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# **ABLATION/MAPPING OF VENTRICULAR FIBRILLATION**

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# DISCLOSURES

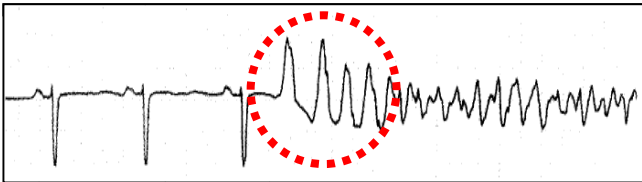
- Biosense webster: speaker fees, research grant
- Medtronic: speaker fees, research grant
- Boston scientific: speaker fees, research grant

# INDICATIONS

## 2017- AHA/ACC/HRS Guidelines:

‘Catheter Ablation is an option for selected patients with polymorphic VT/VF only if an initiating PVC focus or substrate can be identified’

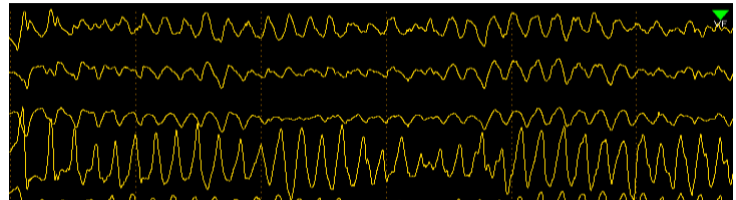
### Ventricular Fibrillation : Initiating Triggers



Rare PVCs but predominantly monomorphic when they are present

12 lead documentation of VPBs is essential

### Ventricular Fibrillation : Maintaining Substrate



Well identified in the RVOT/Ant RV

# Non-invasive characterisation of human VF drivers

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## Structural Heart Diseases

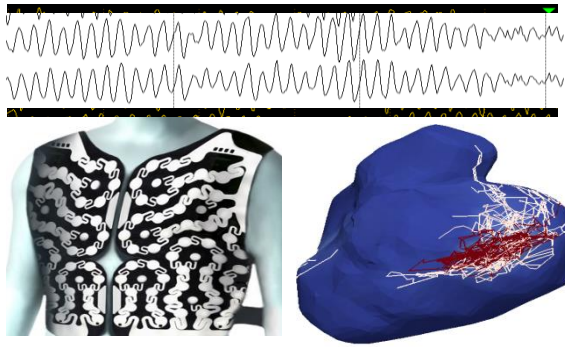
- Ischemic Heart Disease +++
- Cardiomyopathies++
- ARVD
- Valvular
- Others...

## Apparently normal Hearts ('primary electrical diseases')

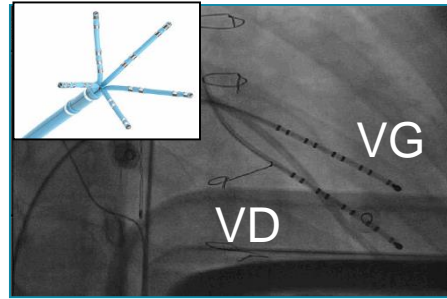
- Brugada syndrome
- Long QT /short QT syndromes
- Early Repolarisation/J wave syndromes
- Catecholaminergic polymorphic VT (CPVT)
- **Idiopathic VF defined by exclusion of the above**

# High density mapping in patients victims of Sudden cardiac Death - methods

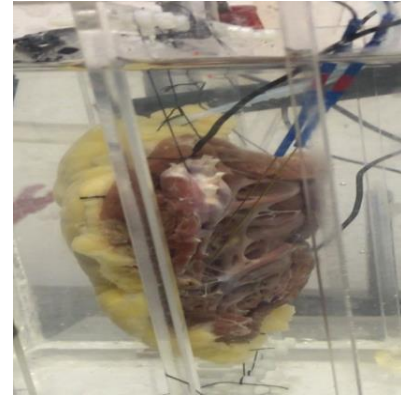
Localization of main drivers (spontaneous or induced VF)



ElectroGram Mapping (in sinus rhythm)



Ex vivo human hearts optical-microelect-Histology



65% reproducibility of driver locations (when VF induced from RV then LV)

View projections

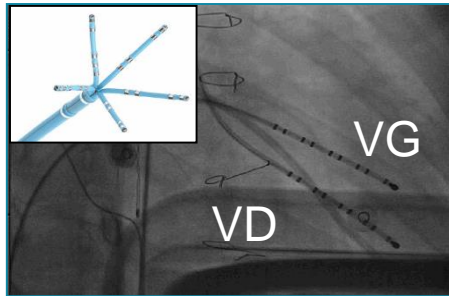


*Program 'Isolated Human Heart' donation or transplantation- Bioethical agreement 2014*

# High density mapping in patients victims of Sudden cardiac Death - definition of criteria

EGM CRITERIA – COMPARED to CONTROLS

**ElectroGram Mapping**  
(in sinus rhythm) using  
2mm bipole spacing

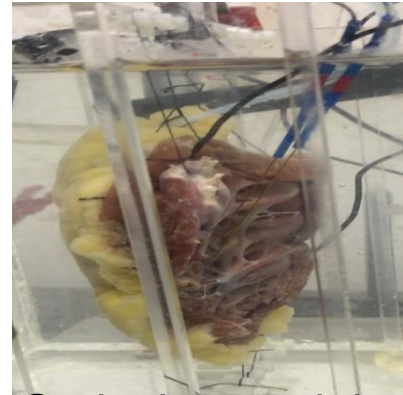


**Abnormality of myocardial depolarization** : presence of prolonged egms (> 70ms- >3 components-split and late) \*

**Abnormality of myocardial repolarization** : heterogeneity of repolarization maps - lesser knowledge

\*Criteria defined with  $\geq 5$ mm bipole spacing-  
\*paucity of control patients

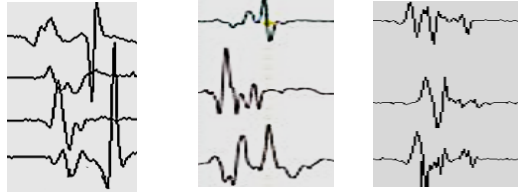
**Ex vivo human hearts**  
optical-microelect-histology



Optical potentials

Precise repolarization mapping (endo - and epicardial )

# FRAGMENTED ELECTROGRAMS



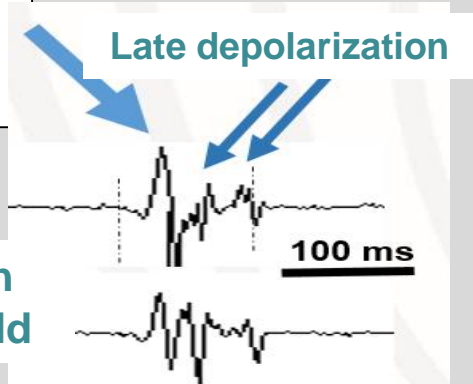
**No disease specificity of EGM fragmentation**

(can be BrS- IVF-J wave-CMD-ARVD-Inflammatory..)

## ‘Fragmented’ potentials : Depolarization vs Repolarization

Local  
Depolarization  
( activation map)

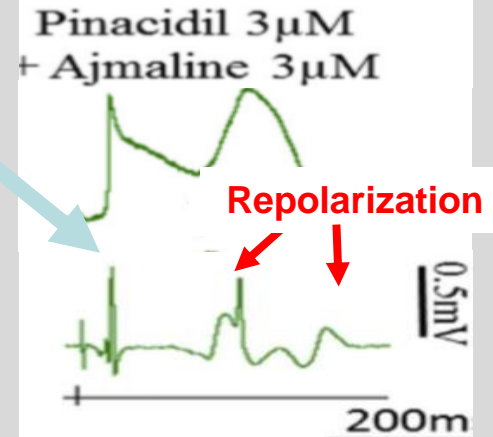
In continuity with  
depolarization field



Mapping in Humans

Local  
Depolarization  
(Phase 1 AP)

Gap with  
depolarization

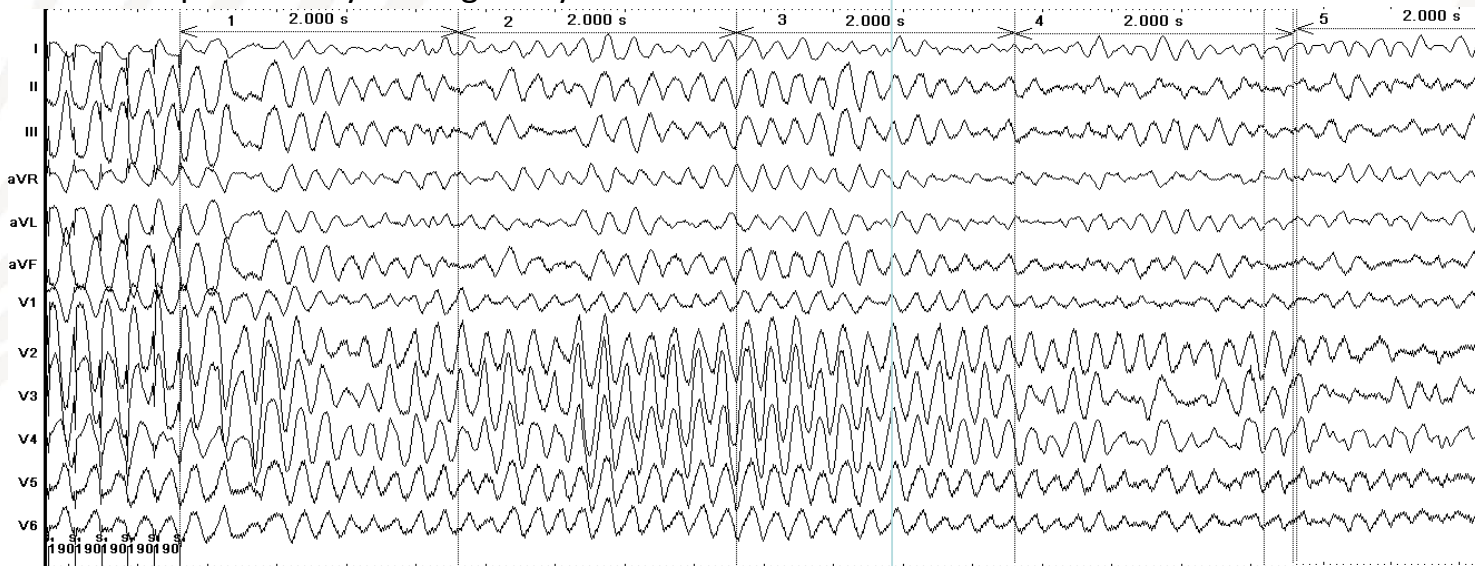


Mapping in Wedge-Dogs



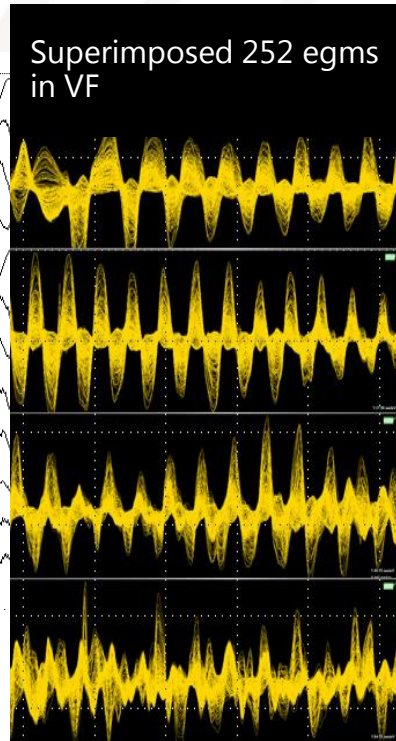
# VF EARLY (ORGANIZED) AND LATER (DISORGANIZED)

Case: patient 47 yrs- Brugada syndrome



**Electrograms not altered**

**High similarity of endocardial and epicardial VFCL (suggesting transmural activity)**



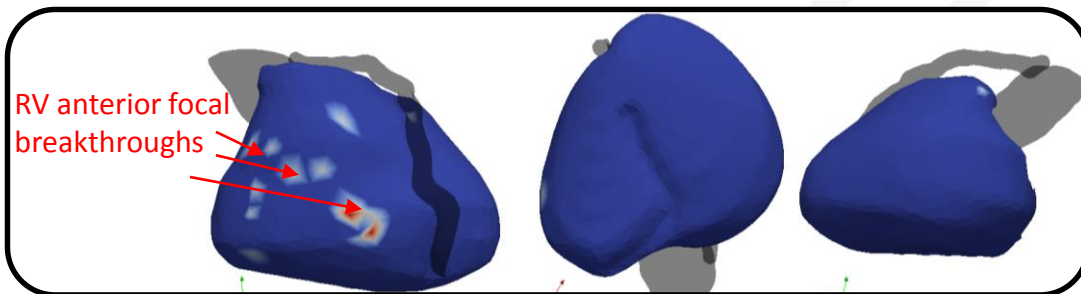
**Electrograms Fragmented (unreliable annotation)**

