The Spatiotemporal Stability of Dominant Frequency Sites in In-Silico Modeling of 3-Dimensional Left Atrial Mapping of Atrial Fibrillation

Changyong Li*, Byoungyun Lim*, Minki Hwang, Jun-Seop Song, Young-Seon Lee, Boyoung Joung, Hui-Nam Pak*

Yonsei University Health System, Seoul, Republic of Korea

* These authors contributed equally to this work.  
* hnpak@yuhs.ac

Abstract

Background
We previously reported that stable rotors were observed in in-silico human atrial fibrillation (AF) models, and were well represented by dominant frequency (DF). We explored the spatiotemporal stability of DF sites in 3D-AF models imported from patient CT images of the left atrium (LA).

Methods
We integrated 3-D CT images of the LA obtained from ten patients with persistent AF (male 80%, 61.8 ± 13.5 years old) into an in-silico AF model. After induction, we obtained 6 seconds of AF simulation data for DF analyses in 30 second intervals (T1–T9). The LA was divided into ten sections. Spatiotemporal changes and variations in the temporal consistency of DF were evaluated at each section of the LA. The high DF area was defined as the area with the highest 10% DF.

Results
1. There was no spatial consistency in the high DF distribution at each LA section during T1–T9 except in one patient (p = 0.027). 2. Coefficients of variation for the high DF area were highly different among the ten LA sections (p < 0.001), and they were significantly higher in the four pulmonary vein (PV) areas, the LA appendage, and the peri-mitral area than in the other LA sections (p < 0.001). 3. When we conducted virtual ablation of 10%, 15%, and 20% of the highest DF areas (n = 270 cases), AF was changed to atrial tachycardia (AT) or terminated at a rate of 40%, 57%, and 76%, respectively.
Conclusions

Spatiotemporal consistency of the DF area was observed in 10% of AF patients, and high DF areas were temporally variable. Virtual ablation of DF is moderately effective in AF termination and AF changing into AT.

Introduction

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is the most common cardiac electrophysiological rhythm disturbance that results in the absence of normal atrial contractions. During the past decade, radiofrequency catheter ablation (RFCA) of AF has evolved rapidly from an investigational procedure to the standard procedure for antiarrhythmic drug resistant AF [1]. Current clinical ablation strategies are largely based on atrial anatomy and substrate detected using different approaches, and they differ from one clinical center to another [2]. Recently, Narayan et al. reported that detection and ablation of rotors in AF patients is effective in terminating AF and improves the clinical outcome of AF catheter ablation [3]. However, the detection of a mother rotor, which is stable and induces fibrillatory conduction [4–7], is affected by the spatiotemporal resolution of mapping and detection parameters. We recently simulated a mother rotor in 2-D and 3-D simulation models of human AF and documented the locations of the rotors, which were well represented by dominant frequency (DF) [8]. Nevertheless, it has been reported that the DF is temporally variable and that high DF sites can be transient in clinical experimentation [9–11]. Therefore, we explored the spatiotemporal stability of DF sites in patient-specific left atrium (LA) geometry-integrated in-silico modeling of human AF. Computer simulation modeling provides a unique advantage to evaluating the spatiotemporal variance from single cells to entire tissue regions under various conditions reproducibly and precisely [12,13]. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the spatiotemporal variability of high DF sites at nine specified periods in ten different LA sections among ten different patient-specific LA models of AF, as well as to assess the outcome of virtual ablation for high DF sites.

Methods

The study protocol was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Severance Cardiovascular Hospital, Yonsei University Health System, and adhered to the Declaration of Helsinki. All subjects provided written informed consent.

A. 3-D atrial remodeling

The 3-D in-silico model of the human LA was reconstructed using an by EnSite NavX® system (Endocardial Solutions, St. Jude Medical, Inc., St Paul, MN, USA) with computed tomographic (CT) image data from clinical persistent AF patients. Cellular ionic currents were calculated using the Courtemanche [14] human atrial myocyte model, and electrical wave conduction in tissue was simulated using the following partial differential Eq (1) [15]:

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} = D \nabla^2 V - \frac{I_{ion} + I_{stim}}{C_m},$$

where $V$ is the membrane potential, $D$ is the diffusion coefficient that represents gap junctional coupling, $I_{ion}$ and $I_{stim}$ are the total transmembrane ionic current and stimulus current, respectively, and $C_m$ is the membrane capacitance of human atrial myocyte. AF modeling was
implemented using CUDA 6.5 in Microsoft Visual Studio 10.0 (Microsoft Co., Redmond, WA, USA) for computer simulation. For the remodeling of ion currents of AF, we reduced $I_{to}$, $I_{Kur}$, $I_{CaL}$ by 80%, 50%, and 40%, respectively [16,17], and increased $I_{K1}$ by 50% [18]. Additionally, the diffusion coefficient was adjusted to simulate a conduction velocity (CV) of 0.4 m/s and an action potential duration at 90% repolarization (APD$_{90}$) of 210–220 ms. We chose a conduction velocity of 0.4 m/s based on real human patient data (Yonsei AF ablation cohort data; $n = 1,980$; mean CV = 0.43 ± 0.24 m/s) [19]. For AF initiation, we used a series of localized stimulations that mimicked an experimental ramp pacing protocol [20]. Cells located near the LA high septum were stimulated at cycle lengths of 200, 190, and 180 ms consecutively (Straight Pacing Protocol). We applied the Runge-Kutta method with an adaptive time step of $\Delta t = 0.005–0.05$ ms and a generalized finite difference scheme on the LA surface mesh [21].

