Radial left ventricular dyssynchrony by speckle tracking in apical versus non apical right ventricular pacing: evidence of dyssynchrony on medium term follow up

Dinesh Choudhary, Amit Kumar Chaurasia*, S Mahesh Kumar, Ajeet Arulkumar, Anees Thajudeen, Narayanan Namboodiri, G Sanjay, SP Abhilash, VK Ajitkumar, Tharakan JA

Department of Cardiology, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum 695 011, Kerala, India

Abstract

Introduction: To study effects of various sites of right ventricular pacing lead implantation on left ventricular function by 2-dimensional (2D) speckle tracking for radial strain and LV dyssynchrony.

Methods: This was retrospective prospective study. Fifteen patients each with right ventricular (RV) apical (RV apex and apical septum) and non-apical (mid septal and low right ventricular outflow tract [RVOT]) were programmed to obtain 100% ventricular pacing for evaluation by echo. Location and orientation of lead tip was noted and archived by fluoroscopy. Electrocardiography (ECG) was archived and 2D echo radial dyssynchrony was calculated.

Results: The baseline data was similar between two groups. Intraventricular dyssynchrony was significantly more in apical location as compared to non-apical location (radial dyssynchrony: 108.2 ± 50.2 vs. 50.5 ± 24, P < 0.001; septal to posterior wall delay [SLWD] 63.5 ± 27.5 vs. 34 ± 10.7, P < 0.001, SPWD 112.5 ± 58.1 vs. 62.7 ± 12.1, P = 0.003). The left ventricular ejection fraction was decreased more in apical location than non apical location. Interventricular dyssynchrony was more in apical group but was not statistically significant. The QRS duration, QTc and lead thresholds were higher in apical group but not statistically significant.

Conclusion: Pacing in non apical location (RV mid septum or low RVOT) is associated with less dyssynchrony by specific measures like 2D radial strain and correlates with better ventricular function in long term.

Introduction

Cardiac pacing is treatment of choice in the management of patients with bradyarrhythmias and drug refractory heart failure in the form of cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT)1,2. Traditional site of pacing is right ventricular (RV) apex, however; adverse left ventricular remodeling and dyssynchrony could be the limiting factor. The relationship between RV apical pacing and mechanical dyssynchrony has been studied in various trials.3,11 Though they provide good path-physiologic insight, they are not sufficient to recommend an optimal RV pacing site mainly because of the variability in lead insertion site. We planned this study to answer some of these questions by identifying the lead position on fluoroscopy and then comparing electrocardiography (ECG) and dyssynchrony parameters with ventricular function on medium term follow up.

2-dimensional (2D) strain based speckle tracking which evaluates circumferential strain (CS), longitudinal strain (LS), and radial strain (RS) by self tracking of myocardial segments allows better advantage in comparison to tissue Doppler imaging as it does not depend on Doppler angle and also monitors strains in two dimension rather than one dimension, thus increasing reproducibility and accuracy. Therefore, we used this technique in our study.

Materials and Methods

This was a retrospective-prospective study, in which we retrospectively selected 30 patients with single chamber pacemaker (VVI) with RV apical (RV apex and apical septum) and RV non apical (mid septal and low right ventricular outflow tract [RVOT]) pacing and who satisfied the inclusion criteria and prospectively followed them for 40 months and evaluated them for ventricular function and dyssynchrony parameters.

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Patients with normal pacemaker function, without any structural heart disease, who were more than 18 years, had

*Corresponding author: Amit Kumar Chaurasia, Email: amitkumarchaurasia@gmail.com

© 2016 The Author(s). This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.
LV dyssynchrony by speckle tracking in patients with permanent pacemaker

≥ 80% pacing at follow up (by pacemaker interrogation or in 2 ECGs taken at two different times) and who provided consent for the study were included in the study. Patients who refused consent, had coronary or structural heart disease, cardiomyopathies or any form of cardiac surgery were excluded from the study.