**Lesser similarity of endocardial and epicardial VFCL**

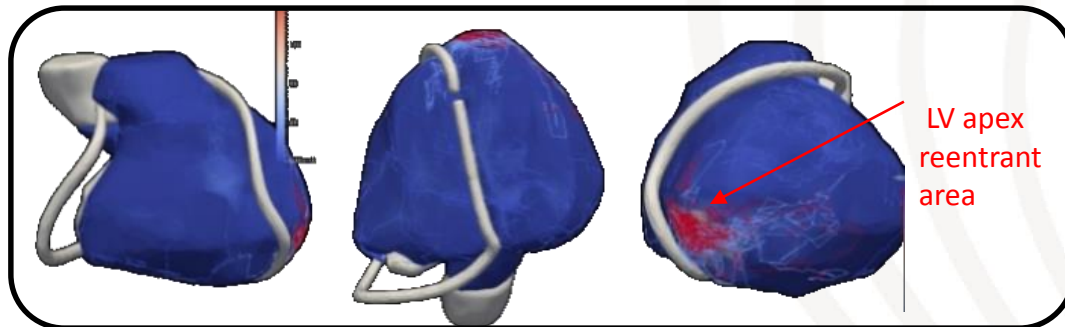


# RESULTS 1 — VF MAPS SHOW THE MAIN DRIVER AREAS IN AN INDIVIDUAL

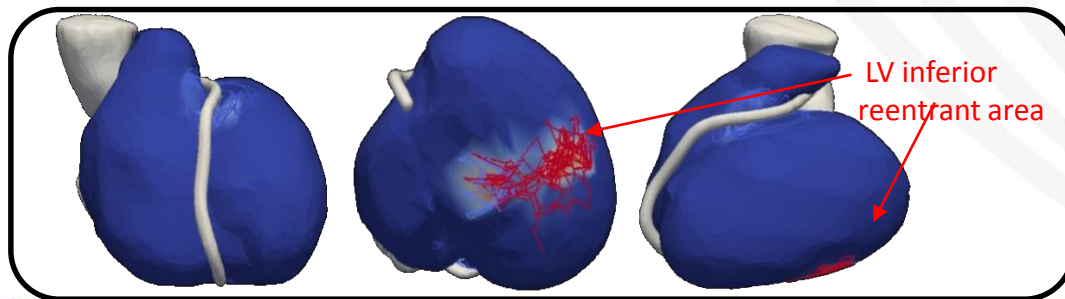
Brugada syndrome



Ischemic Heart disease



Dilated cardiomyopathy



# RESULTS 2: Human VF dynamics Depend on the underlying HD

## VF associated with Brugada Syndrome

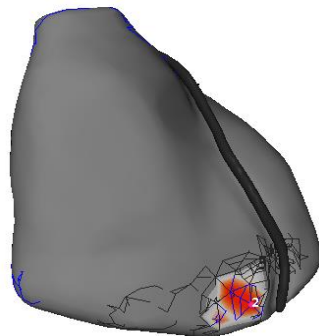
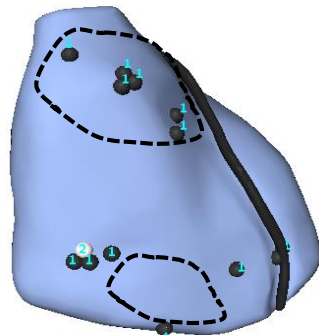
1. RV is the dominant driver source in 30 of (81%) patient during organized/early VF for  $4,64 \pm 3.25$ s particularly focal breakthrough figure-of-8 reentries and LV is passively activated

2. RV wavefronts invade LV and produce in few seconds secondary drivers associated with higher LV DF

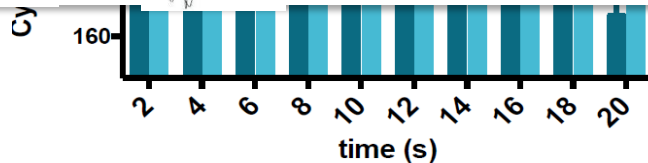
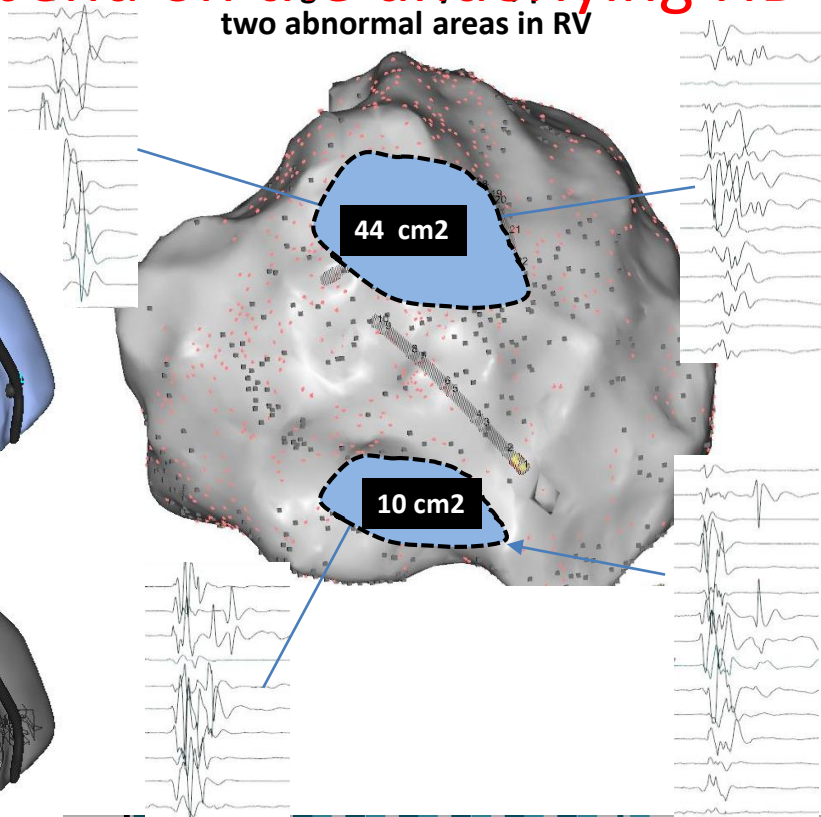
3. Location of drivers includes constantly RV But extends frequently to anterior and inferior RV walls

4. Abnormal electrograms in SR at most driver areas: typically at epicardial site (18cm<sup>2</sup>/9%)

41 y.o male  
8 VF in 3 hours



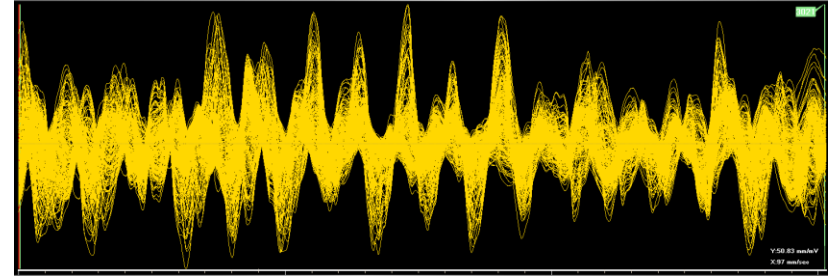
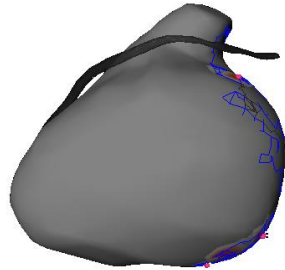
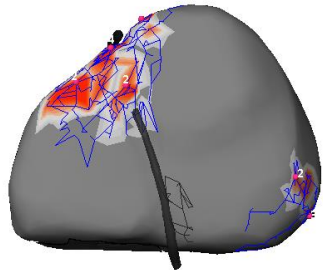
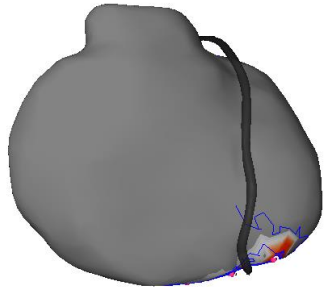
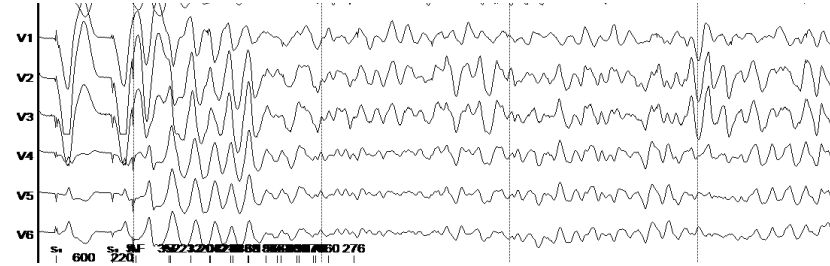
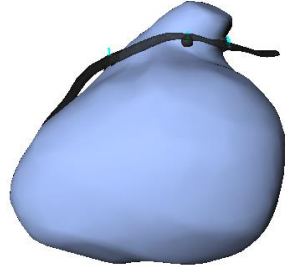
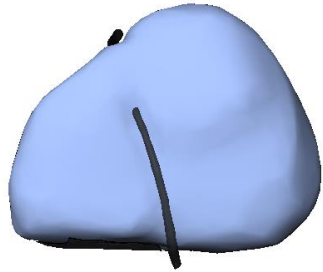
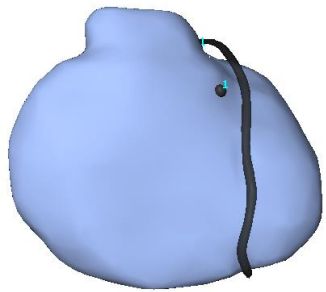
During sinus rhythm, presence of two abnormal areas in RV



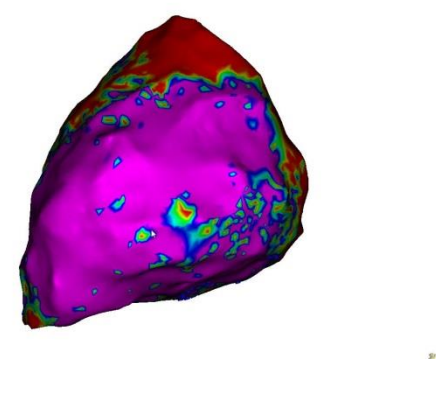
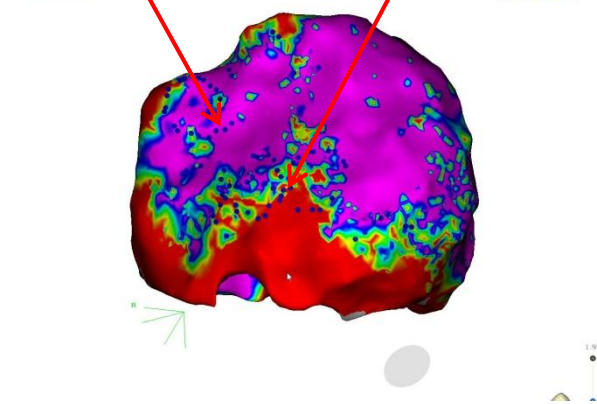
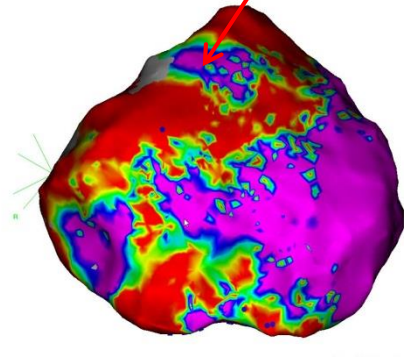
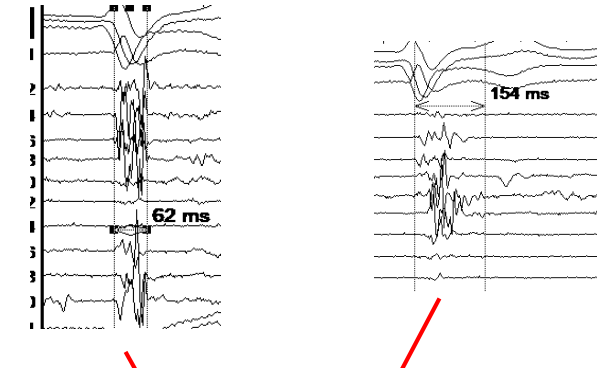
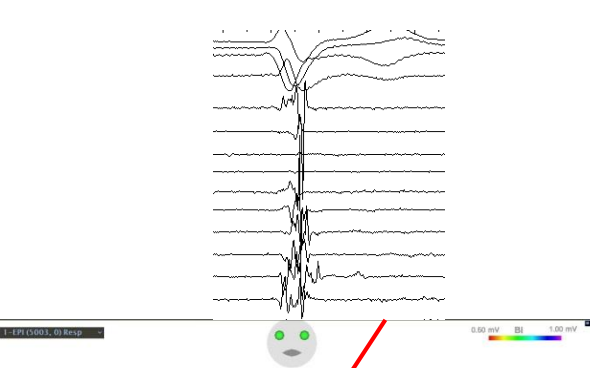
## M 33 y

- SCD in 2013 with diagnosis of Brugada Syndrome. Family history of Brugada (Father and Brother).
- ICD Vr implant Secondary prevention in 2013. ICD Change in 2017
- 13 VF since 2013
- First Procedure in 2017 Endo+Epi ablation.
- New VF storm in June 2018.
- Second procedure with complete endo+epi maps and Ajmaline challenge. No abnormal Egms observed Endo+Epi.
- New VF after this procedure.

