

TIGULLIO 2024 ARITMOLOGIA

16-17 Aprile Sestri Levante (GE)

II Congresso
Nazionale di

Presidente del Congresso

Guido Parodi, Lavagna

Comitato Scientifico

Paolo Donateo, Lavagna (*Responsabile Scientifico*)

Roberto Maggi, Lavagna

Sede Congressuale

Hotel Vis a Vis ****
Sestri Levante



L'imaging integrato nell'ablazione di
fibrillazione atriale

Giulio Zucchelli, MD, PhD, FESC



Perché l'imaging nell'ablazione di FA

- Miglioramento del workflow
- Individuazione dei target
- Riduzione dei rischi





Perché l'imaging nell'ablazione di FA

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- Individuazione dei target
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Imaging... old school

- Anatomia (numero, decorso) vene polmonari
- Auricola sinistra (trombosi?)
- Setto interatriale
- Altri reperti (vena cava sup sx, coronarie, etc.)





Journal of Interventional Cardiac Electrophysiology (2021) 60:477–484
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10840-020-00764-4>



Role of pre-procedural CT imaging on catheter ablation in patients with atrial fibrillation: procedural outcomes and radiological exposure

Andrea Di Cori¹ · Giulio Zucchelli¹ · Lorenzo Faggioni² · Luca Segreti¹ · Raffaele De Lucia¹ · Valentina Barletta¹ · Stefano Viani¹ · Luca Paperini¹ · Matteo Parollo¹ · Ezio Soldati¹ · Davide Caramella² · Maria Grazia Bongiorni¹



Procedural Data

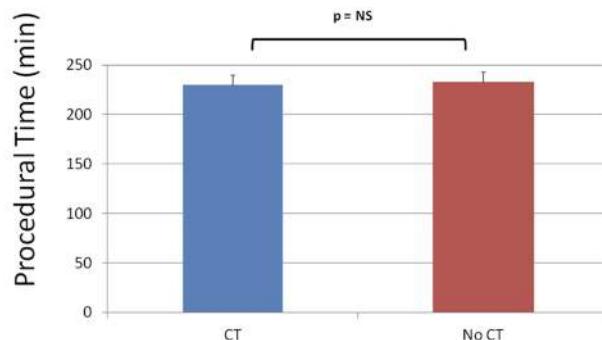


Fig. 2 Comparison of total procedural time among patients with and without CT imaging

Radiation Dose

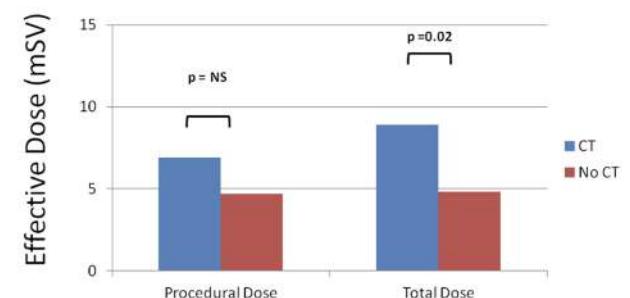
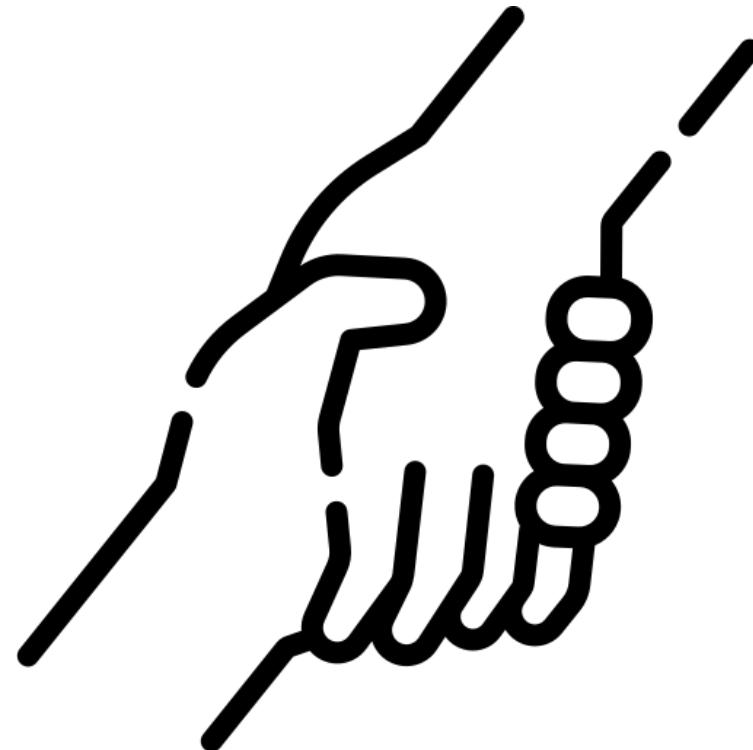


Fig. 4 Comparison of procedural and total (CT plus procedural) effective dose among patients with and without CT imaging