B. DF generation and analysis algorithm

Using straight pacing (4560 ms), AF was induced and maintained, and we analyzed the spatio-temporal variability of the DF in AF lasting longer than 280 seconds. The electrogram (EGM) of the action potential (AP) for this process is shown in Fig 1A, and DF analysis time periods are expressed as T1 to T9. To determine the DF, the power spectral density was obtained via Fourier transform of the virtual action potential of each node, and the DF was defined as the frequency of the highest power [8]. We mapped the DF for 6 seconds at every 30 seconds during AF maintenance. To quantify the spatial distribution of the high DF area, we analyzed and compared ten different sections of the LA as shown in Fig 1B: R1, septum; R2, anterior wall; R3, LA appendage; R4, peri-mitral area; R5, posterior inferior wall; R6, posterior wall; R7–10, left upper and lower and right upper and lower pulmonary veins. An example of DF maps for the analysis time periods (T1–T9) is shown in Fig 1C–1K. We defined the “high DF area” as the region with the highest 10% of DF. As the area of each LA section was different, we calculated the regional proportion of the high DF area in each of the ten 10 LA sections. Fig 2 shows representative maps of a high DF (green) area (the highest 10% of the DF region), calculated with 6 seconds of AP for each node during periods T1 to T9.

C. Virtual ablation for high DF area

For virtual ablations, the conduction block was implemented by adjusting the diffusion coefficient parameter. The ablated region was set to the non-conduction condition to block the electrical conduction. An algorithm to detect the spatial distribution of the high DF area was implemented using MATLAB® (MathWorks Inc., Natick, Massachusetts, USA). Virtual ablation was conducted at the end of each DF analysis period (T1–T9), and we observed the wave dynamics to determine whether AF terminated or changed to atrial tachycardia within 30 seconds after each ablation. The target of virtual ablation was the high DF area (10% highest DF value); however, we also performed virtual ablations for the 15% and 20% highest DF areas. Fig 3 shows examples of DF maps and the highest 10% DF ablation sites (green area). AP tracing acquired from the LA roof top (red asterisk) shows different responses after virtual DF ablation.

D. Statistical analysis

Data are represented as mean ± standard deviation. The Friedman test was used to test the spatial variability of the DF values. A temporal coefficient of variation was used to assess the degree of temporal variation. Results of the temporal coefficient of variation analysis were analyzed using the Kruskal-Wallis test to detect the difference between each section. An independent-sample t-test was utilized to compare the mean temporal coefficient of variation among
the four pulmonary vein (PV) areas, the LA appendage, and the peri-mitral area with that of the other sections. A chi-square test was used to analyze the differences in the variables between the trials with AF termination or AT conversion and those without AF change. For all analyses, p-values of < 0.05 were considered to be statistically significant. All data were analyzed with SPSS 19.0 statistical software (IBM Corporation, Somers, NY).

Results
A. Spatial consistency of the high DF area
LA 3-D CT images obtained from 10 patients with persistent AF (age, 61.8 ± 13.5 years old; 80% male) were integrated into human AF modeling for DF analysis in this study. The
characteristics of the patients are summarized in Table 1. The variances of the high DF area in the spatiotemporal distribution in each of the ten patients are shown for the ten different LA regions (R1–R10) during each of the nine different time periods (T1–T9; Fig 4). In Fig 4, the analysis time periods are marked from T1 to T9 on the x-axis, and the LA sections are represented from R1 to R10 on the y-axis. As the areas of each LA section are variable, we calculated the proportion of high DF area (% High DF Area; 10% (highest DF area / regional area) × 100), which is represented on the z-axis. Among the ten LA sections, the highest % High DF Area section is marked with yellow bars in Fig 4. Based on the Friedman test results, there was no spatial consistency in nine of the ten patients during the nine different time periods (p > 0.05, separately). However, one patient (10%, Fig 4D) showed a relatively consistent section of % High DF Area, mainly located in the pulmonary veins (R7–R10) during the time period (Friedman test, p = 0.027).

