Mg<sup>++</sup> sulfate i.v.**



# Management of electrical storm

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## Electrical storm in J-wave syndromes

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- **Isoproterenol infusion**
  - **Fever ↓**
  - **Catheter ablation**
  - **Quinidine**
-

# Management of electrical storm

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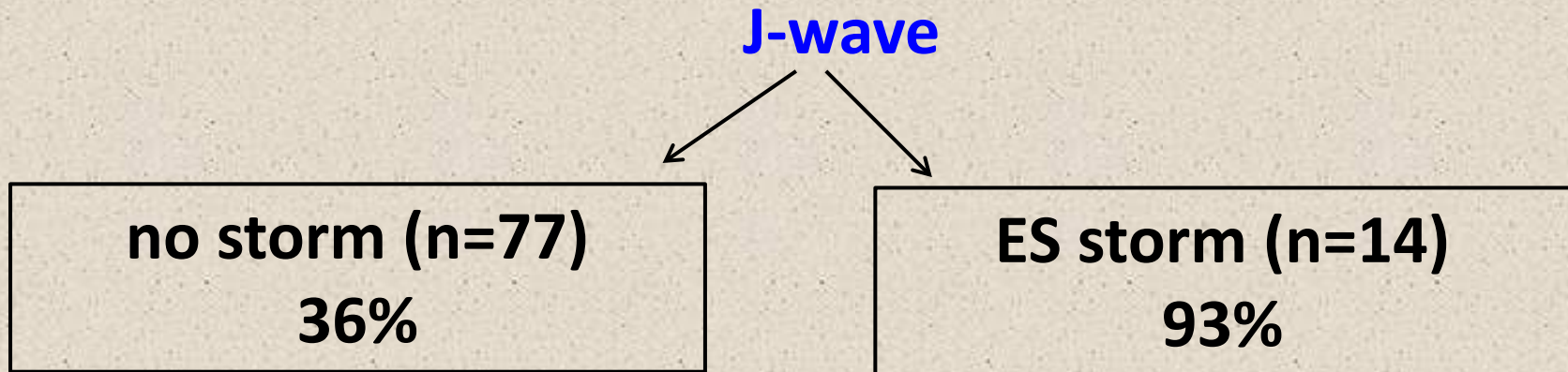
## Electrical storm in idiopathic VF