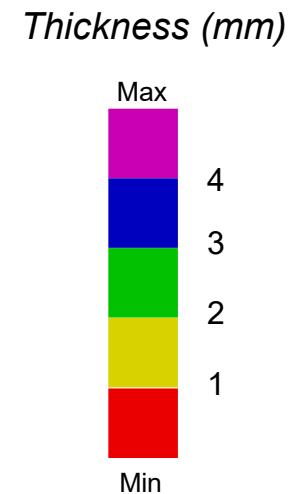
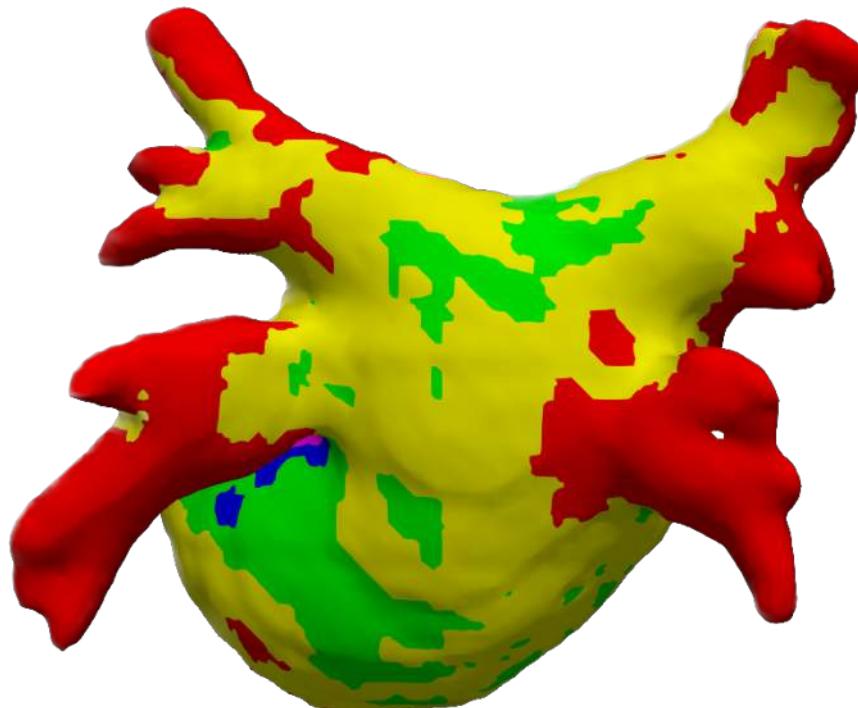
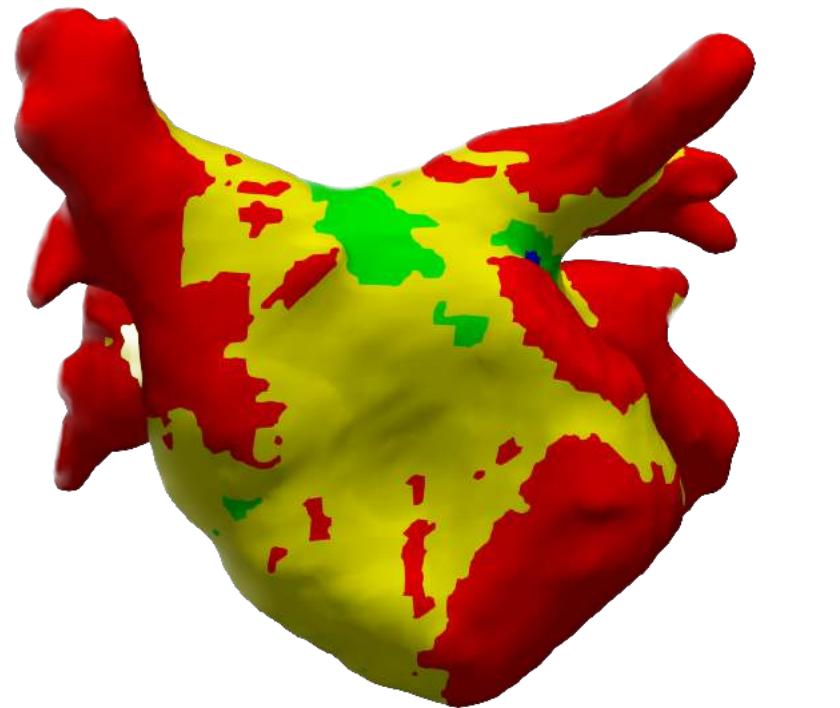
Come la TC può *davvero* aiutare

- Evitare l'overshooting
- E l'undershooting
- Rimanendo efficaci
- Nella massima sicurezza