B. Spatiotemporal consistency of the high DF area in each LA section

The coefficient of variation (standard deviation / mean) was used to quantify the temporal variability for the regional proportion of the high DF area during the overall analysis time periods (T1–T9) in each LA section for all patients (Fig 4K). There was a significant difference in the
coefficient of variation for each LA section during the overall DF analysis of the time periods. The average temporal coefficient of variation was 88.5 ± 27.7%. Comparison of the temporal coefficients of variation among the ten LA sections (R1–R10) also showed significant differences (p < 0.001). The temporal coefficients of variation for the % High DF Area were significantly higher in the four pulmonary vein areas (R7–R10), the LA appendage (R3), and the peri-mitral area (R4) than in the other LA regions (101.5 ± 25.9% vs. 69.0 ± 16.8%, p < 0.001).

Fig 3. Examples of DF maps (left side maps), the highest 10% DF ablation maps (right side maps, green area) and AP tracings acquired from the LA roof top (red asterisk) after virtual DF ablation. A. AF was terminated at 142.2 seconds (11.6 seconds after virtual ablation of the high DF area). B. During DF ablation, AF changed into AT at 95.0 seconds (24.4 seconds after virtual ablation). C. The wave dynamics of AF did not change during DF ablation.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0160017.g003
C. Virtual ablation for the high DF area

Although the high DF area seemed to be highly variable spatially and temporally in the majority of patients, we tested virtual ablation for the high DF area to examine whether the ablation terminated or defragmented AF (changing to atrial tachycardia) within 30 seconds after ablation. Virtual ablations were conducted on the 10%, 15%, and 20% highest DF sites in each time period (T1–T9) for each patient (overall 270 cases of high DF ablation). Fig 3 shows representative examples of the outcomes after virtual DF ablation. After virtual DF ablation, AF was terminated (Fig 3A), changed to organized atrial tachycardia (Fig 3B), or maintained (Fig 3C), depending on the AF conditions. Table 2 compares the outcome of virtual DF ablation depending on the extent of ablation. In the 10% highest DF ablation, AF was changed to AT or terminated in 40.0% of cases (36 of 90). In the 15% and 20% highest DF ablations, AFs were terminated or defragmented in 56.7% (51 of 90) and 75.6% (68 of 90), respectively (p < 0.001).

It is unclear whether delayed AF termination or conversion to AT in 30 s was due to a DF site ablation effect or co-incidental wave-dynamic changes; nevertheless, the extent of DF ablation significantly affected the outcomes of virtual ablation.

We varied the CV between 0.5 and 0.6 m/s and simulated AF induction and DF ablation. Although all induced AF lasted longer than 280 s at 0.4 m/s, AF was induced in 70% of cases via the same pacing protocol, although the AF terminated spontaneously within 33.5 ± 27.5 s at a CV of 0.5 m/s (p < 0.001 vs. 0.4 m/s). The AF induction rate was only 60% (six episodes) and induced AF self-terminated in 15.2 ± 7.3 s at a CV of 0.6 m/s (p < 0.001 vs. 0.4 m/s; S1 Fig). In these conditions, DF ablation could be attempted in only ten episodes at 0.5 m/s and in six episodes at 0.6 m/s. AF termination rates after DF ablation were significantly higher at CVs of 0.5 m/s and 0.6 m/s than at 0.4 m/s. However, all of the AF episodes at higher CV conditions were terminated itself without ablation (S1 Table). In the episodes in which DF ablation was followed by AF termination, the baseline AF maintenance duration (without ablation) was significantly shorter than in those without AF termination (73.7 ± 97.2 s vs. 231.5 ± 59.8 s, p < 0.001). Therefore, DF ablation was more likely to terminate AF under easily terminating AF conditions yet not under long-lasting sustained AF conditions.

Table 1. Patients Characteristics.

| Characteristic               | Values       |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Age                          | 61.8 ± 13.5  |
| Male %                       | 80%          |
| Persistent AF, %             | 100%         |
| CHA2DS2-VASc score           | 11.5 ± 2.2   |
| Heart Failure, %             | 0%           |
| Hypertension, %              | 20%          |
| Age > 75 years old, %        | 20%          |
| Age 65–74 years old, %       | 10%          |
| Diabetes, %                  | 30%          |
| Previous Stroke, %           | 20%          |
| Previous TIA, %              | 0%           |
| Vascular Disease, %          | 30%          |
| LA dimension (mm)            | 48.4 ± 7.9   |
| EF (%)                       | 59.2 ± 11.8  |
| E/Em                         | 11.5 ± 6.1   |

TIA, transient ischemic attack; LA, left atrium; EF, ejection fraction; E/Em, the ratio of early diastolic mitral inflow velocity (E) to early diastolic mitral annular velocity (Em).