**Procedures and data collection**
The date of pacemaker implantation, indication for implantation, lead implant location, lead parameters and hardware used while implanting the pacemaker were noted from patients’ records. Fluoroscopy was performed after obtaining patients consent. The lead location and orientation of the lead tip were noted and archived by fluoroscopy (AP, RAO 40, LAO 40 and left lateral views) (Figure 1). A 12 lead ECG was performed and archived. Longest QRS, QTc (by using Bazett’s formula (QT/√RR interval) duration and QRS axis were calculated for all patients. Interrogation of pacemaker was done to see pacemaker function, percentage of pacing and to check various lead parameters (threshold and lead impedance). Following which, 100% ventricular pacing was programmed for evaluation by echocardiography.

**Evaluation of radial strain and dyssynchrony**
When 100% ventricular pacing was confirmed, echocardiography was performed with PHILIPS iE 33 (Philips Healthcare, Andover, USA). First, the position of the lead was confirmed and then 2D short axis images of the left ventricle at the mid papillary muscle level with breath held in expiration was obtained, following which four loops with frame rate of 50 to 80 per second was recorded. After this all the analysis was done offline using Q-lab software for PHILIPS iE 33 machine. During offline evaluation, first, the endocardium was traced manually at the end-systolic frame and divided into 6 segments and then strain curves for each segment was constructed. After this, the time to peak radial strain of each segment was measured. And then finally, the absolute time interval of peak strain between anteroseptum and posterior segment was calculated along with radial dyssynchrony (Figure 2). We also measured intraventricular dyssynchrony (septal to posterior wall delay [SPWD] by M-mode, septal to lateral wall delay [SLWD] by tissue Doppler imaging [TDI]) and interventricular dyssynchrony (difference in the electromechanical delay [Q-aortic ejection and Q-pulmonary artery ejection]).

**Statistical analysis**
All statistical analysis was done using SPSS 14 software (SPSS Inc, Chicago, Illinois). Categorical data were analyzed using chi-square test. Continuous data were analyzed by student t test and presented as mean ± SD. P < 0.05 was considered as significant. Pearson correlation coefficient test was used to see correlation between various dyssynchrony indices.

**Results**
Thirty patients; 15 with RV apical (RV apex and apical septum) and 15 with RV non apical (mid septum and low
RVOT) pacing having single chamber pacemaker with VVI pacing were studied. 7 patients (46.6%) were males and 8 (53.3%) were females (Table 1) in each group. The mean age of males in apical group was 63 ± 21.9 years and in non apical group was 60.7 ± 16.5 years (P = 0.829); while the mean age of females was 61.1 ± 7.3 years vs. 63 ± 18.7 years respectively (P = 0.796). Overall the mean age of apical and non apical pacing was 62.0 ± 15.3 years vs. 61.9 ± 17.1 years respectively (P = 0.0991).

Five patients in apical group had pacing lead in RV apex position and 10 patients had in apical septal position; whereas in non apical group 7 patients had pacing lead in mid septum and 8 patients at low RVOT pacing (Table 1). At baseline CHB was present in 8 patients in apical group and in 13 in non apical group, high grade AV block in 2 and in non apical group was 60% (n = 9) respectively and sick sinus syndrome (SSS) in 5 and 1 patients respectively. At follow up 2 patients in apical group and 1 patient in non apical group were in NYHA class 2. Rest of the patients in both groups were in NYHA class 1. There was no statistically significant difference in other baseline characteristics (risk factors of coronary artery disease, smoking, diabetes mellitus (DM), hypertension, dyslipidemia, family history of CAD) (Table 1).

Mean follow up in apical and non apical groups was 38.2 ± 20 months and 32.6 ± 22.1 months respectively. During this period 92.9 ± 8.4 % of the time patients in apical pacing group had ventricular pacing whereas in non apical pacing it was 94.6 ± 7.9 % respectively (P = 0.575). There was no significant difference in lead impedance, lead threshold, and percentage change in lead impedance in both the groups at baseline and on follow up (Table 1).