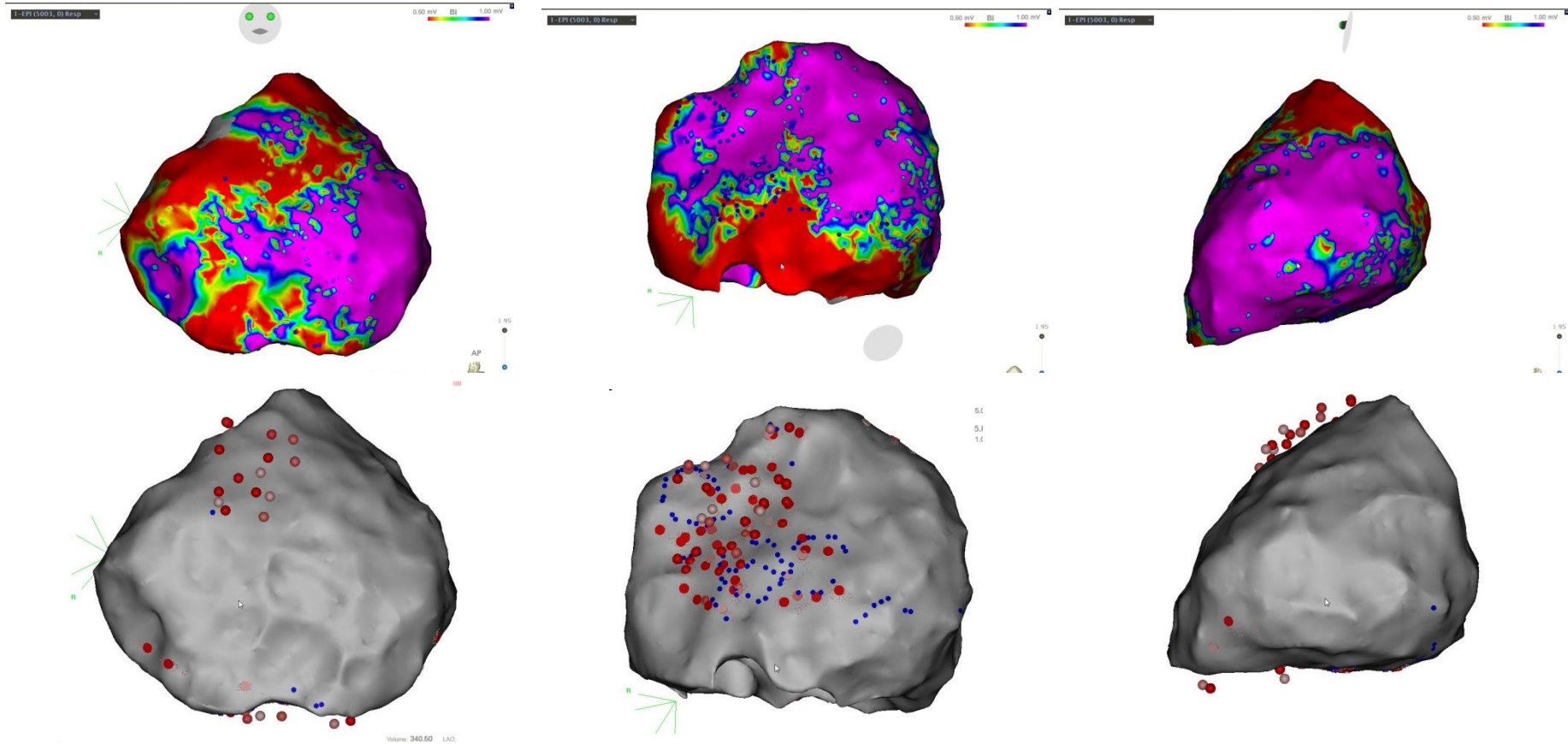
# M 33 y, 2 failed previous epicardial ablation, last ablation in Bx



# Epicardial Mapping



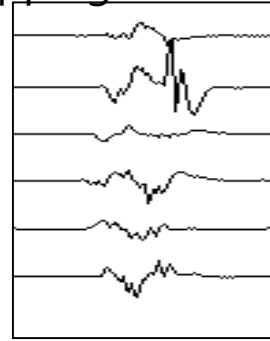
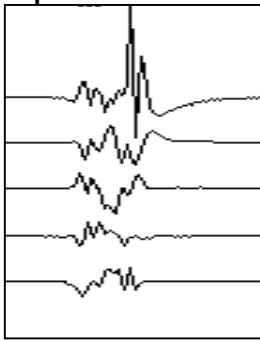
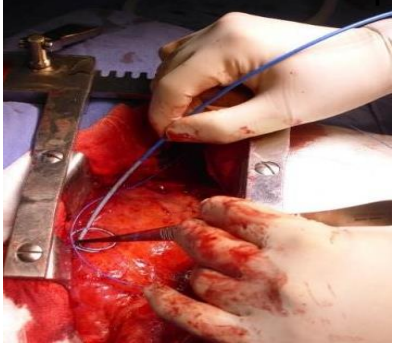
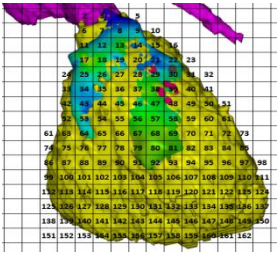
# Epicardial Mapping and ablation sites



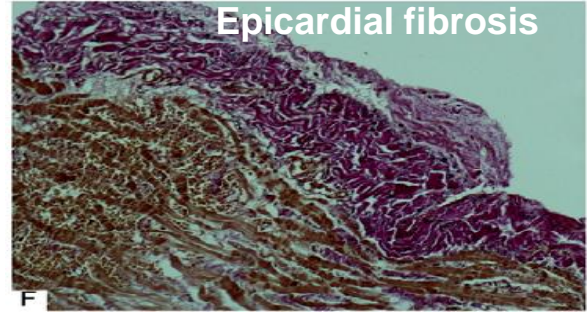


# Brugada substrate

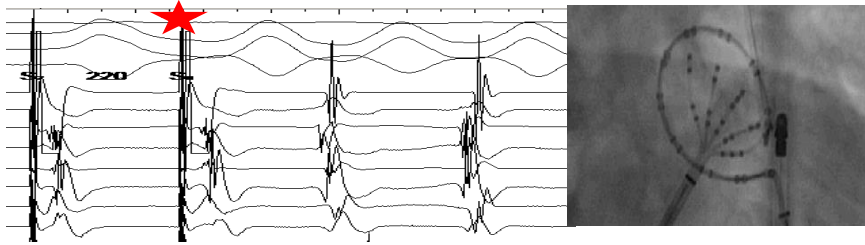
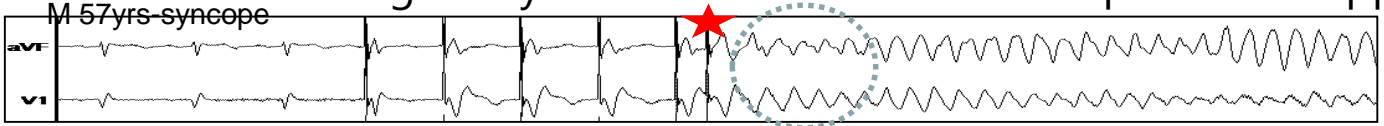
Bumrungrad Hospital- Thailand-Perop epicardial mapping



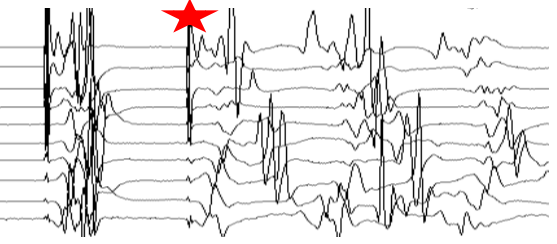
Targeted Biopsy



Brugada syndrome – Endocardial and epicardial mapping



ENDOCARDIAL



EPICARDIAL

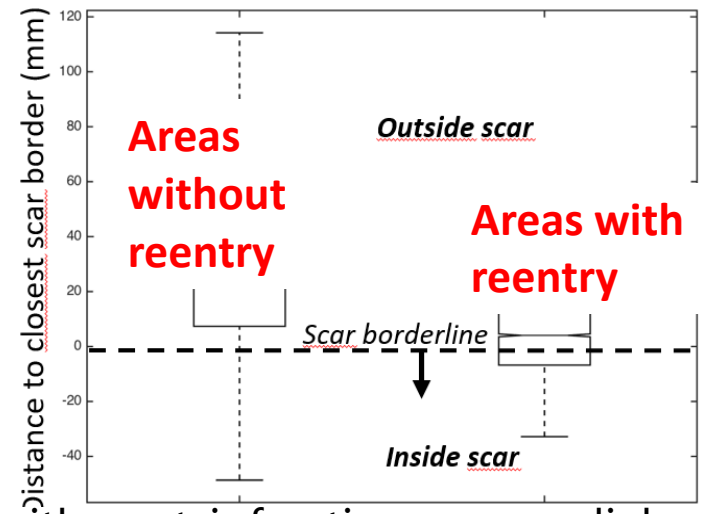
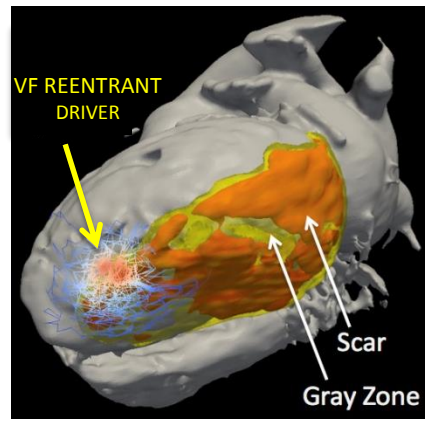
**Brugada Sd is an affection dominantly affecting the RVOT epicardium**

**Brugada Sd is primarily an abnormality of myocardial depolarization, (with secondary repolarization changes)**



# Results 2- Main Drivers co-locate with markers of abnormal substrate

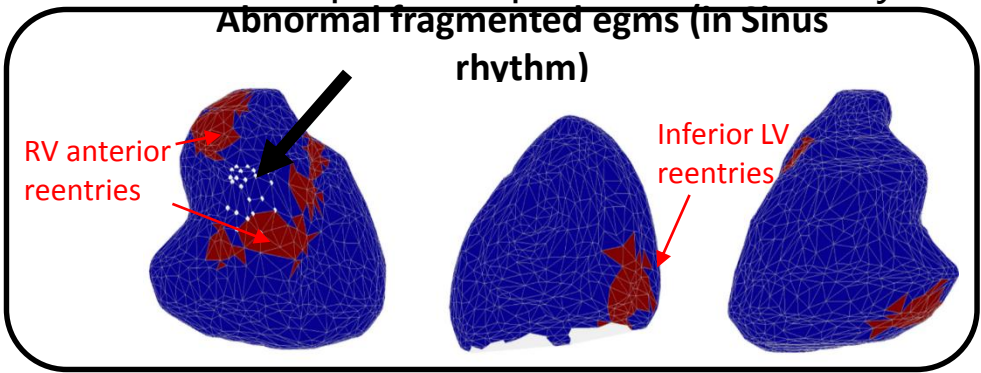
Myocardial scar on Imaging



n= 12 pts with post-infarction myocardial scar

Abnormal fragmented egms (in Sinus rhythm)

Abnormal Egms on mapping in SR

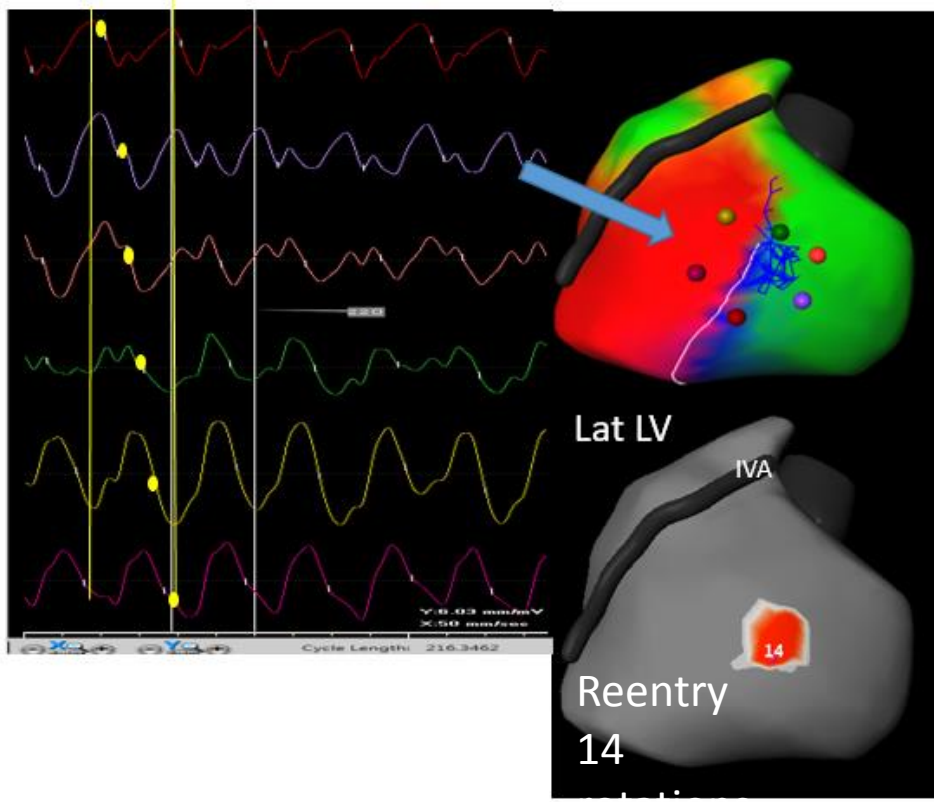


geodesic distances of VF driver areas to abnormal egm areas

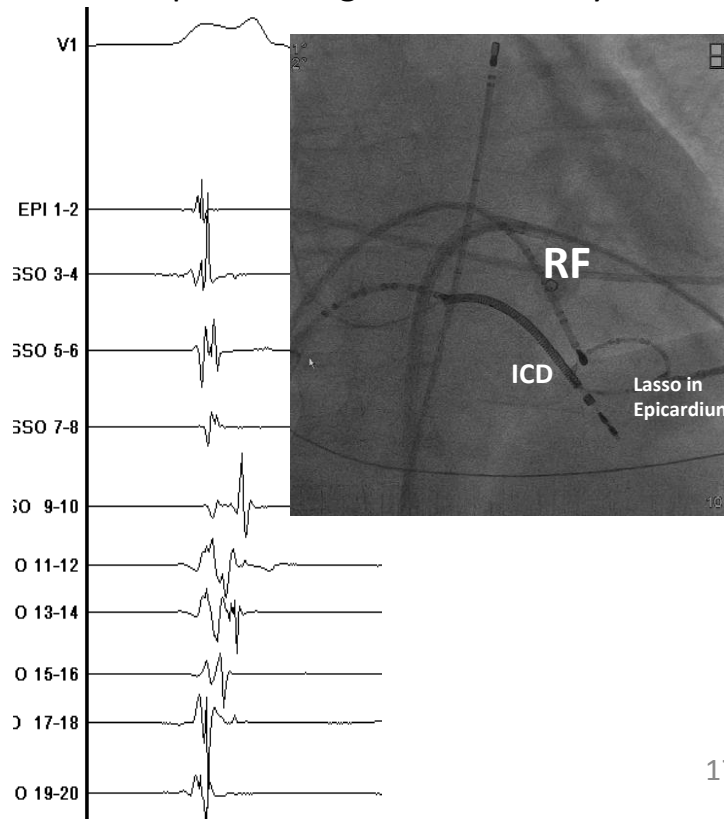
# VF in Dilated Cardiomyopathy - M 52 yrs – 5 VF episodes - no Scar on MRI