LA Wall Thickness Map





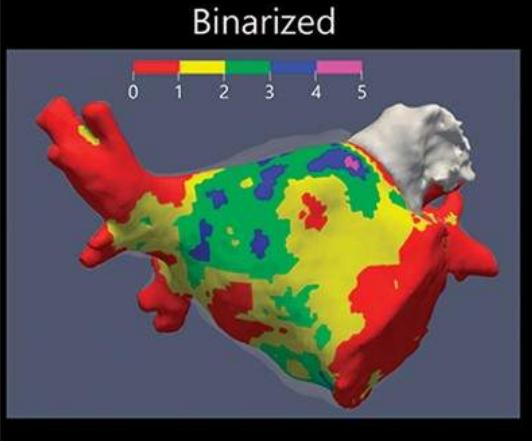
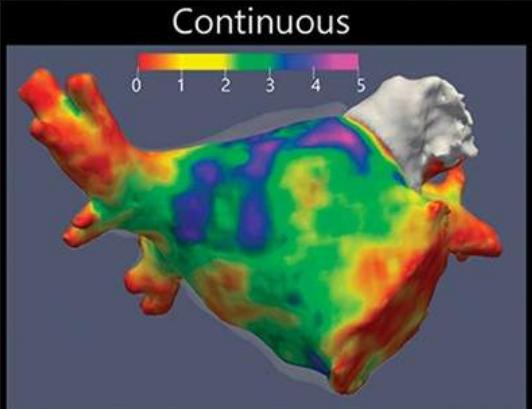
Ablate-by-LAW Protocol