The mean QRS duration was 165.7 ± 18.7 ms in apical pacing group and 158.7 ± 15.4 ms in non apical pacing group (P = 0.273). QTc duration was 466.1 ± 22.9 ms and 463.5 ± 23 ms respectively (P = 0.759). Mean QRS Axis was -69.46 degrees in apical group and +76.76 degrees in non apical group (Table 1).

The left ventricular ejection fraction was decreased more in apical location (mean drop of 6.7% from baseline; P = 0.06) than non apical location (mean drop of 1.3% from baseline, P = 0.68). But there was no significant difference among percent change in EF when both groups compared to each other (P = 0.028; Table 2).

Intraventricular dyssynchrony was significantly more in the apical location as compared to non-apical location (radial dyssynchrony was measured as time difference between peak strain of the anteroseptum and posterior/inferior wall; 108.2 ± 50.2 vs. 50.5 ± 24 ms, P = 0.001; SLWD 63.5 ± 27.5 vs. 34 ±10.7 ms, P = 0.001, SPWD 112.5 ± 58.1 vs. 62.7 ± 12.1 ms, P = 0.003). There was no significant difference between mean peak strain in the 2 groups (25.6 ± 9.6 vs. 22.7 ± 10.2; P = 0.426) though it was less in non apical group. Intraventricular dyssynchrony was also more in apical group but not statistically significant (Qao-Qpo 43.4 ± 21.4 v/s 36.6 ± 36.6 ± 13.8; P = 0.30) (Table 3).

Pearson correlation showed that radial dyssynchrony was positively correlated with SPW delay in apical (r: 0.546; P = 0.035) and non apical group (r: 0.121; P = 0.668) though it was significant only in apical group. It was positively correlated with SI delay in apical (r: 0.477; P = 0.072) and negatively in non-apical group (r: -0.011; P = 0.970) but it was not statistically significant (Table 4).

### Discussion

The site of RV pacing has been a subject of controversy. A number of studies have looked into the association of RV apical pacing and mechanical dyssynchrony and its deleterious effect on ventricular function. However, these studies have been confounded by the fact that the site of lead has been variable. In this study, we tried to be precise by taking as much fluoroscopy view as possible so that the position could be well defined. We found a significant beneficial effect of RV outflow-tract pacing in comparison to apical. Although the result shows significant benefit; due to small sample size this study may be regarded

### Table 1. Baseline characteristics of patients

| Diagnosis                  | Apical (n=15) | Non-apical (n=15) |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Male (n)                   | 46.7% (7)    | 46.7% (7)        |
| Age (y) (mean ± SD)        | 62.0 ± 15.3  | 61.9 ± 17.1      |
| Site of PP lead            |              |                  |
| Apex (n)                   | 33.3% (5)    | NA               |
| Apical Septum (n)          | 66.7% (10)   | NA               |
| Mid Septum (n)             | NA           | 46.7% (7)        |
| RVOT (n)                   | NA           | 53.3% (8)        |
| Diagnosis                  |              |                  |
| CHB (n)                    | 53.3% (8)    | 86.07% (13)      |
| High grade AV block (n)    | 13.3% (2)    | 6.7% (1)         |
| SSS (n)                    | 33.3% (5)    | 6.7% (1)         |
| NYHA FC I (n)              | 86.7% (13)   | 93.3% (14)       |
| NYHA FC II (n)             | 13.3% (2)    | 6.7% (1)         |
| DM (n)                     | 26.7% (4)    | 46.7% (7)        |
| HTN (n)                    | 60% (9)      | 73.3% (11)       |
| DLP (n)                    | 33.3% (5)    | 60% (9)          |
| Lead parameters            |              |                  |
| Basal threshold            | 0.6 ± 0.2    | 0.6 ± 0.1        |
| F/U threshold              | 0.9 ± 0.4    | 0.8 ± 0.2        |
| Basal impedance            | 847.7 ± 195.4| 774.7 ± 112.7    |
| F/U impedance              | 531.1 ± 147.7| 537.5 ± 105.3    |
| % Pacing                   | 92.9 ± 8.4   | 94.6 ± 7.9       |
| % Change in threshold      | 51.8 ± 57.0  | 50.9 ± 48.2      |
| % Change in Impedance      | 34.8 ± 21.1  | 29.1 ± 16.9      |
| ECG parameters             |              |                  |
| QRS axis                   | -69.46 ± 14.86| + 76.76 ± 40.59 |
| QRS duration (ms)          | 165.7 ± 18.7 | 158.7 ± 15.4     |
| QTc (ms)                   | 466.1 ± 22.9 | 463.5 ± 23.0     |