## The location of VF reentries points to areas of interest

Sequential activation of egms (in VF)



Local Epicardial Egms in Sinus Rhythm



# Idiopathic Ventricular Fibrillation defined by 'no phenotype'

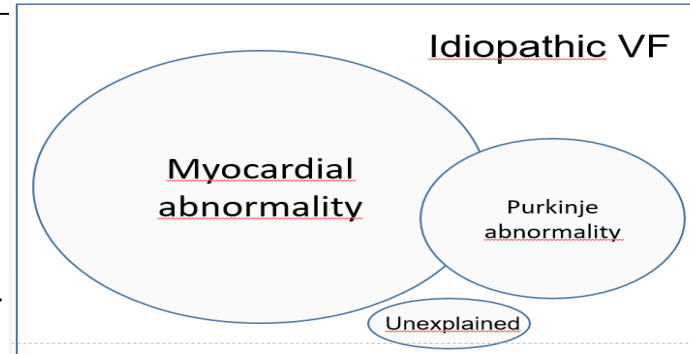
**Inclusion of 51 pts** ( $29 \pm 12$  yrs, 13 women) with IVF **excluding Abnormal Repolarizations and SHD** (Coronary arteries- MRI- Ajmaline- Adrenaline- Isoprenaline)

**Results – two major substrates can be found in IVF**

Patients with altered depolarization in localized myocardial areas (34/51: 67%)

Patients with abnormal Purkinje activity : 22%

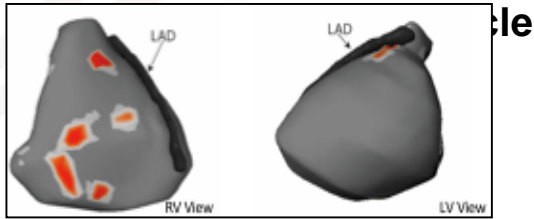
No explanation for sudden death : 11%



A spectrum of substrates underlie IVF in Man

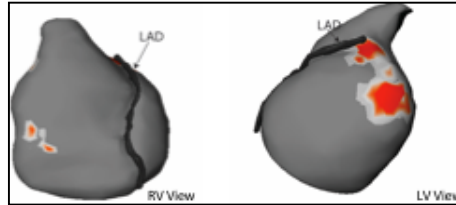
# IVF – LOCATION OF VF DRIVERS

## Dominant RV



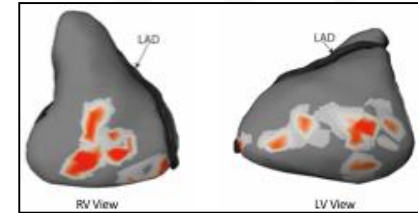
Patients confirmed having no Brugada pattern nor ARVD

## Dominant LV



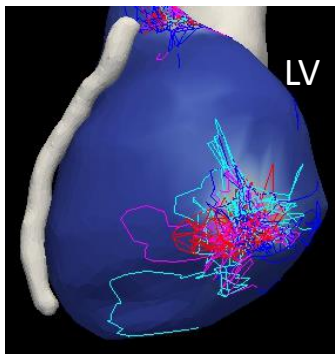
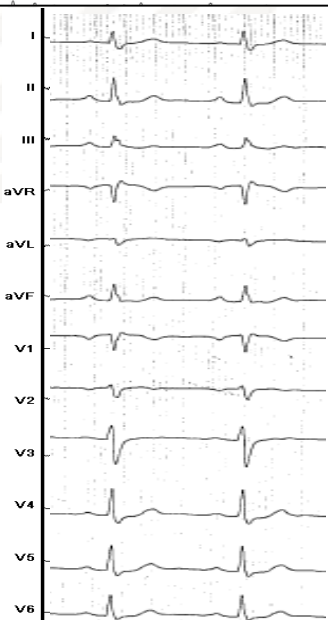
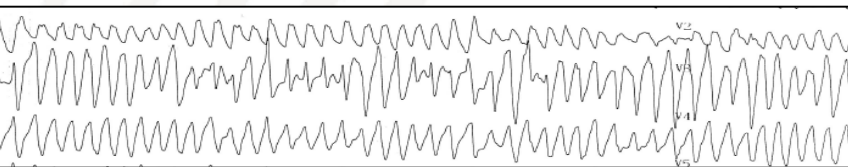
A dominant driver region is observed in ~ half of IVF

## No

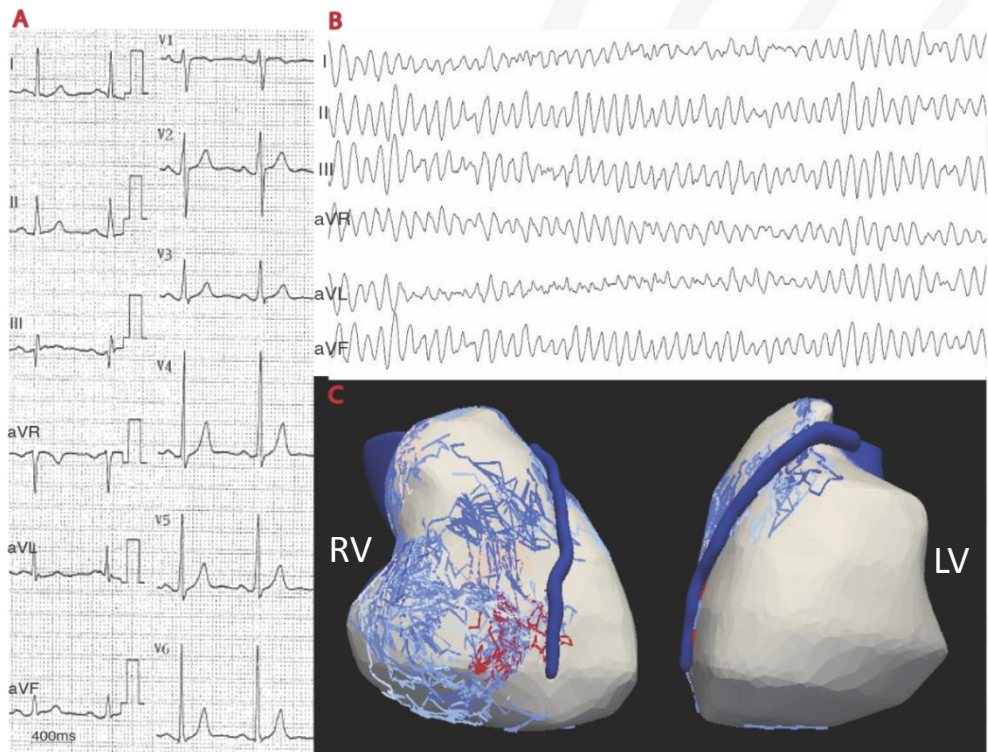


The location of main driver areas appears not dependent on induction site (similar maps with VF induced from LV in 12 pts)

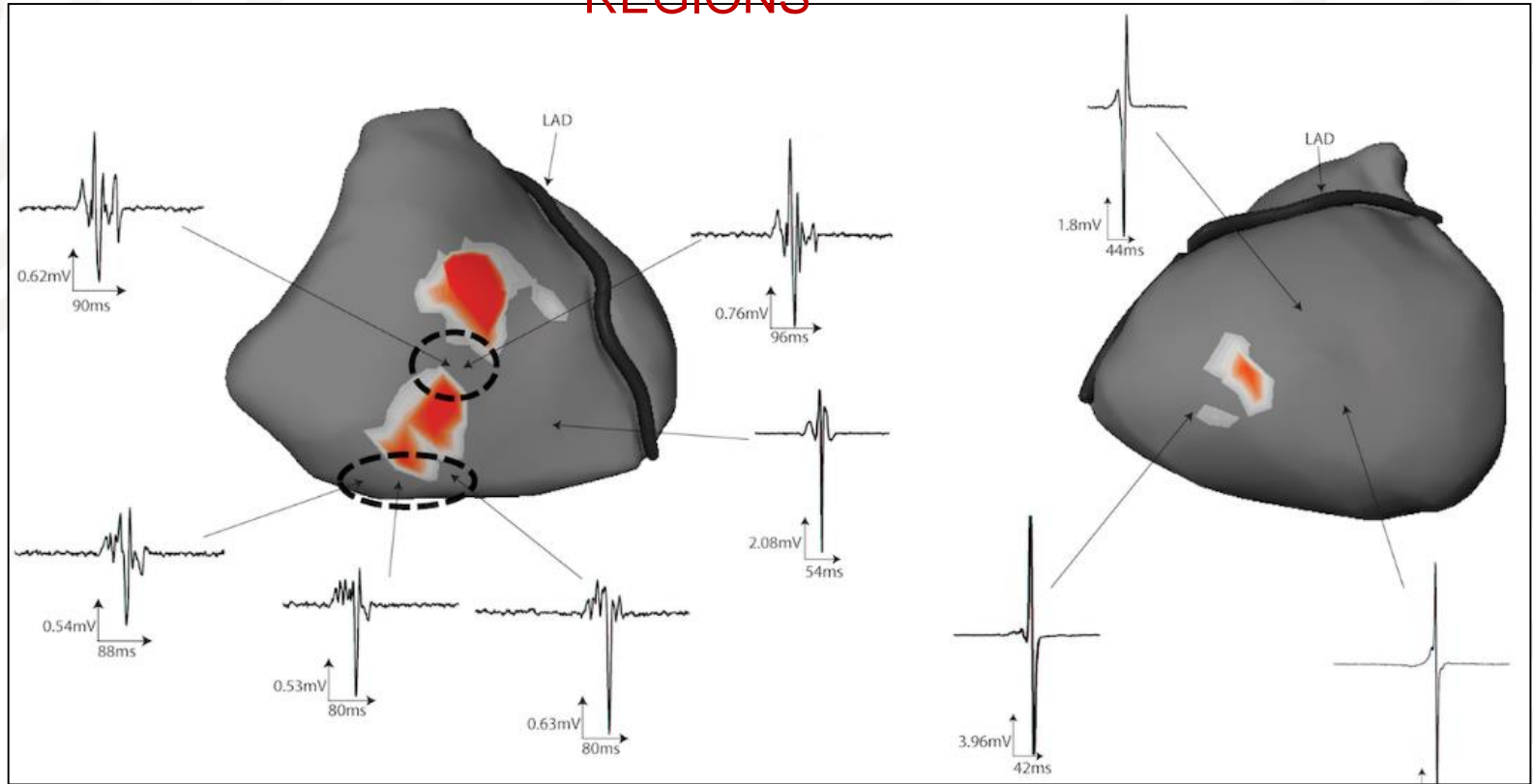
## F 50 yrs Induced VF- driven dominantly from LV



## M 47yrs –Induced VF Driven dominantly from RV



# ABNORMAL ELECTROGRAMS CO-LOCATE WITH MAIN DRIVER REGIONS



82% of areas displaying abnormal electrograms ,  
were localized in contiguity with the highest density of VF driver activities

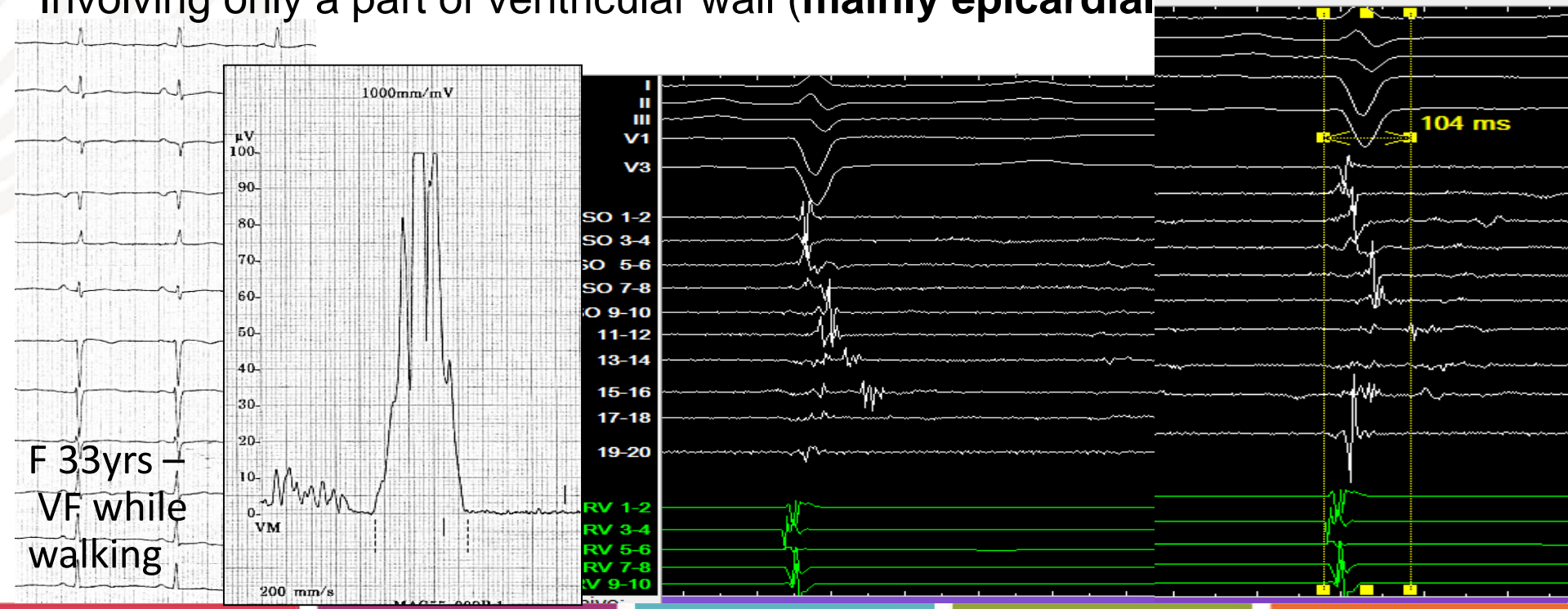


# 1- IVF Patients with Localized myocardial alteration: 67%

Areas of abnormal egms indicating localized myocardial alteration in 34/51 pts

'Small' size ( area surface =  $14 \pm 6\text{cm}^2$  – 4.3% of total surface)