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n = 91 patients

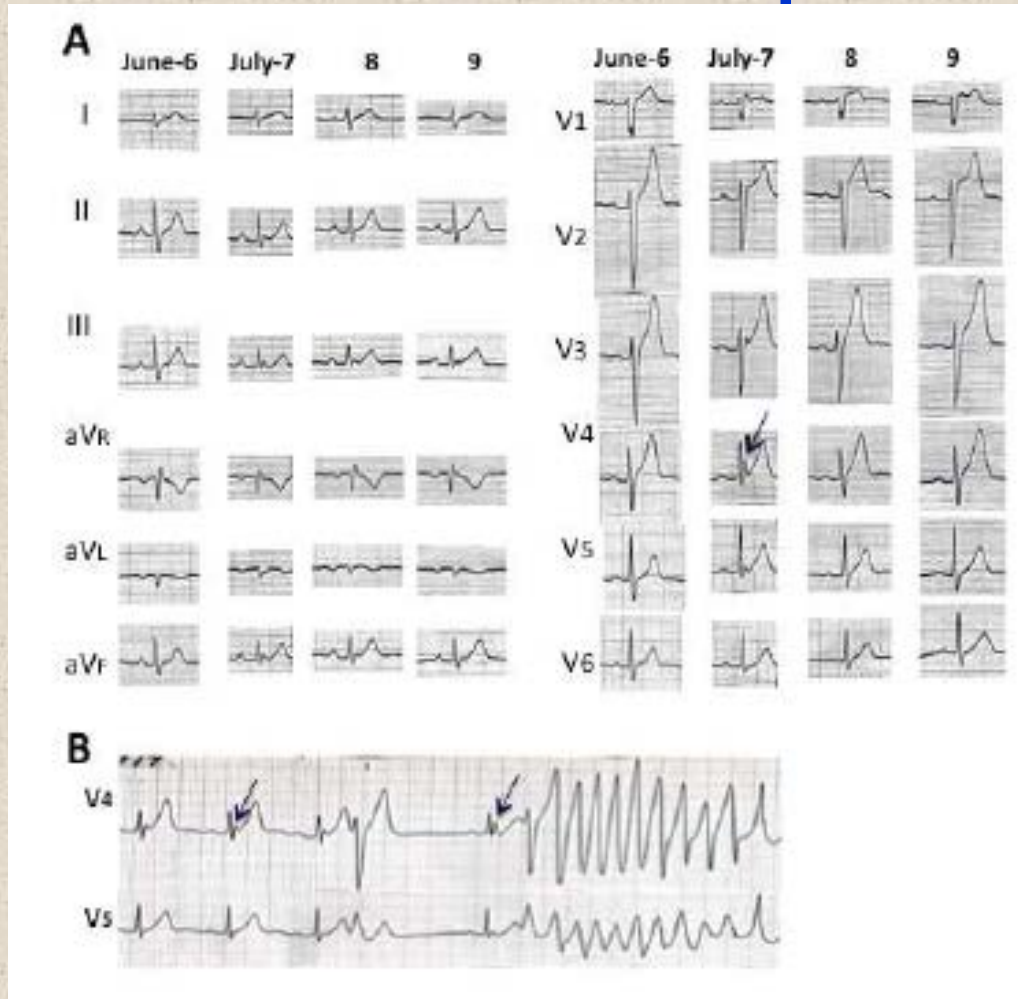
14/91 pts (15.4%) with ES

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# Management of electrical storm