Abbreviations: PP, Permanent pacemaker; A, apex; AS, apical septum; RVOT, right ventricular outflow tract; CHB, complete heart block ; AV, Atrioventricular; FC, functional class; F/U, Follow-up; DM, diabetes mellitus; HTN, hypertension; DLP, dyslipidemia; CAD, Coronary artery disease.
LV dyssynchrony by speckle tracking in patients with permanent pacemaker

Table 2. Echocardiography variable in apical and non-apical groups

|                  | Apical          | Non-apical      | P   | P              |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|----------------|
| LVIDD (mm)       | 51.1 ± 7        | 48.3 ± 6        | 0.134 | 48.7 ± 7.8    |
| LVIDS (mm)       | 32.1 ± 5.4      | 30.4 ± 6.4      | 0.415 | 31.0 ± 6.0    |
| EF (%)           | 73 ± 8.8        | 66.4 ± 10.0     | 0.064 | 70.1 ± 8.9    |
| LA (mm)          | 35.3 ± 3.6      | 35.7 ± 3.9      | 0.771 | 33.7 ± 5.3    |

Abbreviations: LVIDD, Left ventricular internal dimension diastole; LVIDS, Left ventricular internal dimension systole; EF, Ejection Fraction; LA, Left atrium.

Table 3. Comparison of dyssynchrony variables in different groups

|                  | Apical | Non-Apical | P   | P          |
|------------------|--------|------------|-----|------------|
| Radial dyssynchrony | 108.2 ± 50.2 | 50.5 ± 24.0 | 0.0001 |            |
| Peak strain       | 26.6 ± 9.6   | 22.7 ± 10.2 | 0.426 |            |
| SPW delay         | 112.5 ± 58.1 | 62.7 ± 12.1 | 0.003 |            |
| SL delay          | 63.5 ± 27.5  | 34.0 ± 10.7  | 0.001 |            |
| QaO              | 144.8 ± 26.9 | 141.8 ± 22.8 | 0.744 |            |
| QaO-Qpo           | 43.4 ± 21.4  | 36.6 ± 13.8  | 0.309 |            |
| RR               | 968.2 ± 91.5 | 978.0 ± 85.2 | 0.764 |            |

Abbreviations: SPW; Septal to posterior wall; SLW; Septal to lateral wall; Qao; Q aortic ejection; Qpo; Q pulmonary ejection; RR; RR interval.

Table 4. Pearson correlation between radial dyssynchrony and SPW delay, SL delay

|                  | Apical          | Non-apical      | r   | P   | r   | P   |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| SPW delay        | 0.546           | 0.035           | 0.121 | 0.668 |
| SL delay         | 0.477           | 0.072           | -0.011 | 0.970 |

as a pilot study and further more work be done in this direction. There was no significant difference between 2 groups regarding baseline mean age, DM, hypertension, dyslipidemia, smoking. The duration of study has been a concern in pacemaker studies as short duration may not be able to mask the true deleterious effect. Tse et al were not able to show any deleterious effect between RVOT pacing and RV apex pacing at 18 months; however, with increasing duration (7 years) Lewicka-Nowak et al were able to show significant drop in ejection fraction. Similarly, the result of other short term studies could also be confounded by the same problem. In our study, the mean duration of follow up was 38.2 months in apical group and 32.6 months in non-apical group which may be a considerable long time to unmask the deleterious effect.