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0160017.t001
Discussion

In this study, we evaluated the spatiotemporal stability of DF during AF in an *in-silico* modeling of 3-D entire LA mapping. Spatiotemporal consistency of the high DF area was observed in only 10% of the AF models using the atrial geometries of patients. DF areas were temporally

![Diagram](image)

**Table 2. Outcome of Virtual Ablation for High DF Area depending on Extent of Ablation Area.**

| Definition            | Percentage of DF ablation Area | 10% ablation | 15% ablation | 20% ablation |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                       | N (%)                         | N (%)        | N (%)        | N (%)        |
| AF maintenance        | 54 (60)                       | 39 (43)      | 22 (24)      |              |
| AF changed to AT      | 35 (39)                       | 50 (56)      | 64 (71)      |              |
| AF termination        | 1 (1)                         | 1 (1)        | 4 (4)        |              |
|                       | 90 (100)                      | 90 (100)     | 90 (100)     |              |

AT, atrial tachycardia

![Diagram](image)
variable, particularly in the PV, LA appendage, and peri-mitral areas. Virtual ablation for the high DF area was moderately effective in the defragmentation of AF.

A. Rotor represented by DF in the in-silico model

Stable rotors have been considered as a mechanism of AF initiation and maintenance anatomically or functionally for the past few decades [5,6,22–28]. Large amounts of experimental evidence and in-silico validations have supported the role of stable rotors in AF [6,26,27]. The rotor area in the LA exhibits a dominant peak in the frequency spectra in experimental models of AF [22], and the high DF area is used to localize the source of AF in clinical settings [23]. In our recent in-silico study, the area of the highest DF coincided with the stable rotor center, and virtual ablation targeting the stable rotor was effective in terminating AF or changing AF to atrial tachycardia [29]. However, we found that the spatiotemporal stability of the high DF area was maintained in only a limited number of patients in the current study. As rotors often meander on the atrial wall, high DF sites corresponding to meandering rotors would meander as well. Despite this spatiotemporal variability of the high DF area, high DF area ablation was nevertheless effective in the termination or defragmentation of AF.

B. Spatiotemporal variability of DF

Many experimental studies have shown that rotors are a very likely source of AF, and the central areas of rotors exhibit high DF [30]. In the current study, DF ablation in each time period induced significant changes in AF maintenance. Moreover, the temporal variation of the high DF area was more significant in the pulmonary veins, LA appendage, and peri-mitral areas, which are known to frequently harbor AF sources [31–33]. Therefore, the main hurdle for rotor or DF ablation might be the mapping technique for migratory sources of AF. AF wave dynamics and the spatiotemporal consistency of DF are very much dependent on the characteristics of ion currents [13] or the degree of substrate remodeling.

Spatiotemporal instability of the DF site was relatively high in our models, and few episodes of AF were terminated by virtual DF site ablation (1–4%). Although the spatiotemporal instability of the DF site can be affected by the degree of electrical remodeling (ion current states) or critical mass (atrial size, presence of linear ablation, or PV isolation), the extreme spatiotemporal instability of AF may preclude the development of AF ablation strategies based on focal ablation in the atrium.

Although there have been clinical reports of successful rotor-guided ablation in humans AF [34], there is a degree of controversy regarding the limitations of the spatiotemporal resolution of rotor mapping [35] and reproducibility [36]. In the TOPERA mapping studies [37], the majority of patients had a history of AF ablation and the electroanatomical substrates were different from those of de novo ablation [37–38]. The recent RADAR-AF trial failed to prove the superiority of DF-guided ablation outcomes compared to those of conventional ablation [39], and AF termination rates with DF-guided ablation were very low in clinical conditions [40]. However, sequential electrogram acquisition may raise concerns about DF stability, and high DF sites have been reported to be spatiotemporally unstable in clinical settings [10–11,41]. An alternative is that DF assessment in clinical conditions can differ greatly due to bipolar electrogram characteristics; therefore, DF computation using standard methods may not always accurately summarize the local rate of activation [42].

We observed reductions of AF induction rate and AF maintenance duration with slightly increased CV (0.5 and 0.6 m/s). It is because the wavelength of activation fronts was not sufficient to sustain the reentry and the wavefronts eventually die out by running into the area of refractoriness. Therefore, AF seems to be terminated mostly due to itself and not due to
ablation. The ablation potentially changes the wavefront dynamics rather than directly affecting AF termination or conversion to AT.

C. Clinical implications of virtual DF ablation

Computer simulations have been increasingly utilized in the many fields of clinical medicine. The strengths of computer simulation modeling are the predictability of outcome after certain interventions and the ability to define the best strategy after reversible trials and errors [43–45]. Therefore, personalized AF simulation modeling might be effective in determining the proper target for AF ablation as a part of precision medicine. Ganesan et al. [46] demonstrated stable AF rotors using Shannon entropy mapping in bipolar electrograms, and Haissaguerre et al. [47] mapped the AF driver domain via non-invasive panoramic mapping with a body-surface electrode array. However, given that the spatial resolutions and rotor detection algorithms differ among clinical studies, the definitions of rotors and outcomes of AF rotor ablation have not been consistent despite its evident role in the maintenance mechanism of AF. Therefore, in-silico detection of DF and virtual ablation can be valuable in determining the target for AF termination [48] or predicting the risk of arrhythmia [49] in a personalized heart model. Although our current in-silico AF model is an oversimplified homogeneous simulation integrating patient-specific anatomy, we will likely be able to reflect atrial histology [50] and deduct patient-specific wave-dynamics via machine learning techniques [51] in the future, creating a simultaneous entire atrial mapping system.