I) Image processing

MDCT Segmentation
endo/epi

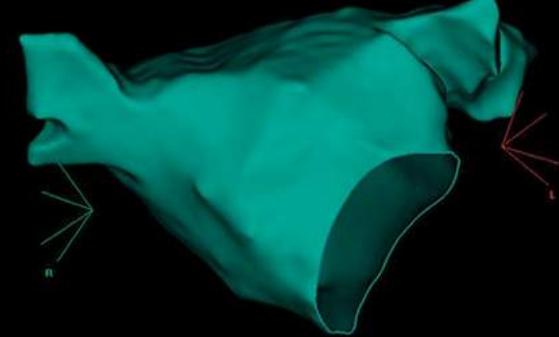


II) LAWT 3D map

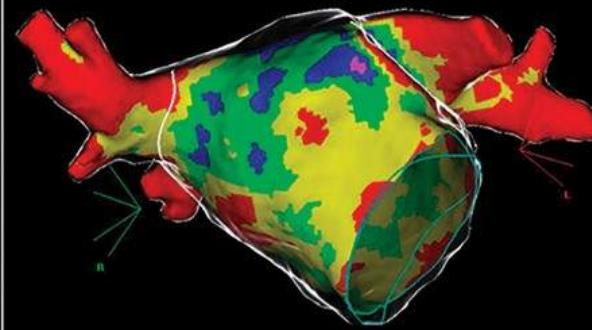


III) Integration

FAM