As with Burri et al study we too did not find any difference in the lead threshold, lead resistance and percentage change of both parameters in both groups, both in the beginning as well as on follow up. We in our study found the mean QRS, QTc duration and left ventricular ejection fraction was not statistically significant in RV apical and non apical group. However, a meta-analysis done by de Cock et al and another trial by Victor et al showed shorter or near normal QRS duration was associated with better LV contraction and less LV dysfunction in RVOT and septal pacing than in apical pacing. Though difficult to explain it may be due to shorter duration of our study and small sample size. The intraventricular dyssynchrony was significantly more in apical pacing group than in non apical pacing group; however, the peak strain, and also the interventricular dyssynchrony was not significant in the two group. Pearson correlation showed significant positive correlation between radial dyssynchrony and SPW delay in apical pacing group. Though non significant, SL delay was positively correlated with radial dyssynchrony in apical pacing and negatively correlated in non apical pacing group. Favorable haemodynamics and less dyssynchrony was seen in RVOT and septal location pacing in comparison to apical location pacing in most trials and a meta analysis; however, some contradicts too. More physiologic activation pattern of LV activation may have lead to less LV dyssynchrony in these trials. One study from Korea showed despite increase in QRS duration after pacing; M-mode, Doppler and TDI failed to show any difference in dyssynchrony parameters. 2D speckle tracking method for the dyssynchrony was not used in this study. A study from Japan that used speckle tracking method was able to show right ventricular septal (RVS) pacing preserves global left ventricular longitudinal function in comparison with RV Apical (RVA) pacing. They noted that due to heterogeneous RV apical pacing there was deterioration on LV longitudinal contraction and therefore, RV septal pacing could be a better pacing alternative when LV dyssynchrony and longitudinal LV function was concerned. Similarly, in our study too we found less radial dyssynchrony in non-apical location which may result in favorable haemodynamics and preserved LV function on long term follow up. However due to small sample size the other correlation may not have been significant. As noted by others tissue Doppler imaging and derived strain and strain rate measurements lacks reproducibility which may limit their use in clinical studies. The lack of reproducibility may be because of the dependency on Doppler angle for their measurement. Other factors like regional myocardial velocities that causes tethering effects from other myocardial segments and translational motion of the entire heart may play role. Due to avoidance of these limiting factor 2D speckle tracking technique for strain
measurement may provide better information.\textsuperscript{22-25} Though recently published “Right ventricular apical and high septal pacing to preserve left ventricular function (Protect Pace)\textsuperscript{26} study showed no deterioration in LV functions when RV apical pacing was compared to septal pacing at two years. However, in a subgroup analysis\textsuperscript{27} of the same patient inefficient dysynchronous contraction and decrease in apical strain was seen with RV apical pacing which may lead to global LV function deterioration. There are two other studies that are underway (optimize RV selective site pacing clinical trial (Optimize RV) and Right Ventricular Apical versus Septal Pacing [RASP]) that may throw light on this problem.\textsuperscript{28}

**Study limitation**
The sample size is small and also the duration may not have been enough to study some factors that may have affected the study. However, we plan to take this study as a pilot study and extend this study by recruiting more patients for a longer duration so that a robust conclusion could be reached.

**Conclusion**
Pacing in the non apical location (RV mid septum or low RVOT) is associated with less dysynchrony by specific measures like 2D radial strain and may correlate with better ventricular function in the long term. However, longer duration follow up and larger sample size is required to confirm this finding.

**Ethical issues**
The Study was approved by Institutional ethical committee.

**Competing interests**
Authors declare no conflict of interest in this study.

**References**

1. Epstein AE, DiMarco JP, Ellenbogen KA, Estes NA, Freedman RA, Gettes LS, et al. ACC/AHA/HRS 2008 guidelines for device-based therapy of cardiac rhythm abnormalities: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Practice Guidelines (Writing Committee to Revise the ACC/AHA/NASPE 2002 Guideline Update for Implantation of Cardiac Pacemakers and Antiarrhythmia Devices). J Am Coll Cardiol 2008; 51(21):e1–62. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2008.02.032.