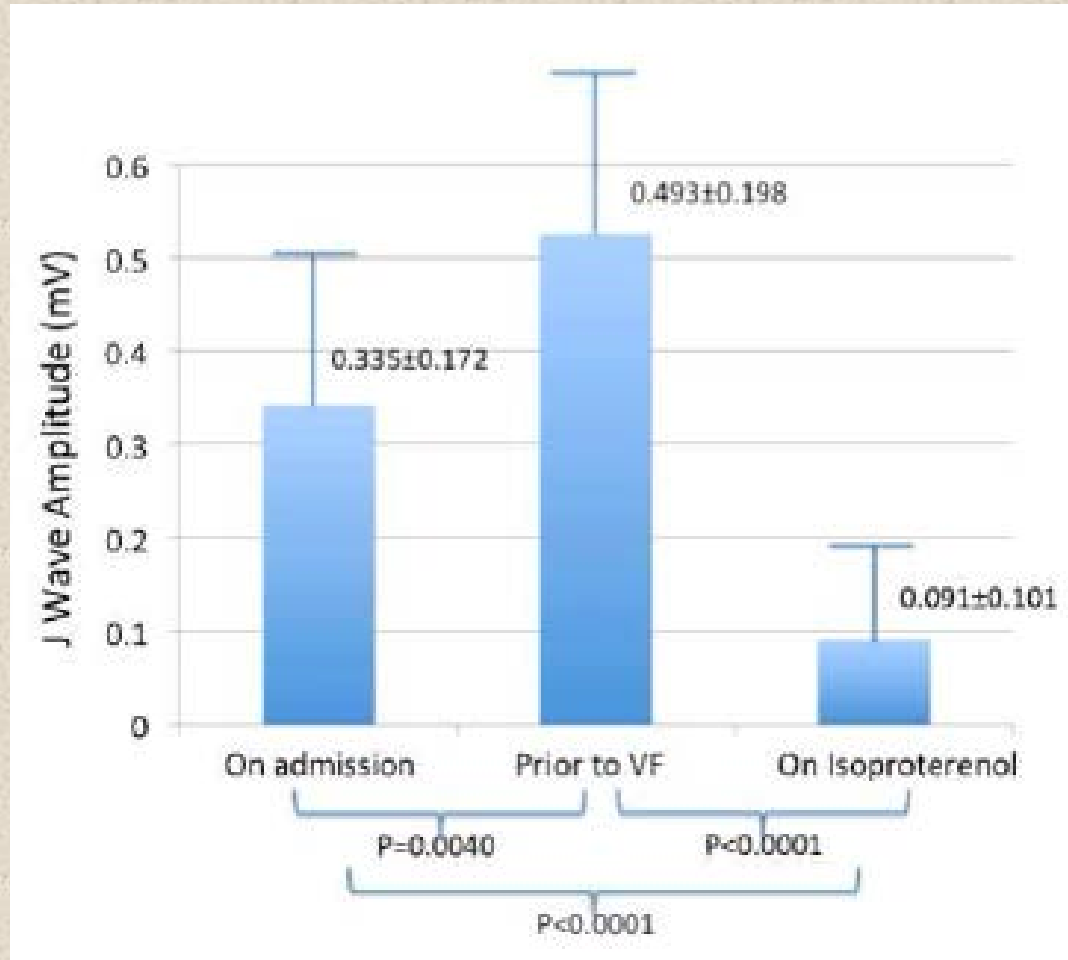
## Electrical storm in idiopathic VF



Aizawa et al, JACC 2013; DOI: 10.1016/j.jacc.2013.05.030

# Management of electrical storm

## Effect of isoproterenol in electrical storm



Aizawa et al, JACC 2013; DOI: 10.1016/j.jacc.2013.05.030

# Management of electrical storm

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## Conclusions

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- **Electrical storm is a life-threatening condition and occurs in up to 10% of ICD patients**
  - **Randomized trials in the management of electrical storm are lacking**
  - **Management of electrical storm is strongly depending on the skills of the arrhythmia service**
- 