D. Limitations

Although we adopted patient-specific LA geometry, our 3-D in-silico model was a structurally homogeneous LA model. Hansen et al. [52] recently suggested a 3D full-thickness atrial model including the endocardium and epicardium; however, the current study was conducted using a simple surface mesh model. Thus, bi-atrial application, thickness variation, fiber orientation, and regional pathology or local electrophysiology could all affect wave propagation. However, wave propagation in the monolayer model was reported to be similar to that in a bilayer model except for the area of abrupt change of fiber orientation [53]. Additionally, the ionic current properties were spatially uniform in the current model, and spatial heterogeneity in the ionic current properties would have affected the wave dynamics. As the sections of the LA were divided manually based on a clinical ablation strategy, the size and shape of each LA section was not uniform.

Conclusion

Although DF may localize rotors, its spatiotemporal consistency was observed in only 10% of AF cases. The Most temporally variable high DF areas were located on the pulmonary vein, LA appendage, or peri-mitral areas. Although the high DF area changed spatiotemporally, virtual ablation for high DF areas remains effective in the defragmentation of AF, including AF termination or changing into AT.

Supporting Information

S1 Fig. Self-limited AF episodes at higher CVs (upper panel) and outcomes of 10% DF ablations (lower panel).

(TIF)

S1 Table. Outcomes of virtual ablation for high DF area for CV 0.5 m/s and CV 0.6 m/s.

(DOCX)
Acknowledgments

We wish to thank Mr. Jungkee Lee for his technical support. This work was supported by a grant [grant number A085136] from the Korea Health 21 Research & Development Project, Ministry of Health and Welfare; and from the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) funded by the Ministry of Science, Information, Communication and Technology & Future Planning (MSIP) [grant number 7-2013-0362] and the Ministry of Education (2014R1A1A2059391).

Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: CL HNP. Performed the experiments: CL HNP. Analyzed the data: CL BL MH YSL. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: JSS BJ MH. Wrote the paper: CL BL HNP. Patient enrollment: CL YSL HNP.

References

1. January CT, Wann LS, Alpert JS, Field M, Calkins H, Murray K, et al. 2014 AHA/ACC/HRS guideline for the management of patients with atrial fibrillation: executive summary: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on practice guidelines and the Heart Rhythm Society. Circulation. 2014 Dec; 130:2071–2104. doi: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000000040 PMID: 24682348

2. Calkins H, Kuck KH, Cappato R, Brugada J, Camm AJ, Chen SA, et al. 2012 HRS/EHRA/ECAS Expert Consensus Statement on Catheter and Surgical Ablation of Atrial Fibrillation: Recommendations for Patient Selection, Procedural Techniques, Patient Management and Follow-up, Definitions, Endpoints, and Research Trial Design A report of the Heart Rhythm Society (HRS) Task Force on Catheter and Surgical Ablation of Atrial Fibrillation. Developed in partnership with the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA), a registered branch of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the European Cardiac Arrhythmia Society (ECAS); and in collaboration with the American College of Cardiology (ACC), American Heart Association (AHA), the Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society (APHRS), and the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS). Endorsed by the governing bodies of the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association, the European Cardiac Arrhythmia Society, the European Heart Rhythm Association, the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society, and the Heart Rhythm Society. Heart Rhythm. 2012 Apr; 9:632–696. doi:10.1016/j.hrthm.2011.12.016 PMID: 22386883

3. Narayan SM, Krummen DE, Shivkumar K, Clopton P, Rappel WJ, Miller JM. Treatment of Atrial Fibrillation by the Ablation of Localized Sources CONFIRM (Conventional Ablation for Atrial Fibrillation With or Without Focal Impulse and Rotor Modulation) Trial. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2012 Aug; 60(7):628–636. doi:10.1016/j.jacc.2012.05.022 PMID: 22818076

4. Jalife J, Berenfeld O, Mansour M. Mother rotors and fibrillatory conduction: a mechanism of atrial fibrillation. Cardiovasc Res. 2002 May; 54(2):204–216. PMID: 12062327

5. Valderrabano M. Atrial fibrillation: The mother rotor and its rebellious offspring take turns sustaining the family. Heart Rhythm. 2009 Jul; 6(7):1018–1019. doi: 10.1016/j.hrthm.2009.04.019 PMID: 19497788

6. Pandit SV, Jalife J. Rotor and the Dynamics of Cardiac Fibrillation. Circ Res. 2013 Mar; 112(5):849–862. doi:10.1161/CIRCRESAHA.111.300158 PMID: 23449547

7. Zaman JAB, Peters NS. The Rotor Revolution Conduction at the Eye of the Storm in Atrial Fibrillation. Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol. 2014 Dec; 7(6):1230–6. doi: 10.1161/CIRCEP.114.002201 PMID: 25516581