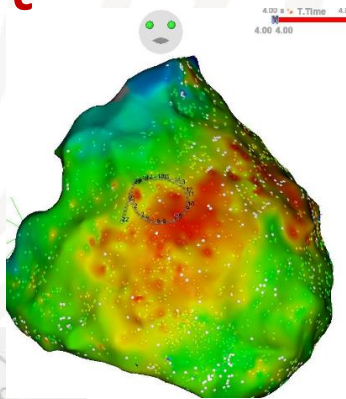
Involving only a part of ventricular wall (**mainly epicardial**)



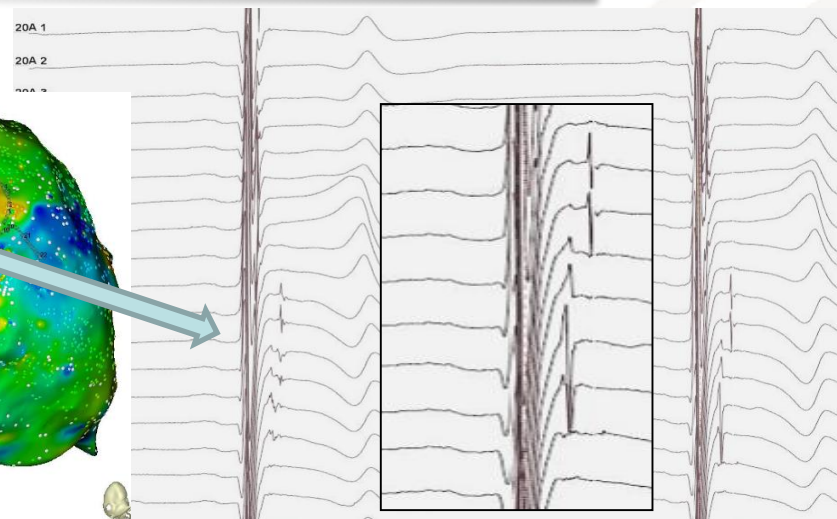
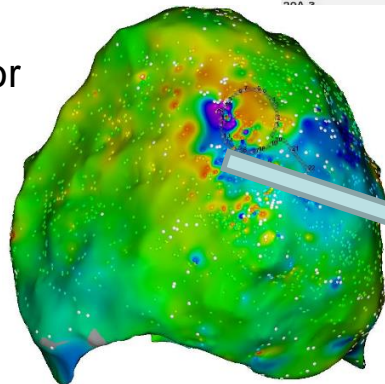


# MI 34 yrs = VF during sport

RV Anterior view

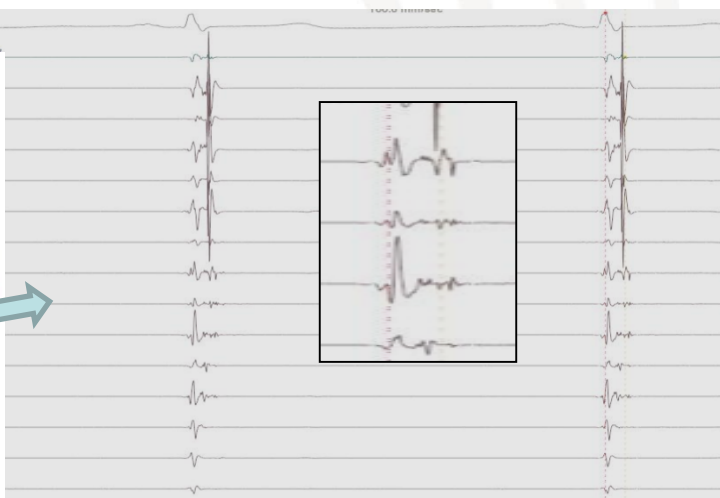
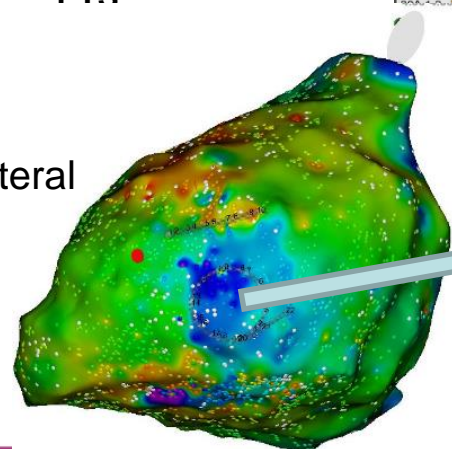


Inferior view

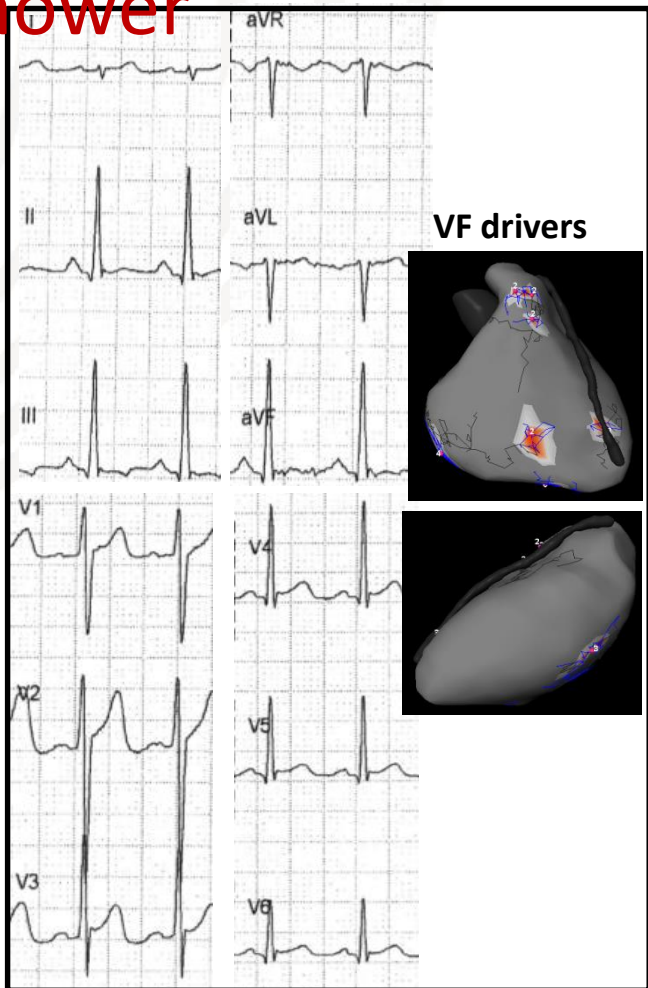


EPICARDIAL MAP 6083  
PTS

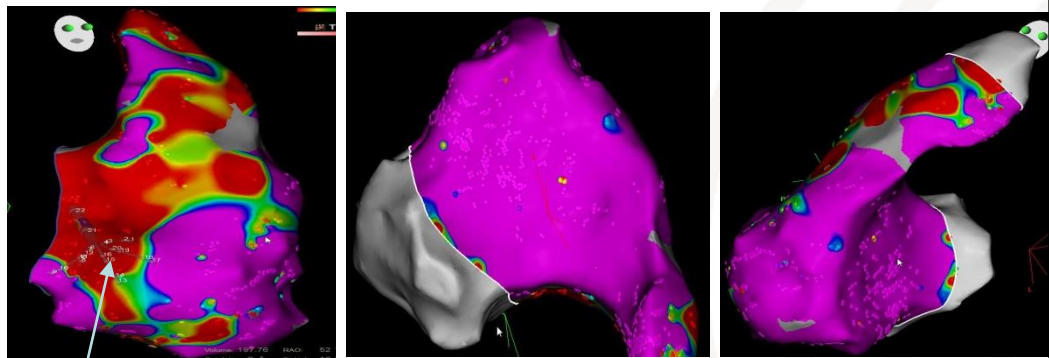
LV lateral view



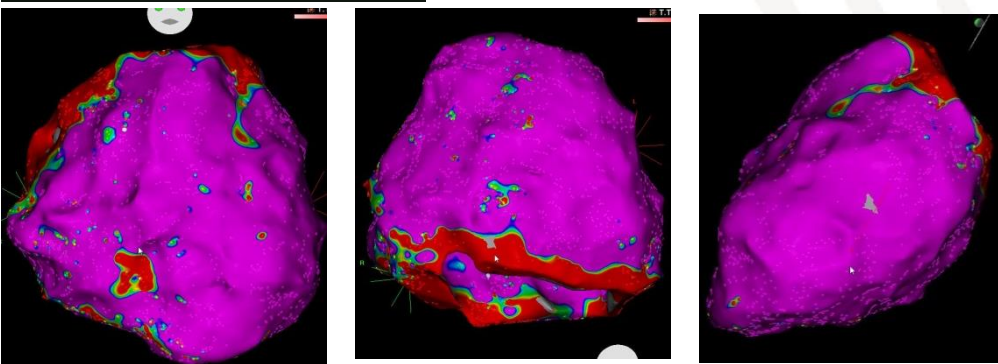
# VF 15 yrs V1 when taking a shower



RV Endocardium – 2601 pts – Bipole 2mm-Volume 168ml - low voltage

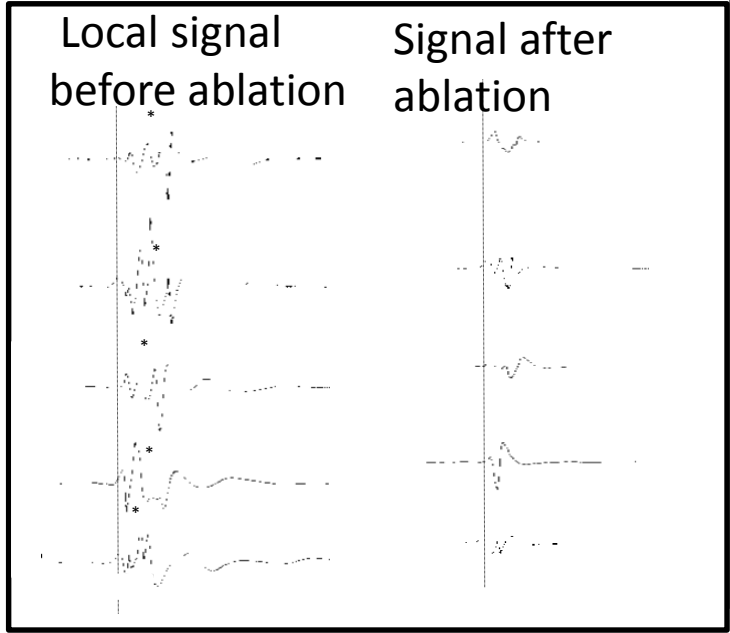
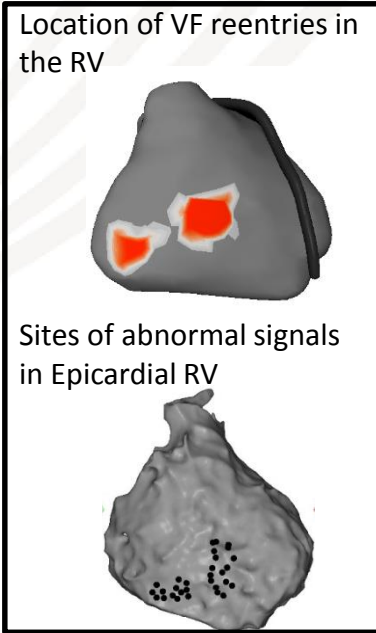


Epicardium – 6227 pts – Bipole 2mm



# ABLATION TARGETING THE MYOCARDIAL SUBSTRATE

Idiopathic VF with localized myocardial abnormality



**N° of VF :**  
**7 ± 3**  
**episodes**

**MEDIAN**  
**19min RF**  
**IQR 17- 22**

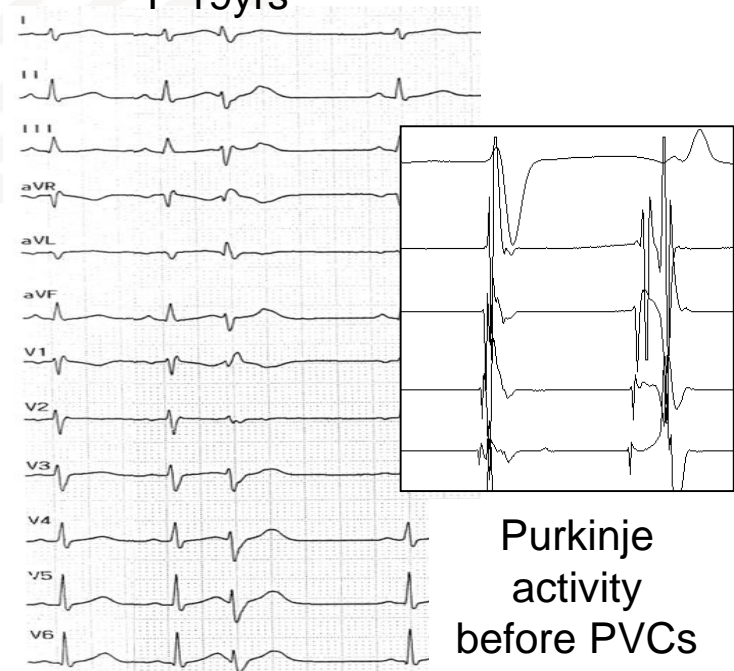
RF Delivery on Substrate, min
18
27
24
21
9
17
20
9
22