# Management of VT/VF Storm

Neuraxial and Systemic

At the level of the heart

Intervention

Level

General

Brain & Higher Centers

Anesthesia

TEA,

SCS, and

Intrathecal

Clonidine

Thoracic

T1-T4

Spinal

Cord

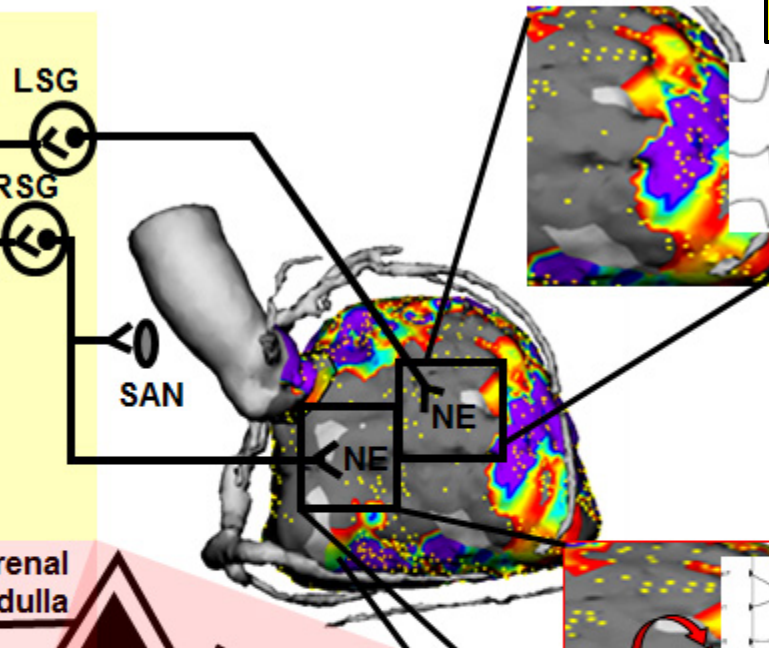
Cervicothoracic Sympathectomy

Beta Blockers

Adrenal Medulla

Renal Denervation

Kidney



Catheter Ablation

FOCAL VF

Catheter Ablation

MACRO REENTRY

FUNCTIONAL VT AND VF

1/3 NE  
2/3 E

# THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS WHAT THEY SEEM









Basic Res Cardiol (2013) 108:336

DOI 10.1007/s00395-013-0336-2

REVIEW

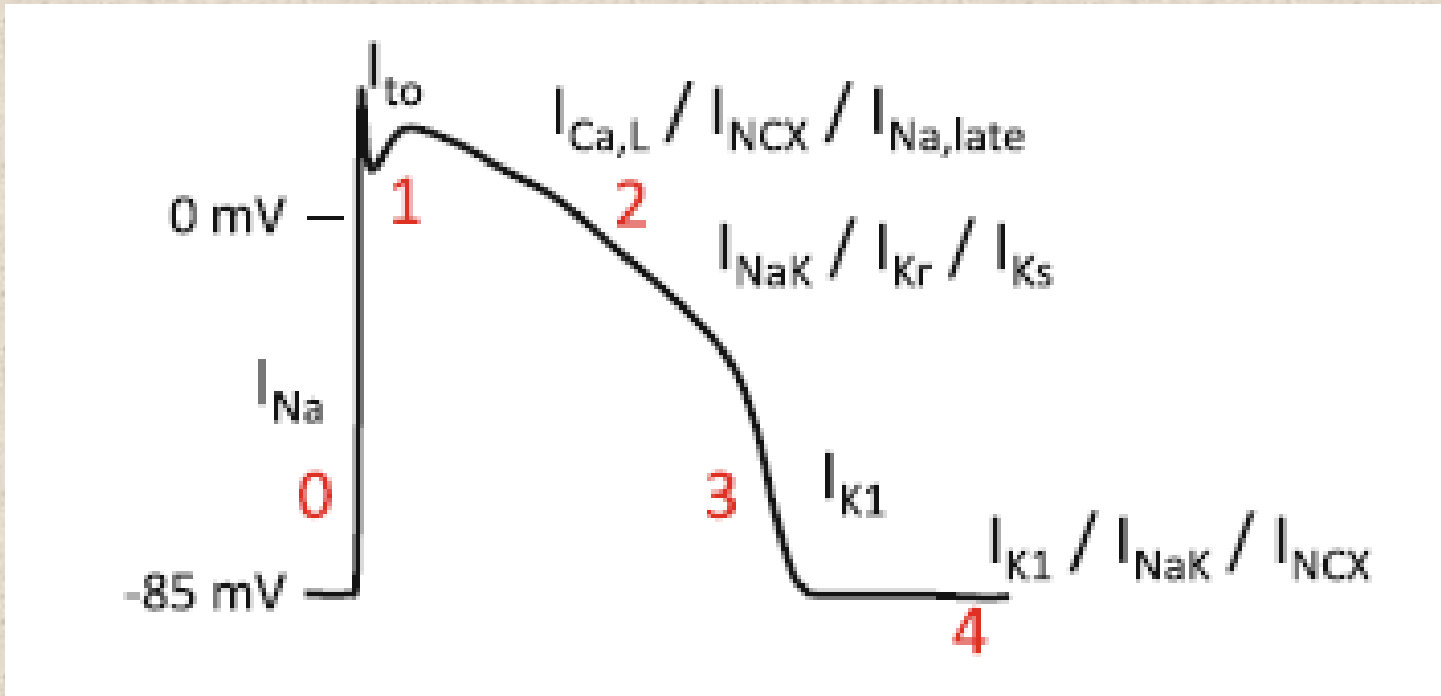
## **Electrical storm: recent pathophysiological insights and therapeutic consequences**