8. Yun Y, Hwang M, Park JH, Shin H, Shim EB, Pak HN. The Relationship among Complex Fractionated Electrogams, Wavebreak, Phase Singularity, and Local Dominant Frequency in Fibrillation Wave-Dynamics: a Modeling Comparison Study. J Korean Med Sci. 2014 Mar; 29(3):370–7. doi: 10.3346/jkms.2014.29.3.370 PMID: 24616586

9. Habel N, Znojkiewicz P, Thompson N, Muller JG, Mason B, Calame J, et al. The temporal variability of dominant frequency and complex fractionated atrial electrogams constrains the validity of sequential mapping in human atrial fibrillation. Heart Rhythm. 2010 May; 7(5):586–593. doi: 10.1016/j.hrthm.2010.01.016 PMID: 20156614

10. Kogawa R, Okumura Y, Watanabe I, Kofune M, Nagashima K, Mano H, et al. Spatial and temporal variability of the complex fractionated atrial electrogam activity and dominant frequency in human atrial fibrillation. J Arrhythm. 2015 Apr; 31(2):101–7. doi: 10.1016/j.joa.2014.08.004 PMID: 26336540
11. Jarman JWE, Wong T, Kojodjojo P, Spohr H, Davies JE, Roughton M, et al. Spatiotemporal Behavior of High Dominant Frequency During Paroxysmal and Persistent Atrial Fibrillation in the Human Left Atrium. Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol. 2012 Aug 1; 5(4):650–8. doi: 10.1161/CIRCEP.111.967992 PMID: 22722660

12. Cherry EM, Hastings HM, Evans SJ. Dynamics of human atrial cell models: Restitution, memory, and intracellular calcium dynamics in single cells. Prog Biophys Mol Biol. 2008 Sep; 98(1):24–37. doi: 10.1016/j.pbiomolbio.2008.05.002 PMID: 18617227

13. Nattel S, Burstein B, Dobrev D. Atrial Remodeling and Atrial Fibrillation: Mechanisms and Implications. Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol. 2008 Apr; 1(1):62–73. doi: 10.1161/CIRCEP.107.754564 PMID: 19808395

14. Courtemanche M, Ramirez RJ, Nattel S. Ionic mechanisms underlying human atrial action potential properties: insights from a mathematical model. Am J Physiol. 1998 Jul; 275(1 Pt 2):H301–21. PMID: 9688927

15. Clayton RH, Bernus O, Cherry EM, Dierckx H, Fenton FH, Mirabella L, et al. Models of cardiac tissue electrophysiology: Progress, challenges and open questions. Prog Biophys Mol Biol. 2011 Jan; 104(1–3):22–48. doi: 10.1016/j.pbiomolbio.2010.05.006 PMID: 20553746

16. Christ T, Boknik P, Wohrl S, Wettwer E, Graf EM, Bosch RF, et al. L-type Ca2+ current down regulation in chronic human atrial fibrillation is associated with increased activity of protein phosphatases. Circulation. 2004 Oct 26; 110(17):2651–7. PMID: 15492323

17. Van Wagoner DR, Pond AL, McCarthy PM, Trimmer JS, Nerbonne JM. Outward K+ current densities and Kv1.5 expression are reduced in chronic human atrial fibrillation. Circ Res. 1997 Jun; 80(6):772–81. PMID: 9168779

18. Girmatsion Z, Biliczki P, Bonauer A, Wimmer-Greinecker G, Scherer M, Moritz A, et al. Changes in microRNA-1 expression and I-K1 up-regulation in human atrial fibrillation. Heart Rhythm. 2009 Dec 6; 6(12):1802–9. doi: 10.1016/j.hrthm.2009.08.035 PMID: 19959133

19. Park J, Joung B, Uhm JS, Shim CY, Hwang C, Lee MH, et al. High left atrial pressures are associated with advanced electroanatomical remodeling of left atrium and independent predictors for clinical recurrence of atrial fibrillation after catheter ablation. Heart Rhythm. 2014 Jun; 11(6):953–60. doi: 10.1016/j.hrthm.2014.03.009 PMID: 24607916

20. Brignole M, Menozzi C, Sartore B, Barra M, Monducci I. The use of atrial pacing to induce atrial fibrillation and flutter. Int J Cardiol. 1986 Jul; 12(1):45–54. PMID: 3733266

21. Zozor S, Blanc O, Jacquemet V, Virag N, Vesin JM, Pruvot E, et al. A numerical scheme for modeling wavefront propagation on a monolayer of arbitrary geometry. IEEE Trans Biomed Eng. 2003 Apr; 50(4):412–20. PMID: 12723052

22. Skanes AC, Mandapati R, Berenfeld O, Davidenko JM, Jalife J. Spatiotemporal periodicity during atrial fibrillation in the isolated sheep heart. Circulation. 1998 Sep 22; 98(12):1236–48. PMID: 9743516