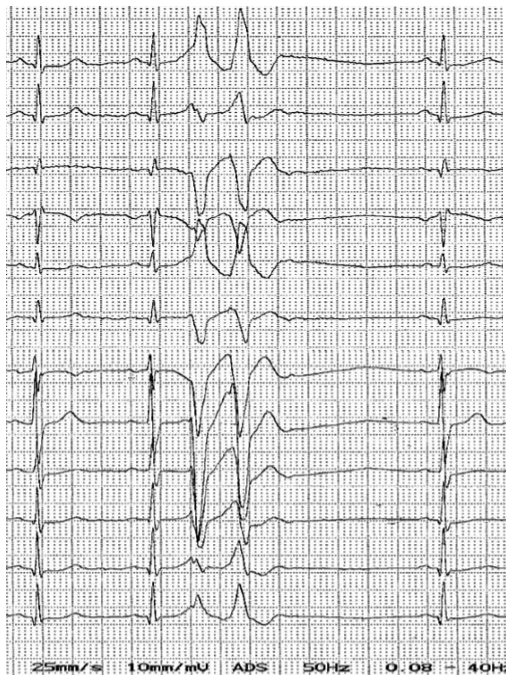
# 2- IVF Patients with Purkinje abnormal activity: 22% ( and no area of myocardial alteration)

With documented ectopy

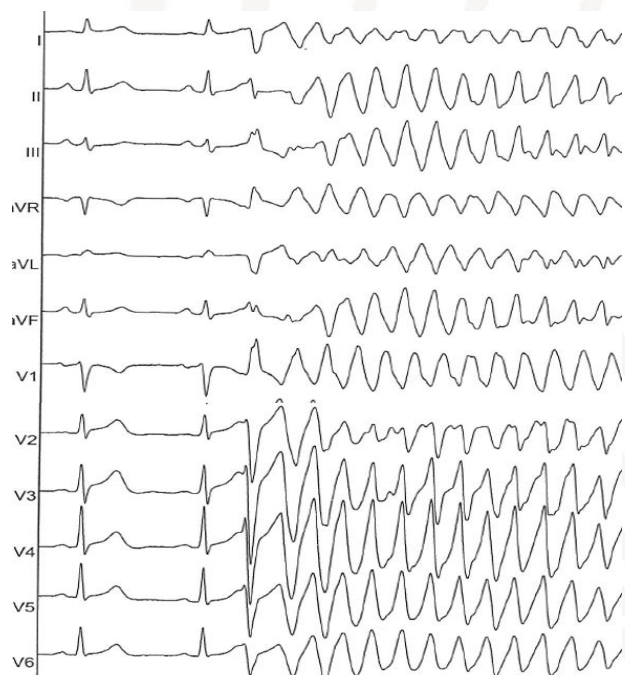
F 19yrs



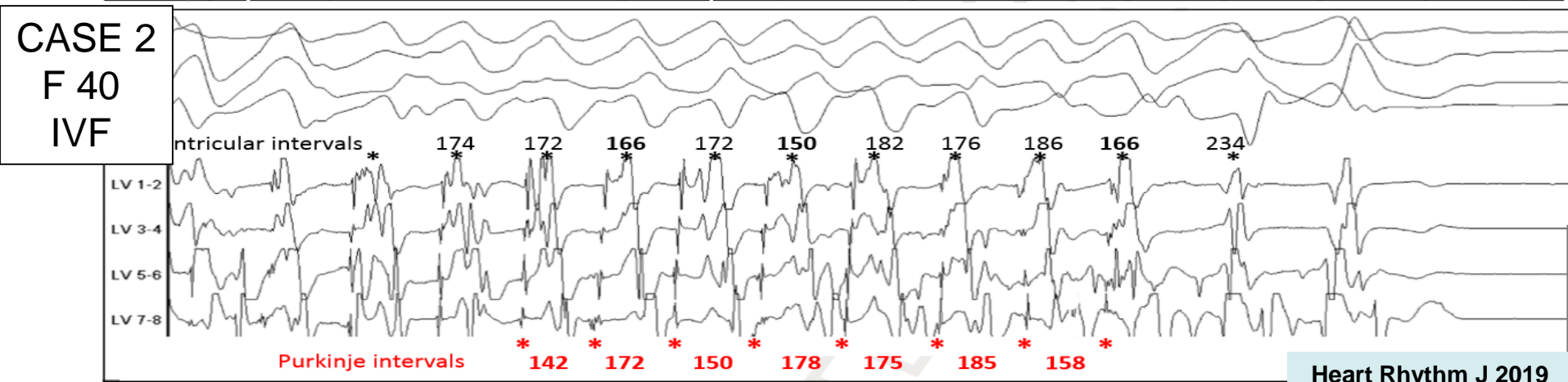
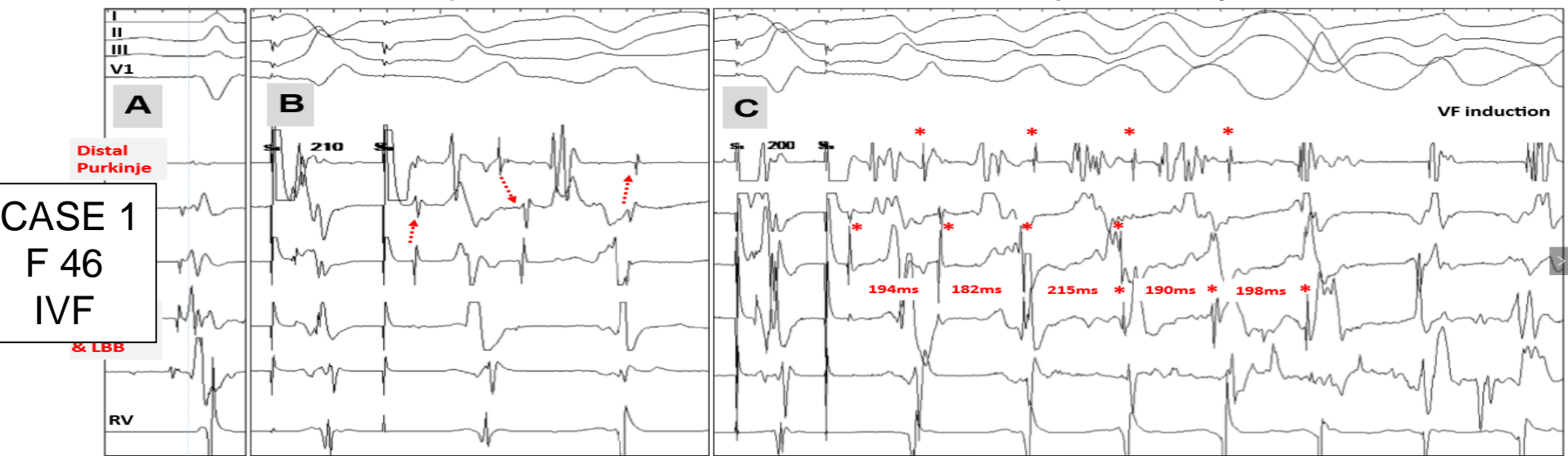
H 36 ans