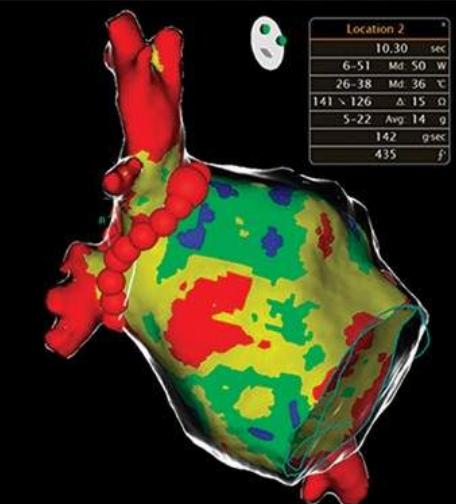


LAWT 3D map

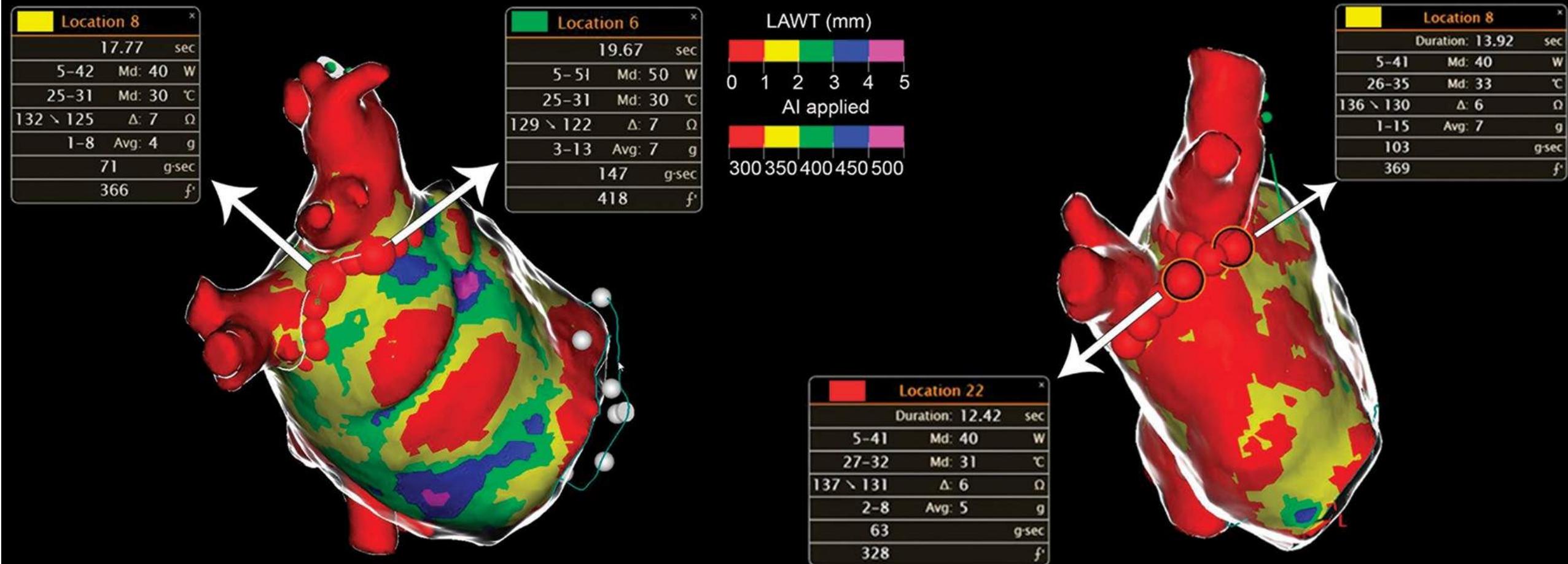


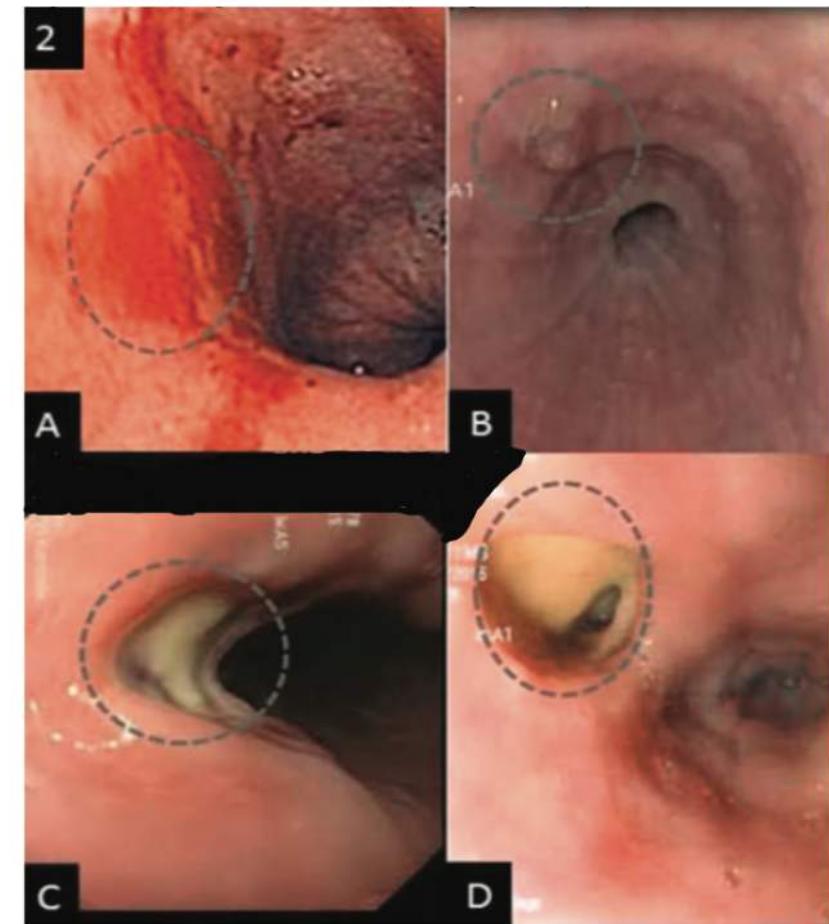
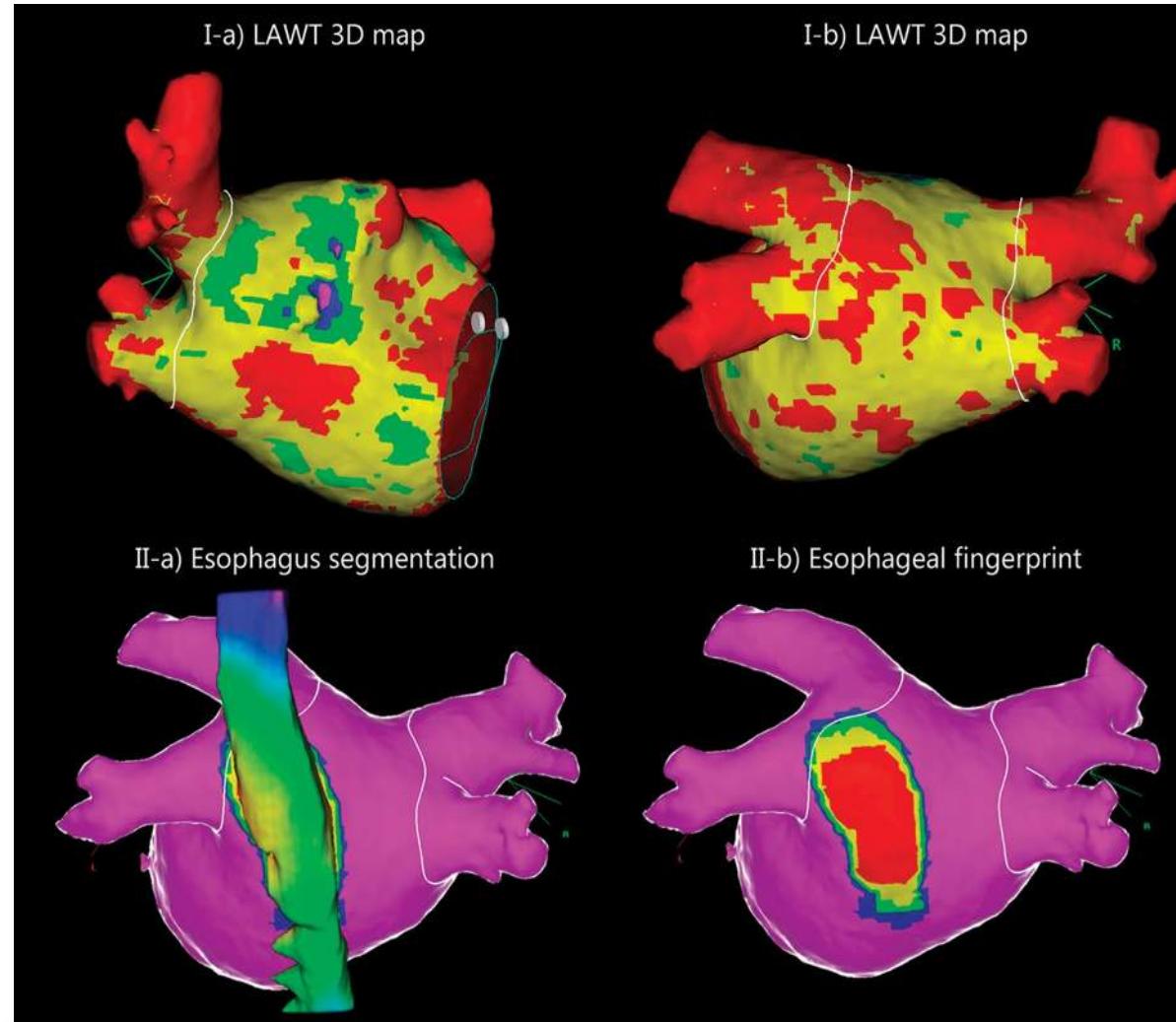
IV) Ablation