**Yukiomi Tsuji · Jordi Heijman · Stanley Nattel ·  
Dobromir Dobrev**

**Basic Res Cardiol 2013; 108;336**

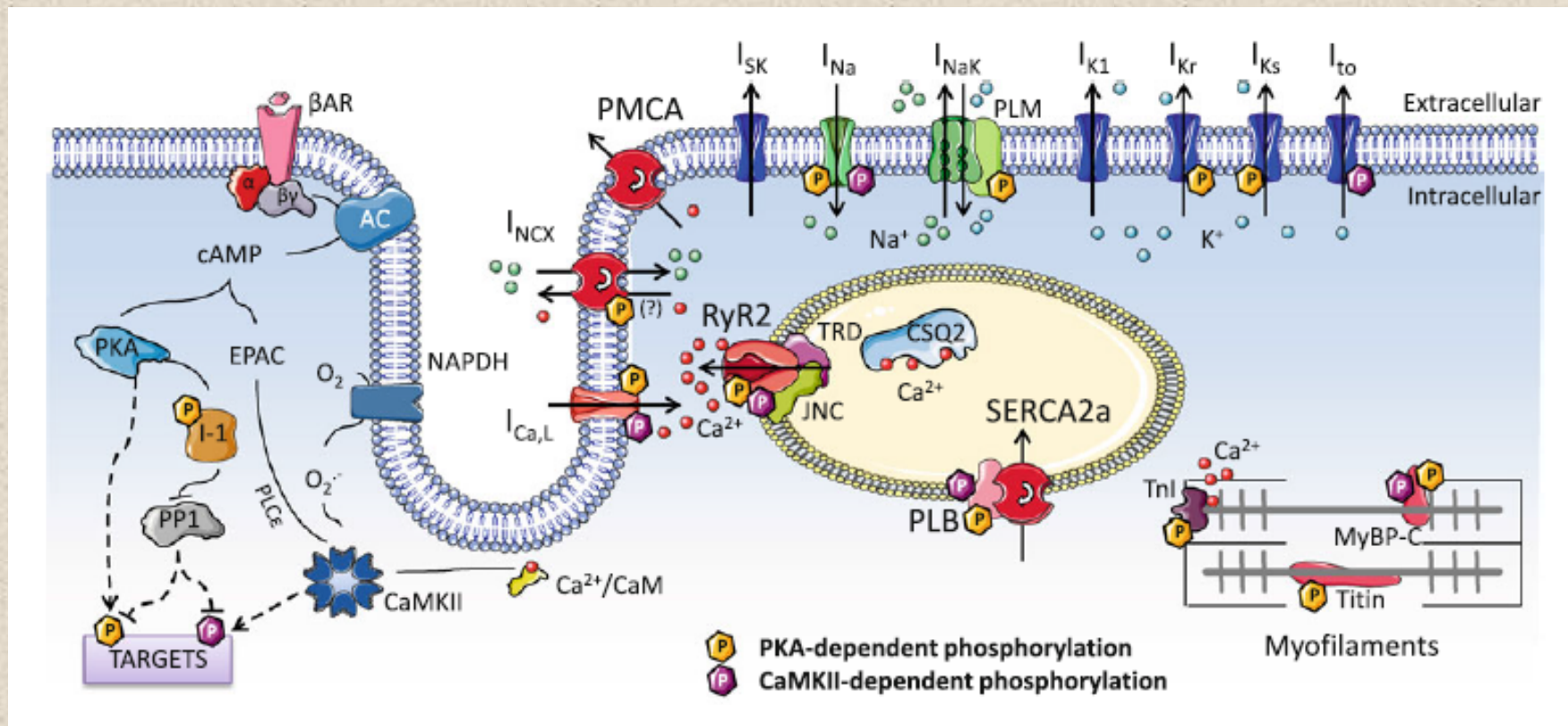
# Electrical storm

## Prototype of the cardiac