23. Kalifa JM, Tanaka K, Zaitsev AV, Warren M, Vaidyanathan R, Auerbach D, et al. Mechanisms of wave fractionation at boundaries of high-frequency excitation in the posterior left atrium of the isolated sheep heart during atrial fibrillation. Circulation. 2006 Feb 7; 113(5):626–33. PMID: 16461834

24. Jalife J. Rotors and spiral waves in atrial fibrillation. J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol. 2003 Jul; 14(7):776–80. PMID: 12930260

25. Berenfeld O, Jalife J. Mechanisms of atrial fibrillation: rotors, ionic determinants, and excitation frequency. Cardiol Clin. 2014 Nov; 32(4):495–506. doi: 10.1016/j.ccl.2014.07.001 PMID: 25443232

26. Jalife J, Berenfeld O, Mansour M. Mother rotors and fibrillatory conduction: a mechanism of atrial fibrillation. Cardiovasc Res. 2002 May; 54(2):204–16. PMID: 12062327

27. Vaquero M, Calvo D, Jalife J. Cardiac fibrillation: from ion channels to rotors in the human heart. Heart Rhythm. 2008 Jun; 5(6):872–9. doi: 10.1016/j.hrthm.2008.02.034 PMID: 18468960

28. Zaman JA, Peters NS. The rotor revolution: conduction at the eye of the storm in atrial fibrillation. Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol. 2014 Dec; 7(6):1230–6. doi: 10.1161/CIRCEP.114.002201 PMID: 25516581

29. Hwang M, Song JS, Lee YS, Li C, Shim EB, Pak HN. Electrophysiological rotor ablation in in-silico modeling of atrial fibrillation: Comparisons2 with dominant frequency, Shannon entropy, and phase singularity. PLoS One. 2016 Feb 24; 11(2):e0149695. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0149695 PMID: 26909492

30. Pandit SV, Berenfeld O, Anumonwo JMB, Zaritski RM, Kneller J, Nattel S. Ionic determinants of functional reentry in a 2-D model of human atrial cells during simulated chronic atrial fibrillation. Biophys J. 2005 Jun; 88(6):3806–21. PMID: 15792974

31. Di Biase L, Burkhardt JD, Mohanty P, Sanchez J, Mohanty S, Horton R. Left Atrial Appendage An Under recognized Trigger Site of Atrial Fibrillation. Circulation. 2010 Jul 13; 122(2):109–18. doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.109.928903 PMID: 20606120
32. Haissaguerre M, Hocini M, Denis A, Shah AJ, Komatsu Y, Yamashita S. Driver Domains in Persistent Atrial Fibrillation. Circulation. 2014 Aug 12; 130(7):530–8. doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.113.005421 PMID: 25028391

33. Hwang C, Wu TJ, Doshi RN, Peter CT, Chen PS. Vein of Marshall cannulation for the analysis of electrical activity in patients with focal atrial fibrillation. Circulation. 2000 Apr 1; 101(13):1503–5. PMID: 10747341

34. Narayan SM, Krummen DE, Shivkumar K, Clifton P, Rappel WJ, Miller JM. Treatment of atrial fibrillation by the ablation of localized sources: CONFIRM (Conventional Ablation for Atrial Fibrillation With or Without Focal Impulse and Rotor Modulation) trial. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2012 Aug 14; 60(7):628–36. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2012.05.022 PMID: 22818076

35. Benharash P, Buch E, Frank P, Share M, Tung R, Shivkumar K, et al. Quantitative analysis of localized sites identified by focal impulse and rotor modulation mapping in atrial fibrillation. Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol. 2015 Jun; 8(3):554–61. doi: 10.1161/CIRCEP.115.002721 PMID: 25873718

36. Buch E, Share M, Tung R, Benharash P, Sharma P, Koneru J, et al. Long-term clinical outcomes of focal impulse and rotor modulation for treatment of atrial fibrillation: A multicenter experience. Heart Rhythm. 2015 Oct 21. pii: S1547-5271(15)01314-4.

37. Sommer P, Kircher S, Rolf S, John S, Arya A, Dinov B, et al. Successful Repeat Catheter Ablation of Recurrent Longstanding Persistent Atrial Fibrillation With Rotor Elimination as the Procedural Endpoint: A Case Series. J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol. 2016 Mar; 27(3):274–80. doi: 10.1111/joe.12874 PMID: 26527103

38. Narayan SM, Krummen DE, Shivkumar K, Clifton P, Rappel WJ, Miller JM. Treatment of atrial fibrillation by the ablation of localized sources: CONFIRM (Conventional Ablation for Atrial Fibrillation With or Without Focal Impulse and Rotor Modulation) trial. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2012 Aug 14; 60(7):628–36. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2012.05.022 PMID: 22818076

39. Atienza F, Almendral J, Ormaetxe JM, Moya A, Martinez-Alday JD, Hernández-Madrid A, et al. Comparison of radiofrequency catheter ablation of drivers and circumferential pulmonary vein isolation in atrial fibrillation: a noninferiority randomized multicenter RADAR-AF trial. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2014 Dec 16; 64(23):2455–67. doi: 10.1016/j.jacc.2014.09.053 PMID: 25500229