2. Vardas PE, Auricchio A, Blanc JJ, Daubert JC, Drexler H, Ector H, et al. Guidelines for cardiac pacing and cardiac resynchronization therapy: the task force for cardiac pacing and cardiac resynchronization therapy of the European Society of Cardiology. Developed in collaboration with the European Heart Rhythm Association. Eur Heart J 2007;28(18):2256-95. doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehm305.

3. Sweeney MO, Prinzen FW. A new paradigm for physiologic ventricular pacing. J Am Coll Cardiol 2006;47(2):282-8. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2005.09.029.

4. Hayes DL, Furman S. Cardiac pacing: how it started, where we are, where we are going. J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol 2004;15(5):619–27. doi: 10.1046/j.1540-8167.2004.04088.x.

5. Sweeney MO, Hellkamp AS, Ellenbogen KA, Greenspon AJ, Freedman RA, Lee KL, et al. Adverse effect of ventricular pacing on heart failure and atrial fibrillation among patients with normal baseline QRS duration in a clinical trial of pacemaker therapy for sinus node dysfunction. Circulation 2003;107(23):2932–2937. doi: 10.1161/01.CIR.0000072769.17295.B1

6. Wilkoff BL, Cook JR, Epstein AE, Greene HL, Hallstrom AP, Hsia H, et al. Dual chamber pacing or ventricular backup pacing in patients with an implantable defibrillator: the Dual Chamber and VVI Implantable Defibrillator (DAVID) trial. JAMA 2002;288(24):3115–3123. doi: 10.1001/jama.288.24.3115

7. Tse HF, Lau CP. Long-term effect of right ventricular pacing on myocardial perfusion and function. J Am Coll Cardiol 1997; 29(4):744-749. doi:10.1016/S0735-1097(96)00586-4

8. Lieberman R, Padeletti L, Schreuder J, Jackson K, Michelucci A, Colella A, et al. Ventricular pacing lead location alters systemic hemodynamics and left ventricular function in patients with and without reduced ejection fraction. J Am Coll Cardiol 2006;48(8):1634–1641. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2006.04.099.

9. Prinzen FW, Peschar M. Relation between the pacing induced sequence of activation and left ventricular pump function in animals. Pace Clin Electrophysiol 2002; 25(4 pt 1):484–498.

10. Prinzen FW, Hunter WC, Wyman BT, McVeigh ER. Mapping of regional myocardial strain and work during ventricular pacing: experimental study using magnetic resonance imaging tagging. J Am Coll Cardiol 1999; 33(6):1735–1742. doi: 10.1016/S0735-1097(99)00686-8

11. Tops LF, Schalij MJ, Holman ER, van Erven L, van der Wall EE, Bax JJ. Right ventricular pacing can induce ventricular dysynchrony in patients with atrial fibrillation after atroventricular node ablation. J Am Coll Cardiol 2006;48(8):1642–1648. doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2006.05.072

12. Lewicka-Nowak E, Dabrowska-Kugacka A, Tybura S, Kryzmińska-Stasiuk E, Wilczek R, Staniewicz J, et al. Right ventricular apex versus right ventricular outflow tract pacing: prospective, randomised, long-term clinical and echocardiographic evaluation. Kardiol Pol 2006; 64(10):1082-1091.

13. De Cock CC, Giudici MC, Twisk JW. Comparison of the hemodynamic effects of right ventricular outflow-tract pacing with right ventricular apex pacing: a quantitative review. Europace 2003;5(3):275-278. doi: 10.1016/S1099-5129(03)00031-X

14. Ten Cate TJ, Scheffer MG, Sutherland GR, Fred VJ,
LV dyssynchrony by speckle tracking in patients with permanent pacemaker

van Hemel NM. Right ventricular outflow and apical pacing comparably worsen the echocardiographic normal left ventricle. *Eur J Echocardiogr* 2008;9(5):672–677. doi: 10.1093/ejechocard/jen108.