action potential (AP) and its underlying ionic currents



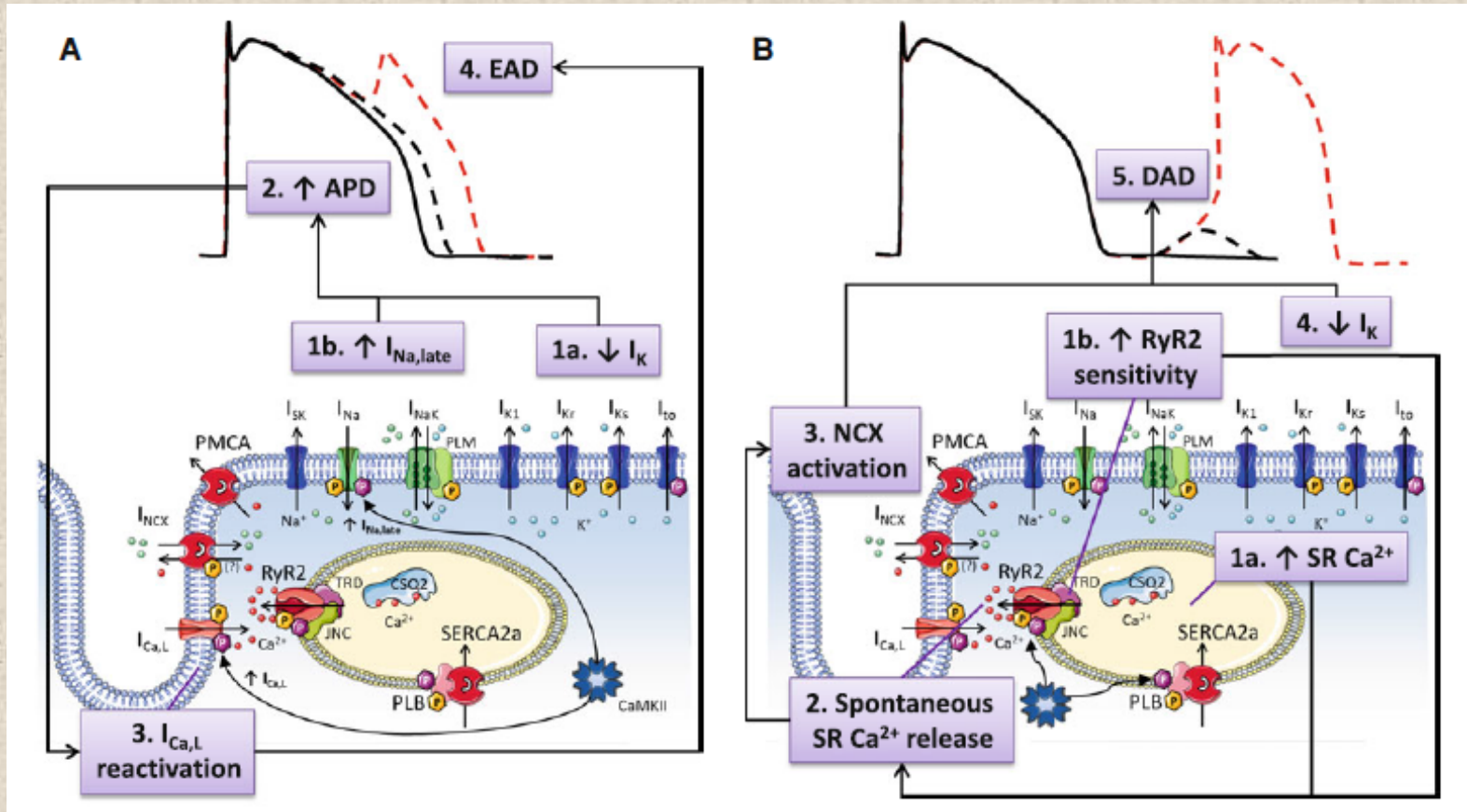
# Electrical storm

## Schematic representation of a ventricular myocyte indicating the major ionic