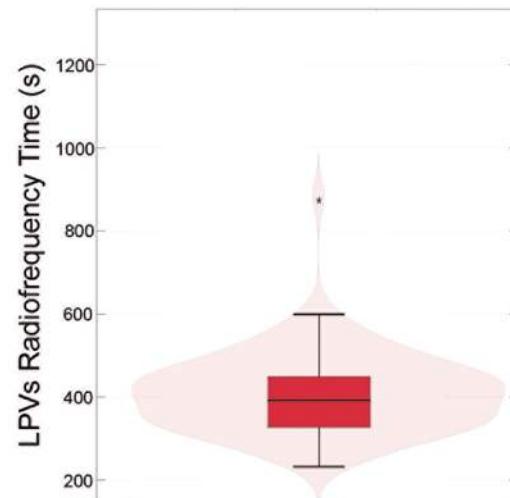
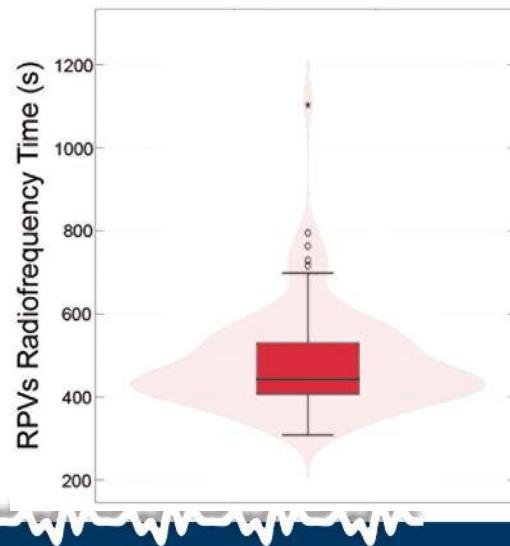
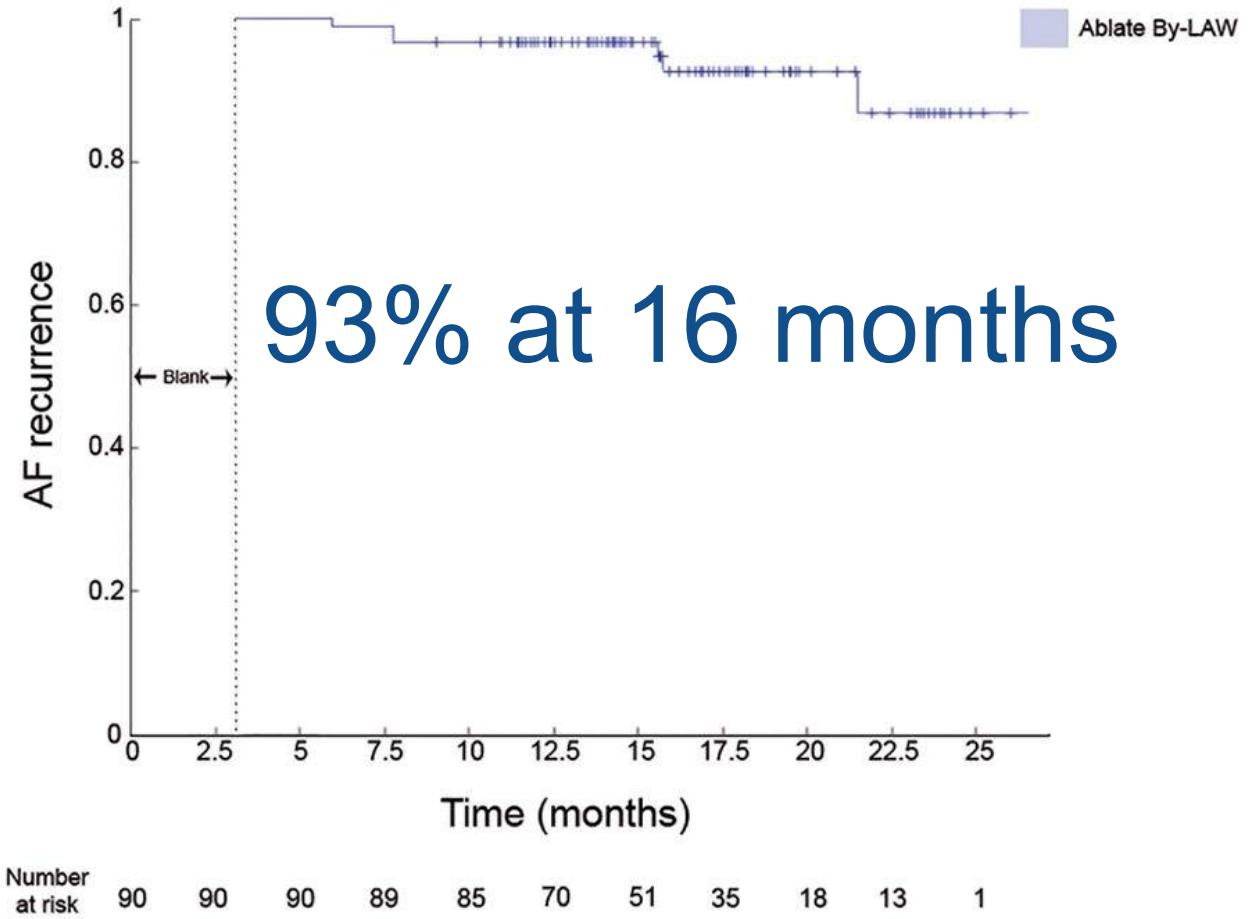
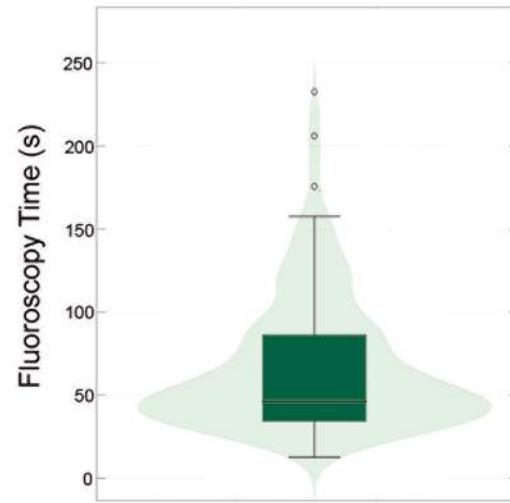
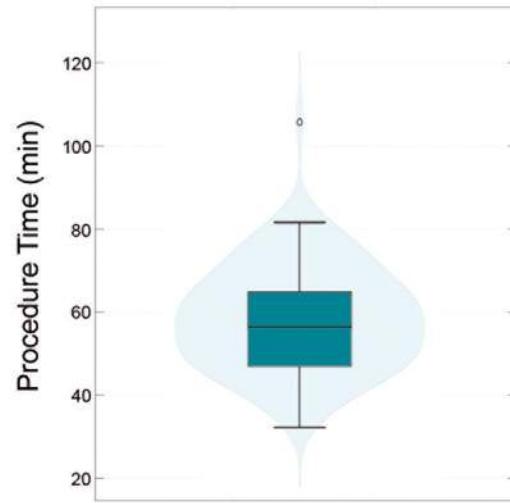
| Location | Value |
|-----------|-----------|
| 10.30 | sec |
| 6-51 | Md. 50 W |
| 26-38 | Md. 36 YL |
| 141 x 126 | Δ: 15 Δ |
| 5-22 | Avg: 14 g |
| 142 | g/sec |
| 435 | f |