40. Verma A, Lakkireddy D, Wulffhart Z, Pillarisetti J, Farina D, Beardsall M, et al. Relationship between complex fractionated electrog (CFE) and dominant frequency (DF) sites and prospective assessment of adding DF-guided ablation to pulmonary vein isolation in persistent atrial fibrillation (AF). J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol. 2011 Dec; 22(12):1309–16. doi: 10.1111/j.1540-8167.2011.02128.x PMID: 21736659

41. Pantos I, Katritsis G, Zografos T, Camm AJ, Katritsis DG. Temporal Stability of Atrial Electrogram Fractionation in Patients with Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation. Am J Cardiol. 2013 Mar 15; 111(6):863–8. doi: 10.1016/j.amjcard.2012.11.050 PMID: 23276474

42. Kuklik P, Zeemering S, Maessen B, Maessen J, Crijns HJ, Verheule S, et al. Reconstruction of instantaneous phase of unipolar atrial contact electrogram using a concept of sinusoidal recomposition and Hilbert transform. IEEE Trans Biomed Eng. 2015 Jan; 62(1):296–302. doi: 10.1109/TBME.2014.2350029 PMID: 25488659

43. Zhao JC, Kharche SR, Hansen BJ, Csepe TA, Wang YF, Stiles MK. Optimization of Catheter Ablation of Atrial Fibrillation: Insights Gained from Clinically-Derived Computer Models. Int J Mol Sci. 2015 May 13; 16(10):10834–54. doi: 10.3390/ijms160510834 PMID: 25984605

44. Tuan J, Chung I, Jeilan M, Kundu S, Stafford P, Ng GA. Regional Fractionation and Dominant Frequency in Persistent Atrial Fibrillation: Effect of Left Atrial Ablation and Evidence of Spatial Relationship. Europace. 2011 Nov; 13(11):1550–6. doi: 10.1093/europace/eur174 PMID: 21712282

45. Sanders P, Berenfeld O, Hocini MZ, Jais P, Vaidyanathan R, Hsu LF. Spectral analysis identifies sites of high-frequency activity maintaining atrial fibrillation in humans. Circulation. 2005 Aug 9; 112(6):789–97. PMID: 16061740

46. Ganesan AN, Kuklik P, Lau DH, Brooks AG, Baumert M, Lim WW. Bipolar electrogram Shannon entropy at sites of rotational activation: implications for ablation of atrial fibrillation. Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol. 2013 Feb; 6(1):48–57. doi: 10.1161/CIRCEP.112.976564 PMID: 23264437

47. Haissaguerre M, Hocini M, Denis A, Shah AJ, Komatsu Y, Yamashita S, et al. Driver domains in persistent atrial fibrillation. Circulation. 2014 Aug 12; 130(7):530–8. doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.113.005421 PMID: 25028391

48. Hwang M, Kwon SS, Wi J, Park M, Lee HS, Park JS, et al. Virtual ablation for atrial fibrillation in personalized in-silico three-dimensional left atrial modeling: Comparison with clinical catheter ablation. Prog Biophys Mol Biol. 2014 Sep; 116(1):40–7. doi: 10.1016/j.pbiomolbio.2014.09.006 PMID: 25261813
49. Hwang M, Park J, Lee YS, Park JH, Choi SH, Shim EB, et al. Fibrillation Number Based on Wavelength and Critical Mass in Patients Who Underwent Radiofrequency Catheter Ablation for Atrial Fibrillation. IEEE Trans Biomed Eng. 2015 Feb; 62(2):673–9. doi: 10.1109/TBME.2014.2363669 PMID: 25343755

50. Vigmond EJ, Ruckdeschel R, Trayanova N. Reentry in a morphologically realistic atrial model. J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol. 2001 Sep; 12(9):1046–54. PMID: 11577703

51. Li Q, Rajagopalan C, Clifford GD. Ventricular fibrillation and tachycardia classification using a machine learning approach. IEEE Trans Biomed Eng. 2014 Jun; 61(6):1607–13. doi: 10.1109/TBME.2013.2275000 PMID: 23899591

52. Hansen BJ, Zhao J, Csepe TA, Moore BT, Li N, Jayne LA, et al. Atrial fibrillation driven by micro-anatomic intramural re-entry revealed by simultaneous sub-epicardial and sub-endocardial optical mapping in explanted human hearts. Eur Heart J. 2015 Sep 14; 36(35):2390–401. doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehv233 PMID: 26059724

53. Labarthe S, Bayer J, Coudiere Y, Henry J, Cochet H, Jais P. A bilayer model of human atria: mathematical background, construction, and assessment. Europace. 2014 Nov; 16Suppl 4:iv21–iv29. doi: 10.1093/europace/euu256 PMID: 25362166