currents



# Electrical storm

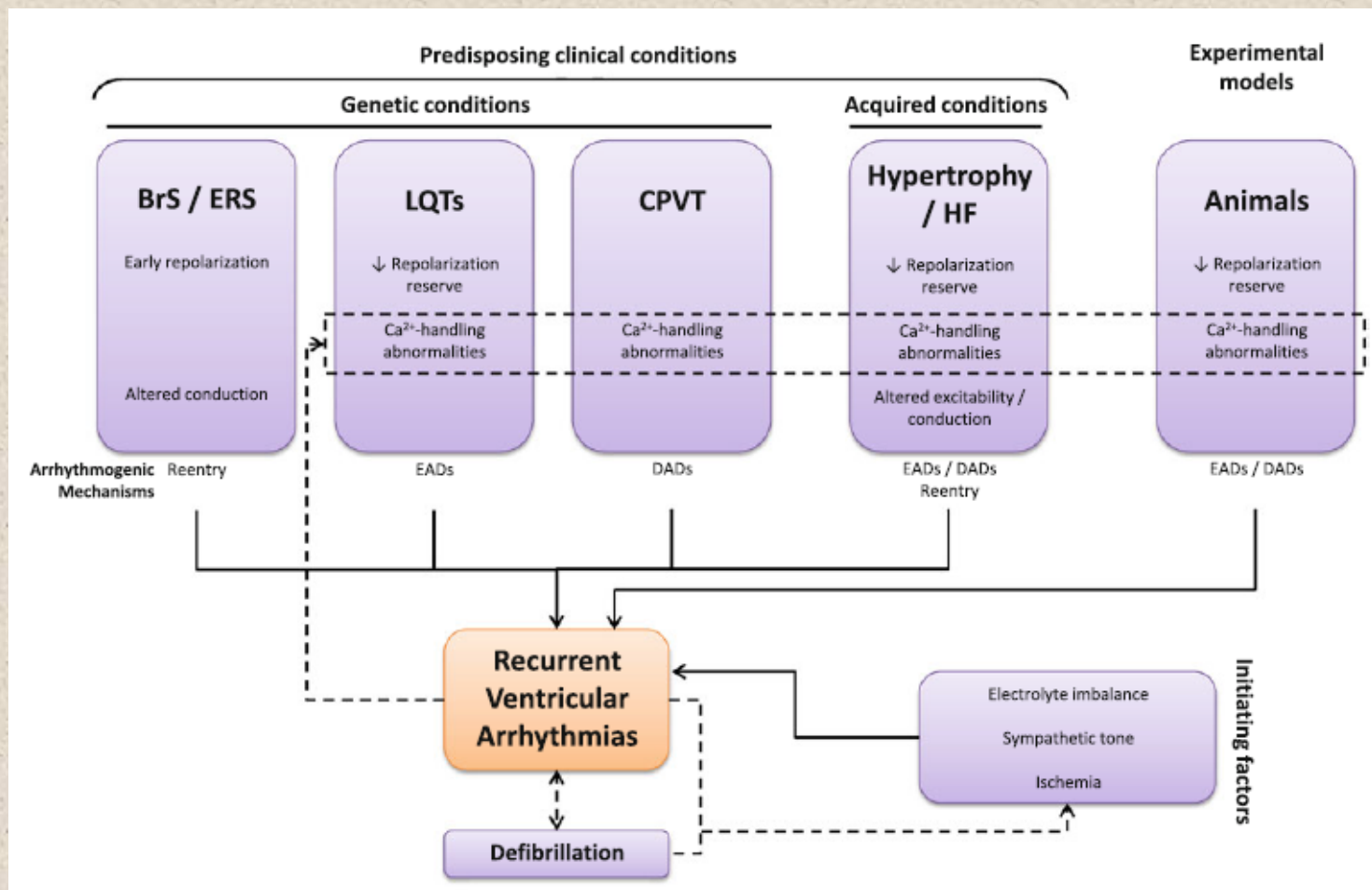
Schematic representations of **early (a)** and **delayed (b)** afterdepolarizations and their dominant underlying mechanisms