| LAWT (mm) | Power | AI |
|-----------|-------|----|
| <1 | 35 | 40 |
| 1-2 | 35 | 40 |
| 2-3 | 35 | 50 |
| 3-4 | 35 | 50 |
| >4 | 35 | 50 |



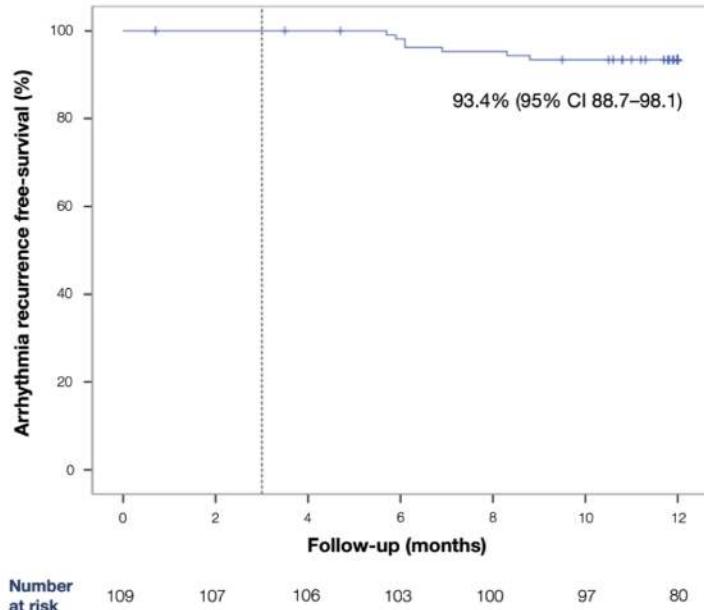




The multicenter Ablate-by-LAW study: Personalized paroxysmal atrial fibrillation ablation according to the local left atrial wall thickness

José Alderete¹, Diego Penela¹, Giulio Falasconi¹, David Soto-Iglesias¹, Lorenzo Mazzocchetti², Etel Silva³, Beatriz Jáuregui¹, Saman Nazarian⁴, Philipp Sommer⁵, Giulio Zucchelli², Juan Fernández-Armenta³, Antonio Berrezo¹.

Results



| | Single-centre Ablate-By LAW n= 90 | Multicenter Ablate-By-LAW n=109 |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Procedure time skin-to-skin (min) | 59 (49–66) | 61.7 (48.4 – 83.8) |
| Fluoroscopy time (min) | 0.75 (0.5–1.4) | 1 (0.4 – 3.3) |
| Total RF time (min) | 14 (12.5–16) | 13.9 (12.3 – 16.8) |
| Mean follow-up (months) | 16 ± 4 | 13.4 ± 4.7 |
| 12-month AT/AF/AFL free-survival | 93.3% | 93.4% |
| Serious acute procedure- related complications, n (%) | 0 (0%) | 1 (0.9%)* |

*femoral artery
pseudoaneurism

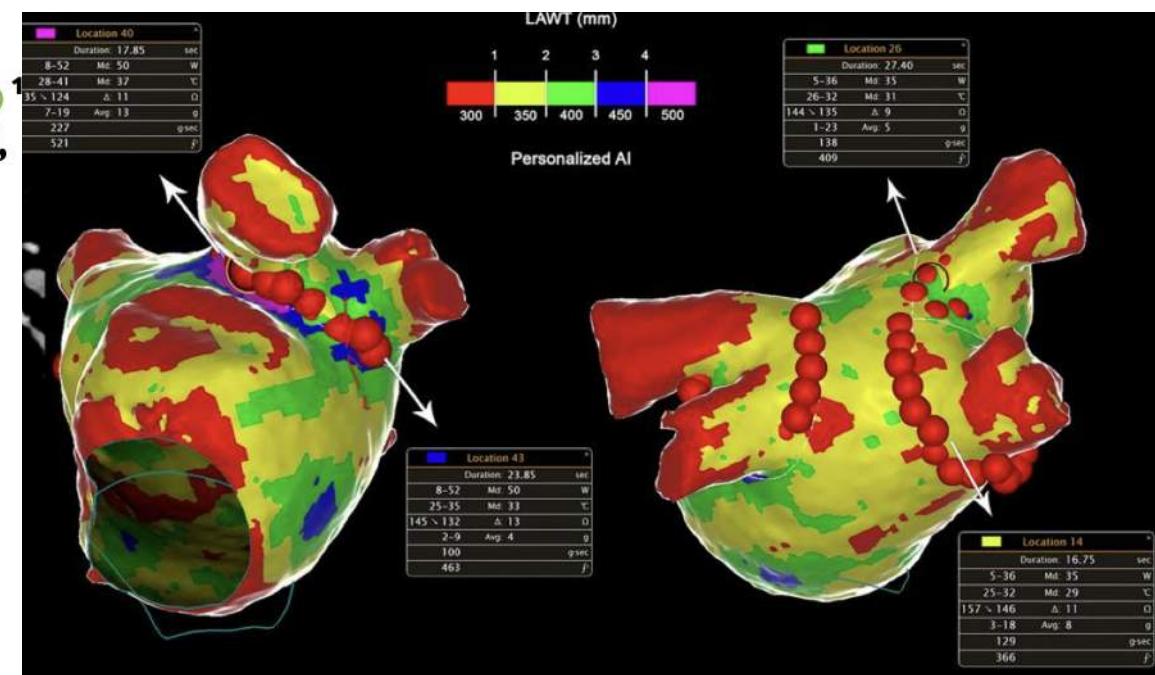


Europace (2023) 25, 1–15
European Society of Cardiology <https://doi.org/10.1093/europace/euad118>