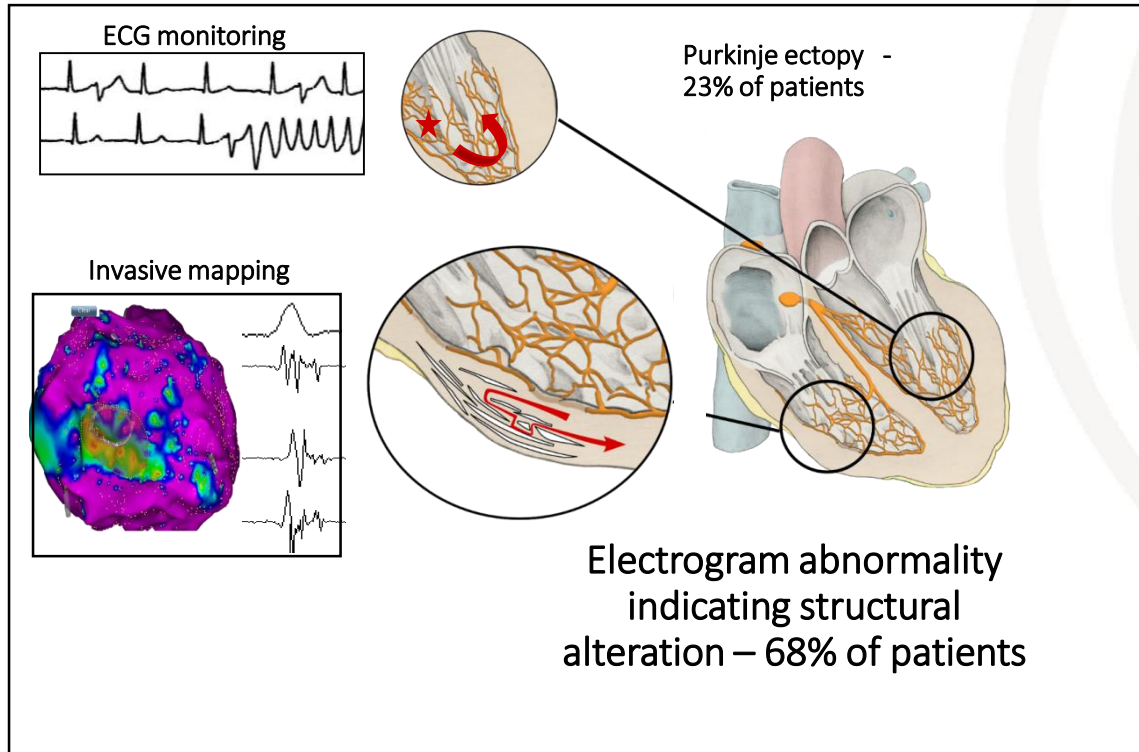
F 47ans



# Idiopathic VF with Inducible Purkinje reentry

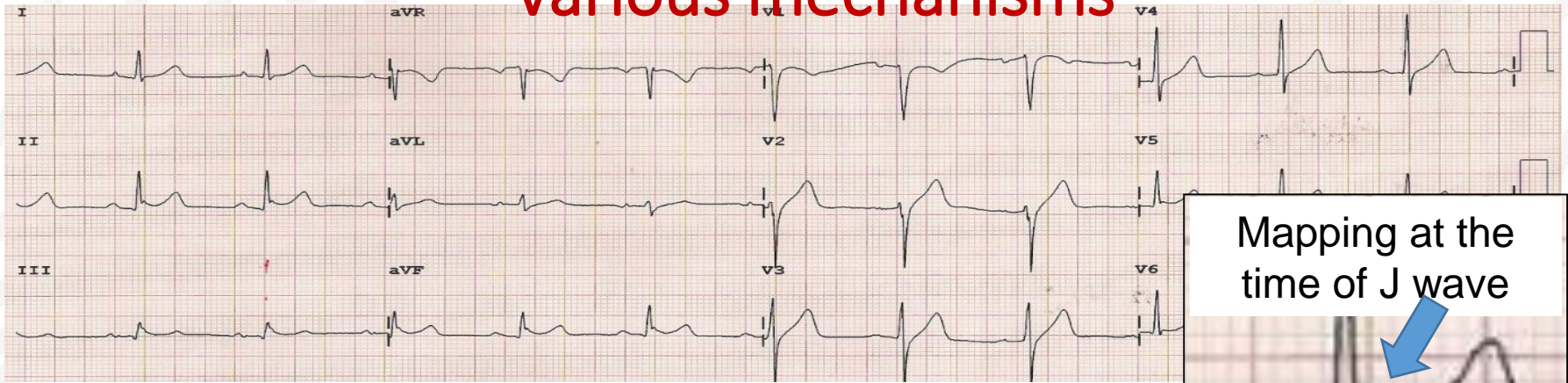


# Comprehensive mapping shows that ~ 90% of Idiopathic VF /Unexplained SCD have phenotype abnormalities explaining VF

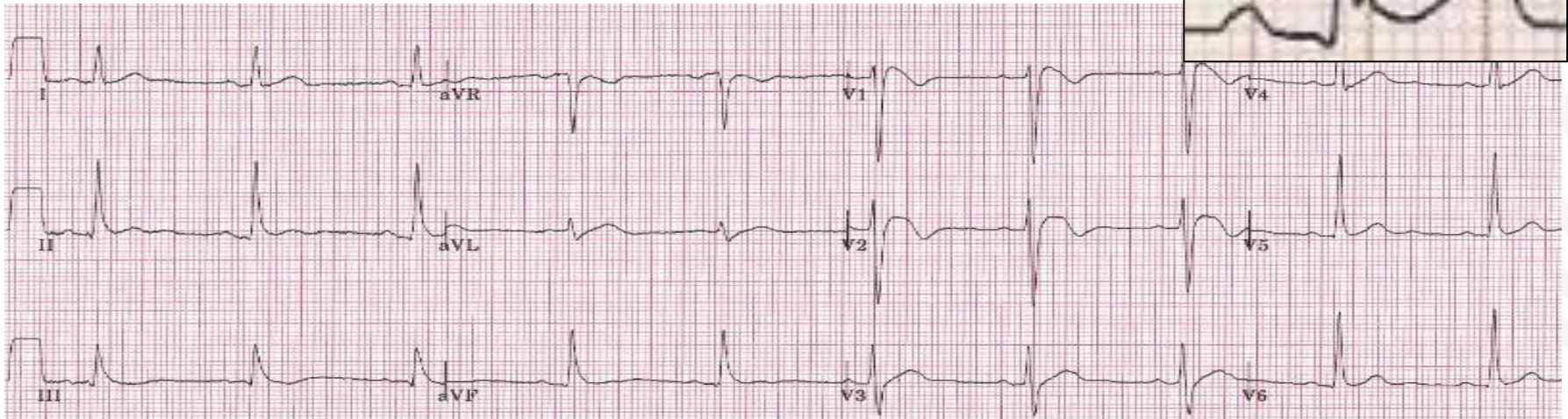




# Inferolateral J wave –Early Repolarization: Various mechanisms



Mapping at the  
time of J wave





# Differentiation of two distinct substrates underlying inferolateral J wave -

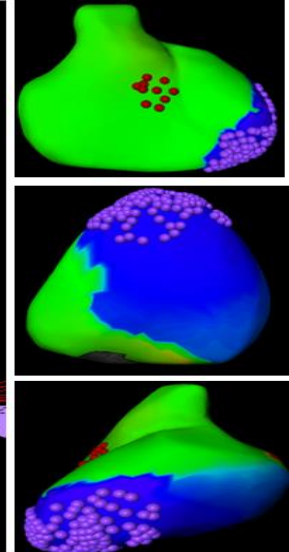
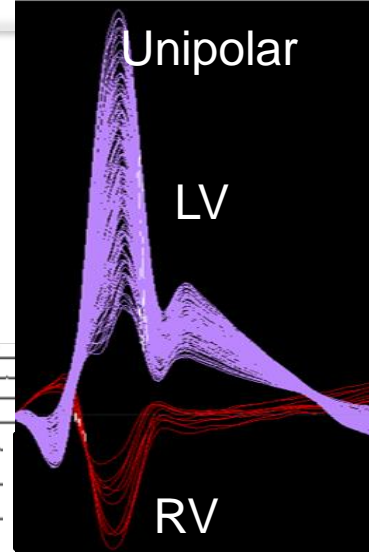
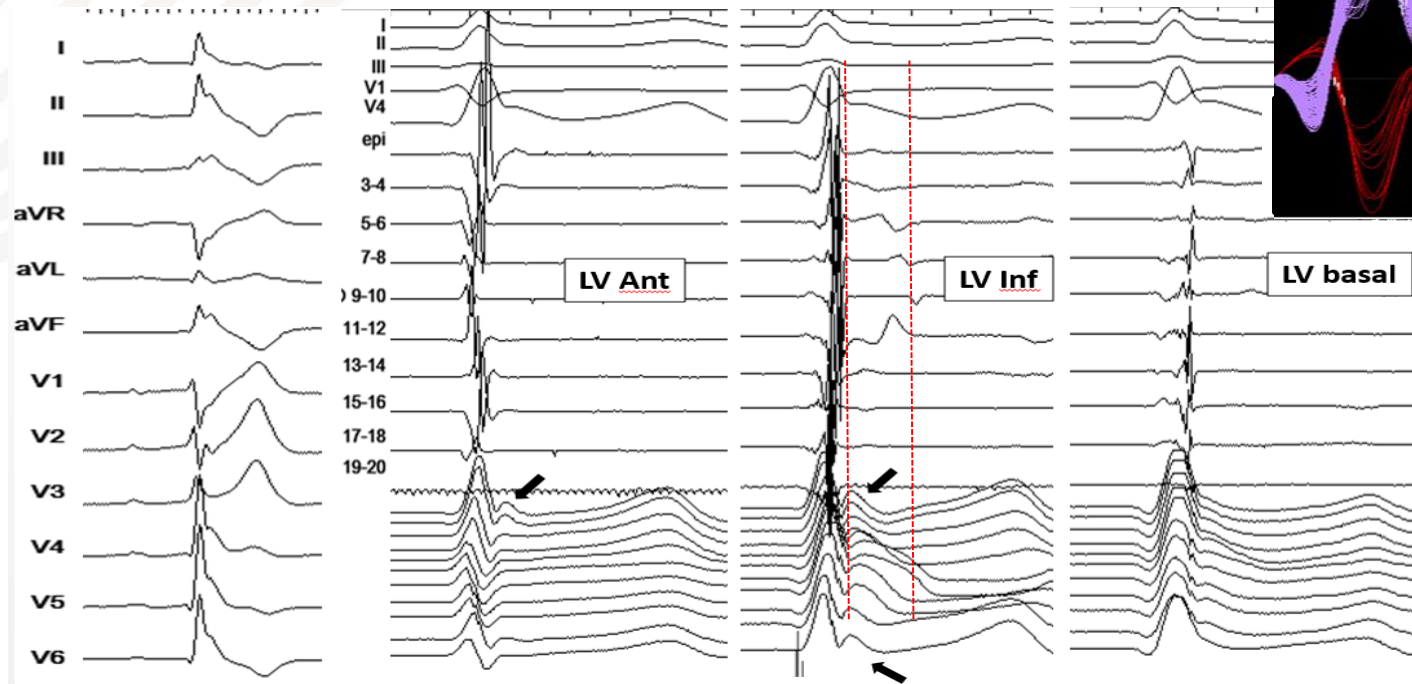
- J wave due to delayed depolarization
  - Delayed activation with localized fragmented (> 3 spikes) egms of prolonged duration (> 70ms)
  - Timing coincident with J wave on the ECG
  - Accentuation with INa blocker in some patients
- J wave due to true early repolarization :
  - Defined by the absence of delayed activation at the time of J wave
  - no direct proof/argument of repolarization abnormality (short MAPs ~ in 3 pts)
  - Attenuation with INa blocker

## Comparison of Group 1 versus Group 2 with Respect to Clinical and Electrophysiologic Characteristics

	Group 1: Late Depolarization. (n=40)	Group 2: J wave without late Depolarization. (n=11)	P value
Age	38.4 ± 13	29.3 ± 16	0.051
Female Gender	0 (0%)	4/11 (36%)	0.001
Presence of BrS ECG	33 (82.5%)	0 (0%)	<0.0001
Locations of J-Wave Elevation	26 inferior only (65%) 11 inferolateral (28%) 3 lateral only (7%)	2 inferior only (18%) 9 inferolateral (82%)	0.009
Family History	14 (35%)	4 (36%)	1.000
SCN5A Positive	4 of 21 (19%)	0 of 11 (0%)	0.272
VF Storms	21 (54%)	5 (41%)	0.679
VF Cycle Length (msec)	205 ± 20	147 ± 19	<0.0001
Location of Drivers	Right ventricle (100%) Inferior RV Epi (88%)	Inferior ventricular wall (100%): both interventricular groove and LV inferior wall	-----
#Treated with Quinidine/ # Response to Quinidine	14/0 (0%)	8/4 (50%)	<0.0001
# Treated with Ablation	36 (95%)	6 (55%)	0.015
Ablation Location	Predominantly epicardium of the RV	Left Purkinje system for VF triggers	
Ablation areas	20 ± 6 cm <sup>2</sup>	4 ± 0.7 cm <sup>2</sup>	<0.0001
Number of Ablation (Mean ± SD)	1.4 ± 0.65 (range 1-3; median 1)	1.2 ± 0.41 (range 1-2; median 1)	0.289
Complications of Ablation	1 hemopericardium	None	-----

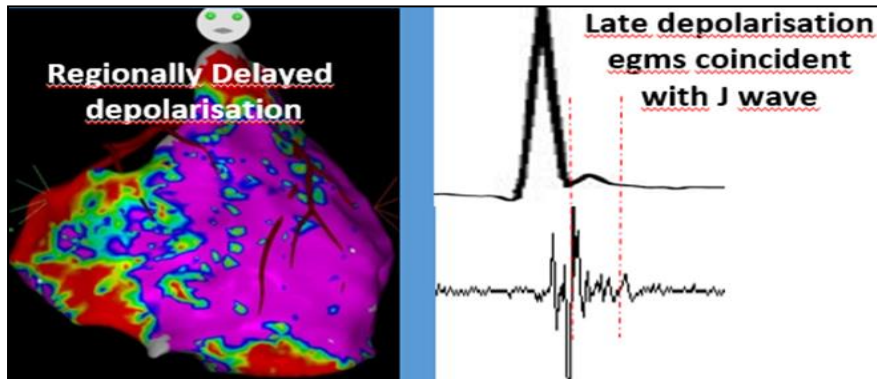
# M 23 yrs - J wave caused by early repolarization

12 lead ECG



Extent of Epicardial Early repolarisation potentials

# J-wave phenotype can be also caused by delayed activation - that can occur at any inferior region



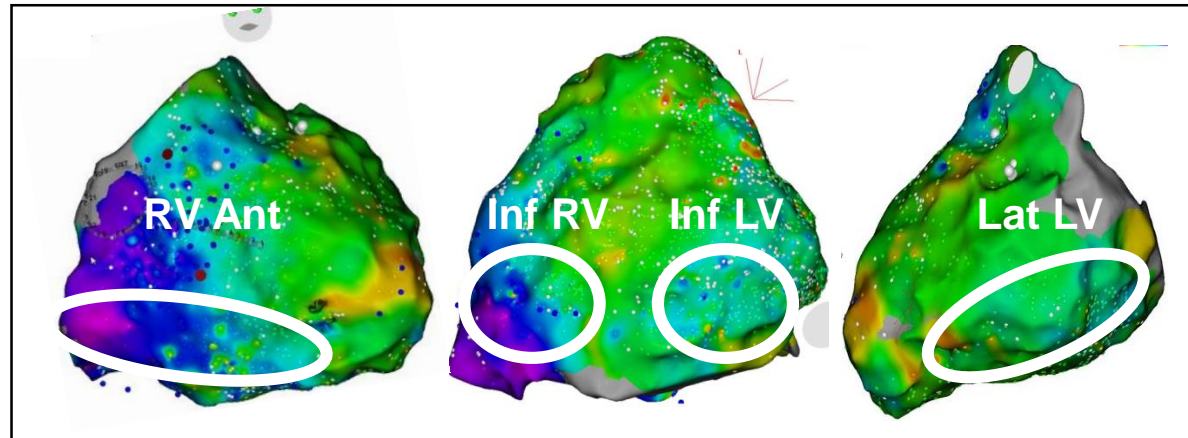
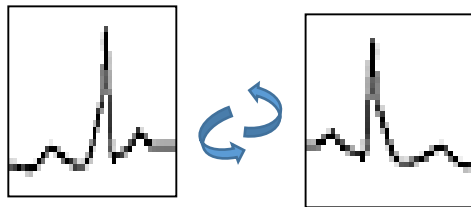
AREAS of TERMINAL ACTIVATION in SR

GREAT MAJORITY in EPICARDIAL AREAS

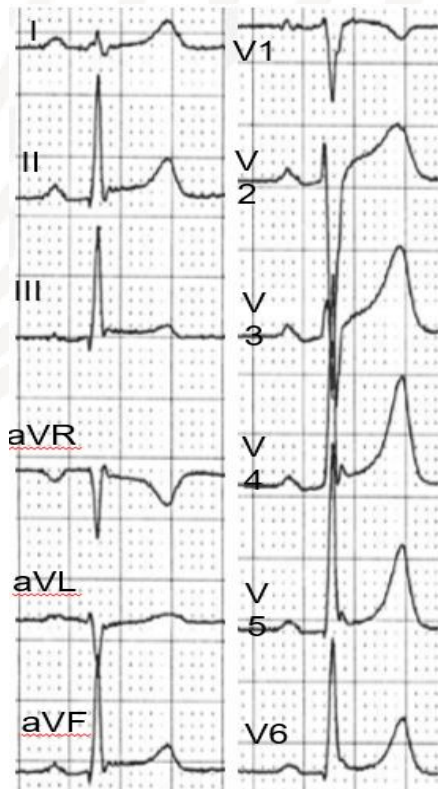
RV Anterior (lower half ) or RV inferior

LV Inferior or inferolateral

Like a 'reversed' delta wave

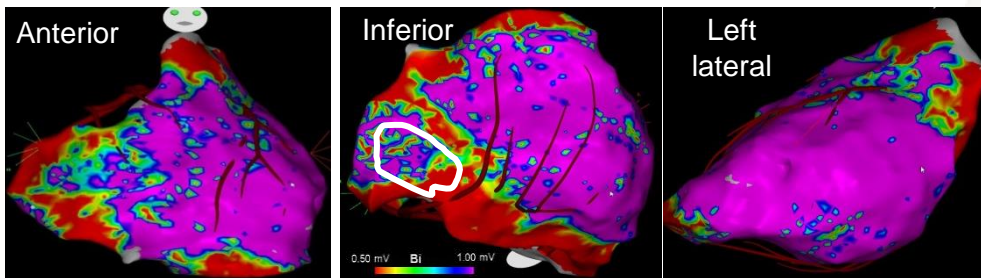


# M 19yrs- J wave caused by abnormal depolarisation

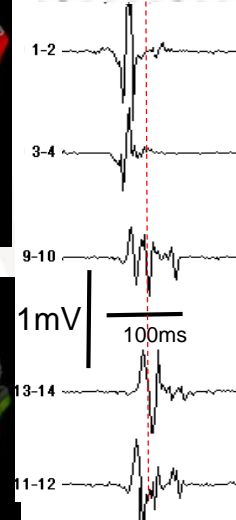
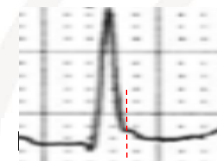