Tsui et al. Basic Res Cardiol 2013; 108: 336

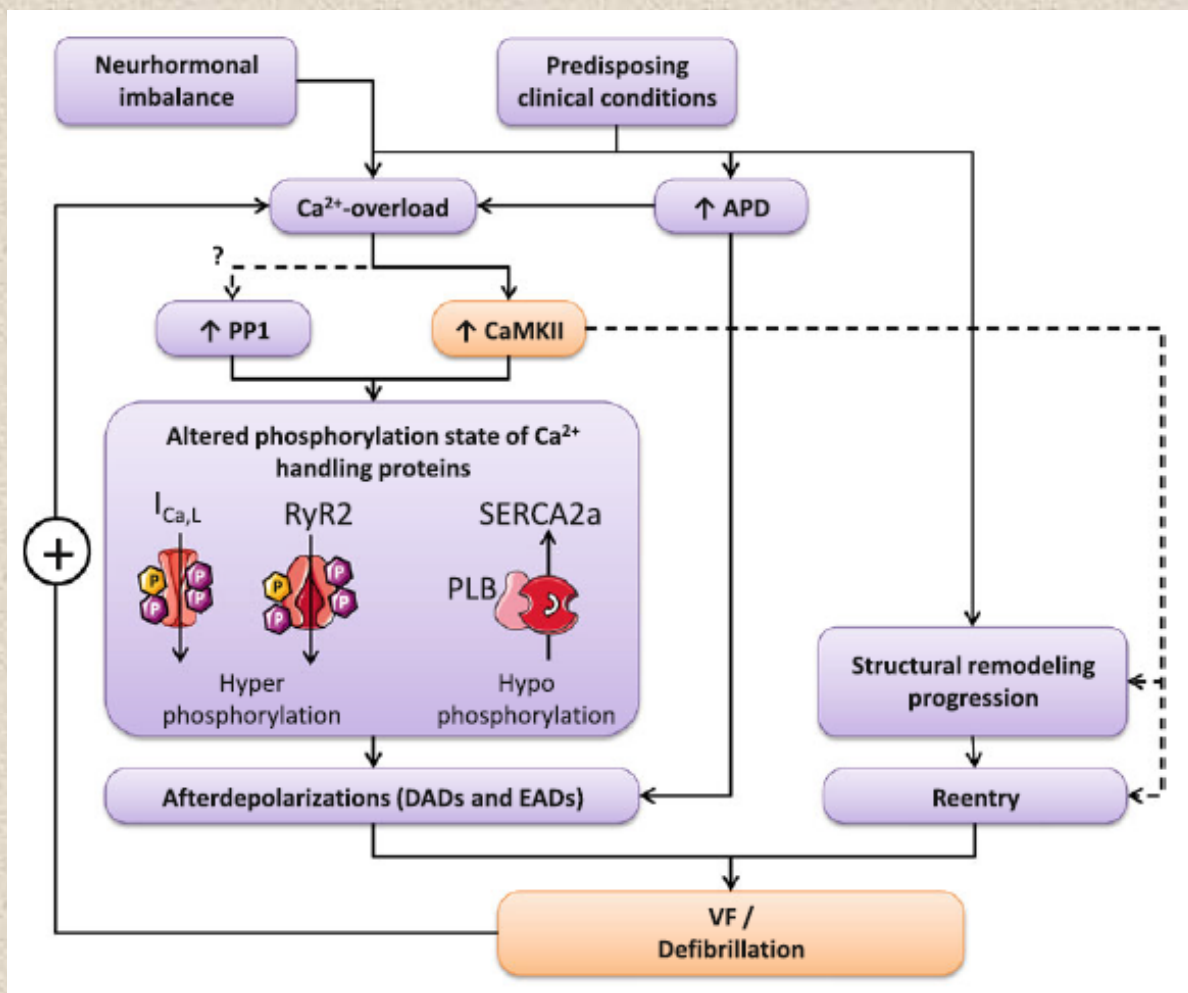
# Electrical storm

## Overview of clinical conditions



# Electrical storm

Proposed pathophysiology of ES based on a rabbit ES model.



# Electrical storm

## Therapeutic interventions for recurrent VT/VF