15. Victor F, Mabo P, Mansour H, Pavin D, Kabalu G, De Place C, et al. A randomized comparison of permanent septal versus apical right ventricular pacing: short-term results. *J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol* 2006;17(3):238–242. doi: 10.1111/j.1540-8167.2006.00358.x

16. Burri H, Sunthorn H, Dorsaz PA, Viera I, Shah D. Thresholds and complications with right ventricular septal pacing compared to apical pacing. *Pacing Clin Electrophysiol* 2007;30:575-78. doi: 10.1111/j.1540-8159.2007.00610.x

17. Yu CC, Liu YB, Lin MS, Wang JY, Lin JL, Lin LC. Septal pacing preserving better left ventricular mechanical performance and contractile synchronism than apical pacing in patients implanted with an atrioventricular sequential dual chamber pacemaker. *Int J Cardiol* 2007;118(1):97-106. doi: 10.1016/j.ijcard.2006.03.087

18. Kypta A, Steinwender C, Kammel J, Leisch F, Hofmann R. Long term outcomes in patients with atrioventricular block undergoing septal ventricular lead implantation compared with standard apical pacing. *Europace* 2008;10(5):574 –579. doi: 10.1093/europecardio/eur085.

19. Cho GY, Kim MJ, Park JH, Kim HS, Youn HJ, Kim KH, et al. Comparison of ventricular dyssynchrony according to the position of right ventricular pacing electrode: a multi-center prospective echocardiographic study. *J Cardiovasc Ultrasound* 2011;19(1):15-20. doi: 10.4250/jcu.2011.19.1.15.

20. Inoue K, Okayama H, Nishimura K, Saito M, Yoshii T, Hiasa G, et al. Right ventricular septal pacing preserves global left ventricular longitudinal function in comparison with apical pacing-analysis of speckle tracking echocardiography. *Circ J* 2011;75(7):1609-1615. doi: 10.1253/circj.CJ-10-1138.

21. Urheim S, Edvardsen T, Torp H, Angelsen B, Smiseth OA. Myocardial strain by Doppler echocardiography. Validation of a new method to quantify regional myocardial function. *Circulation* 2000;102(10):1158-1164. doi: 10.1161/01.CIR.102.10.1158.

22. Toyoda T, Baba H, Akasaka T, Akiyama M, Neishi Y, Tomita J, et al. Assessment of regional myocardial strain by a novel automated tracking system from digital image files. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr* 2004;17(12):1234–1238. doi:10.1016/j.echo.2004.07.010.

23. Korinek J, Wang J, Sengupta PP, Miyazaki C, Kjaergaard J, McMahon E, et al. Two-dimensional strain—a Doppler-independent ultrasound method for quantitation of regional deformation: validation in vitro and in vivo. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr* 2005;18(12):1247–1253. doi: 10.1016/j.echo.2005.03.024

24. Langeland S, D’hooge J, Wouters PF, Leather HA, Claus P, Bijnen B, et al. Experimental validation of a new ultrasound method for the simultaneous assessment of radial and longitudinal myocardial deformation independent of insonation angle. *Circulation* 2005;112(14):2157–2162. doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.105.554006.

25. Amundsen BH, Helle-Valle T, Edvardsen T, Torp H, Crosby J, Lysøe E, et al. Noninvasive myocardial strain measurement by speckle tracking echocardiography: validation against sonomicrometry and tagged magnetic resonance imaging. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2006;47(4):789–793. doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2005.10.040.

26. Kaye GC, Linker NJ, Marwick TH, Pollock L, Graham L, Pouliot E, et al. Effect of right ventricular pacing lead site on left ventricular function in patients with high-grade atrioventricular block: results of the Protect-Pace study. *Eur Heart J* 2015;36(14):856–862. doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehu304.

27. Saito M, Kaye G, Negishi K, Linker N, Gammage M, Kosmala W, et al. Dyssynchrony, contraction efficiency and regional function with apical and non-apical RV pacing. *Heart* 2015;101(8):600-608. doi: 10.1136/heartjnl-2014-306990.

28. Kaye G, Stambler BS, Yee R. Search for the optimal right ventricular pacing site: design and implementation of three randomized multicenter clinical trials. *Pacing Clin Electrophysiol* 2009;32(4):426-433. doi: 10.1111/j.1540-8159.2009.02301.x.