no Brugada pattern inducible by Ajmaline testing

Epicardial Voltage mapping



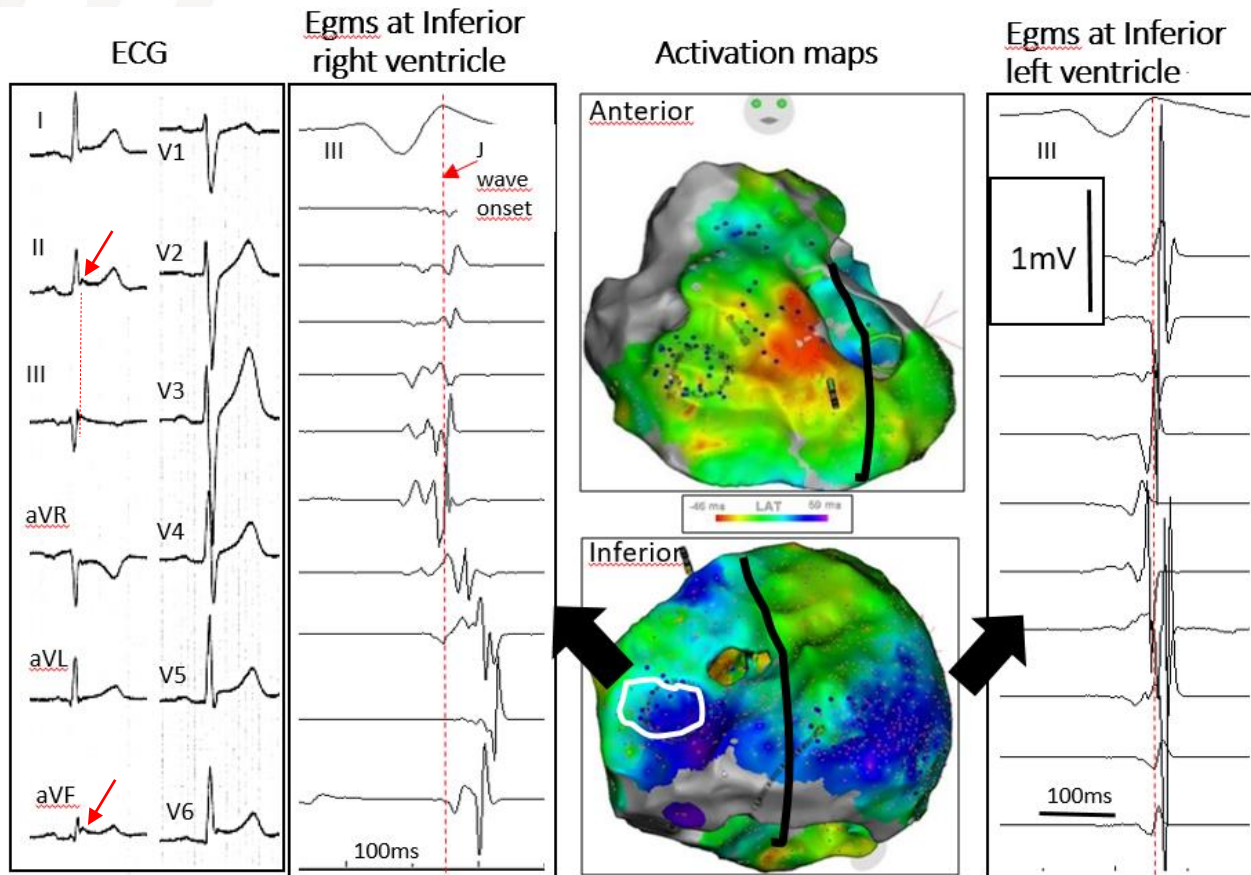
Epicardial Activation mapping



Prolonged depolarisation is here the primary abnormality – which can be associated with secondary repolarization disturbances (ST+)



# M 31yr- J-wave caused by abnormal delayed depolarisation (inf RV)



Terminology :

Early  
're polarization' is  
here inadequate

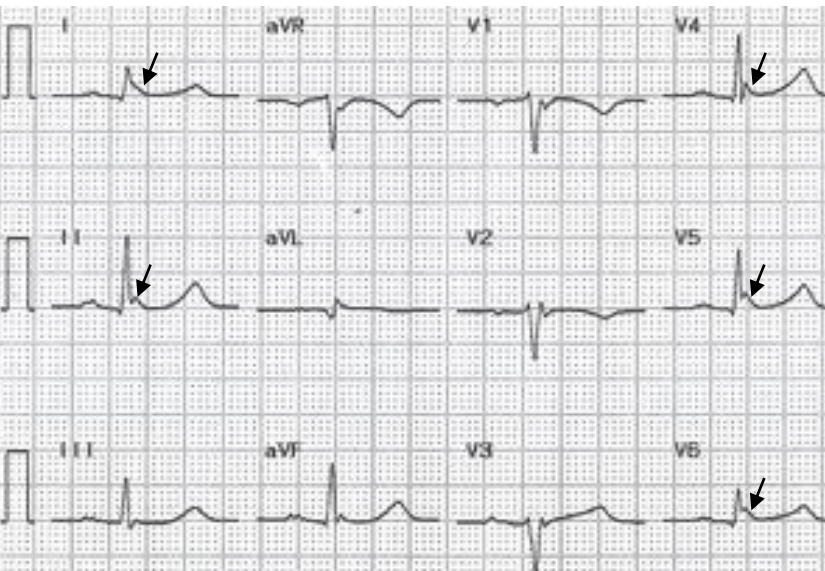
Bipolar  
Filters:  
30-250 Hz

No Brugada sign  
induced on Ajmaline

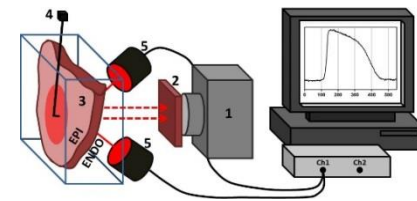
J wave – investigations of 4 *ex-vivo*  
human hearts confirms various  
mechanisms under the same phenotype



# Ex Vivo Human heart programme F 64 yrs: Delayed Activation of basal LV

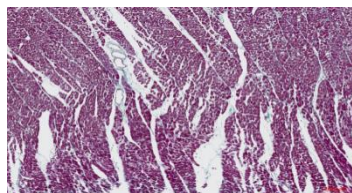
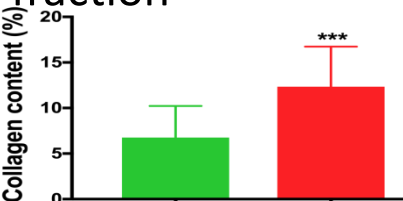


LV Optical mapping

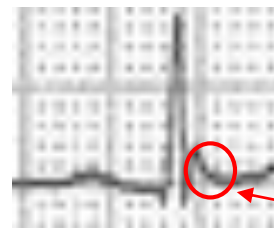


MRI 9.4 T & Histology :  
increased extracellular collagen

fraction

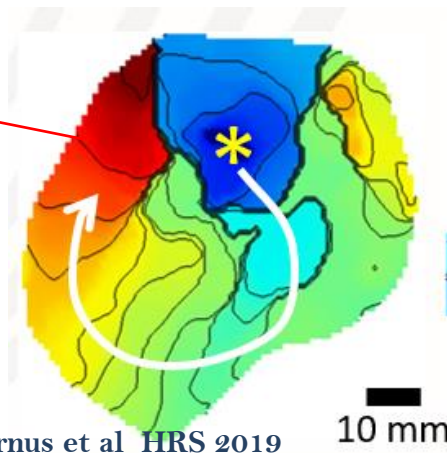


A wide spectrum of substrates underlie J-Wave Syndromes O Bernus et al HRS 2019



Prolonged conduction in the LV  
with the latest region coinciding  
in time with the J wave

LV activation time

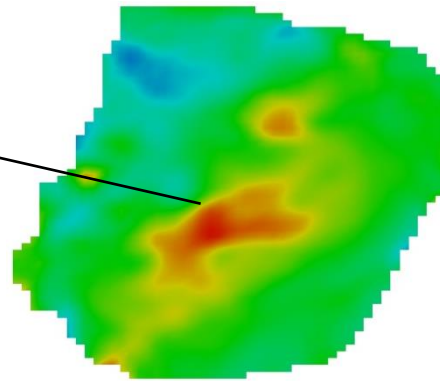
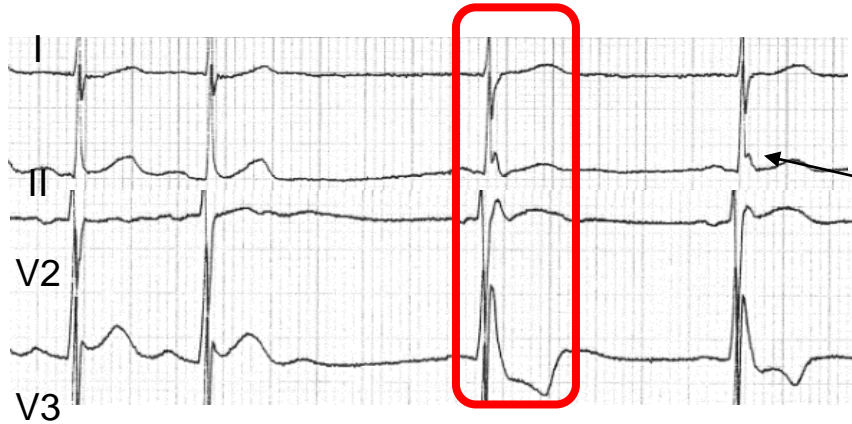


10 mm

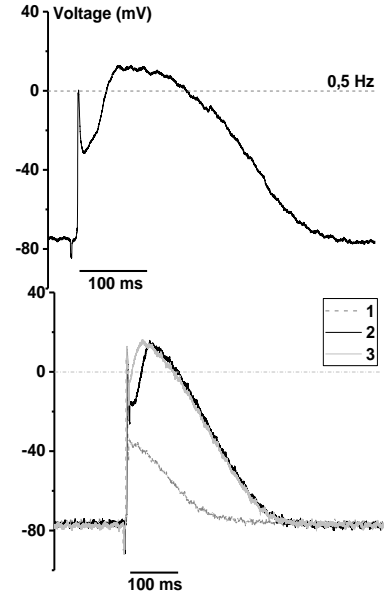
# J wave – investigations of 4 *ex-vivo* human hearts confirms various mechanisms under the same phenotype

No depolarization abnormality – Early repolarization LV endocardial

2 siblings 15 & 10 yrs Died after VF storm or heart transplantation



Early repolarization

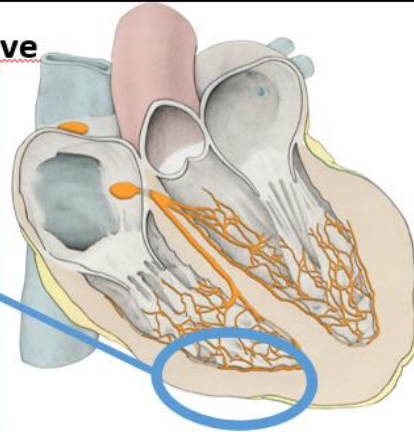
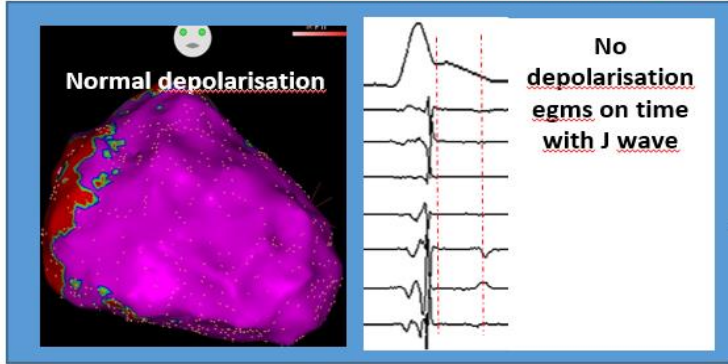


Microelectrode Endo-LV

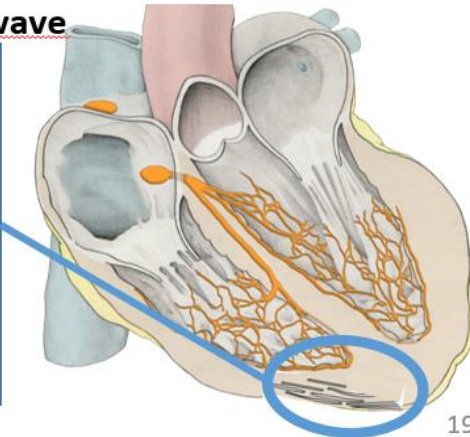
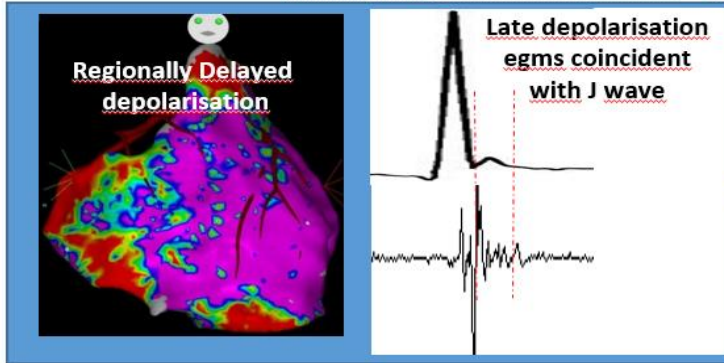
Optical action potentials or microelectrodes shows repolarization disparities and pronounced upstroke notch after pause in specific regions.

# A spectrum of Substrates underlie J-wave syndromes in Man

## Early repolarization J-wave



## Delayed depolarization J-wave



## REPOLARIZATION GRADIENT

EPICARDIUM (Yan-Antzelevitch)  
ENDOCARDIUM (Bernus)

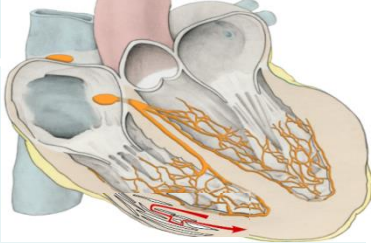
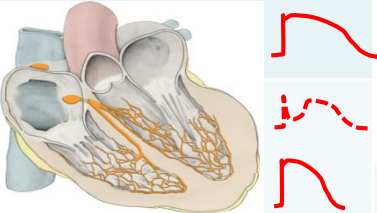
## DELAYED ACTIVATION

RV or LV EPICARDIUM  
ENDO-EPICARDIUM

Role of PURKINJE topology  
(Boineau-Coronel)

IMPLICATIONS FOR GENETIC INTERPRETATION, THERAPY, AND RISK STRATIFICATION

# SIMPLIFIED CLASSIFICATION OF VF WITHOUT APPARENT SHD

Main arrhythmogenic mechanism	Sudden Cardiac Death with no apparent SHD	Schematic
<i>Conduction Abnormality</i>	Brugada Inferolateral J wave IVF with localized conduction abnormality	
<i>Repolarization Abnormality</i>	Long QT Early Repolarization J wave Short QT	
<i>Abnormal Excitation</i>	IVF from Purkinje-myocardial sources Catecholaminergic Polymorphic VT Accidental : Commotio cordis, electrocution, drugs ...	