CLINICAL RESEARCH

Personalized pulmonary vein antrum isolation guided by left atrial wall thickness for persistent atrial fibrillation

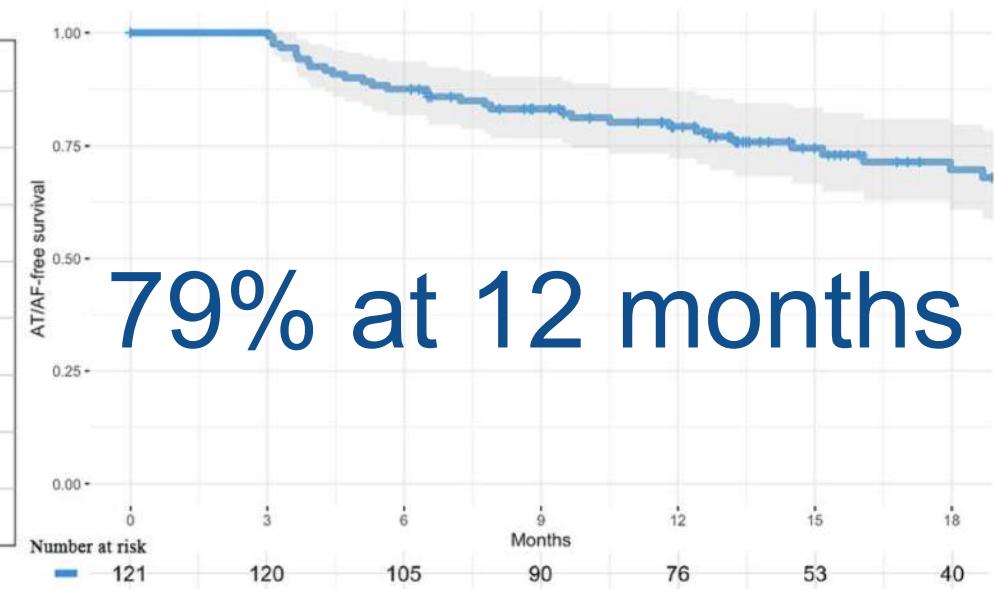
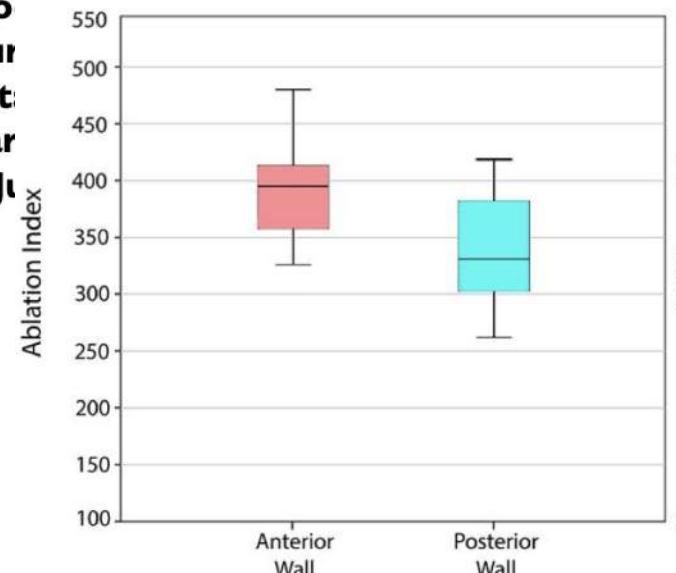
Giulio Falasconi ^{ID 1,2†}, Diego Penela ^{1†}, David Soto-Iglesias ^{ID 1}, Pietro Francia ^{ID 1}, Cheryl Teres ¹, Andrea Saglietto ^{ID 1,4}, Beatriz Jauregui ^{ID 1}, Daniel Viveros ^{ID 1,2}, Aldo Bellido ¹, Jose Alderete ^{ID 1,2}, Julia Meca-Santamaria ¹, Paula Franco ^{ID 1}, Carlo Gaspardone ¹, Rodolfo San Antonio ^{ID 1}, Marina Huguet ^{ID 1}, Óscar Cámara ^{ID 5}, José-Tomás Ortiz-Pérez ^{ID 1}, Julio Martí-Almor ^{ID 1}, and Antonio Berrueto ^{ID 1*}





Personalized pulmonary vein antrum isolation guided by left atrial wall thickness for persistent atrial fibrillation

Giulio Falasconi ^{1,2†}, Diego Penela^{1†}, David Soto Cheryl Teres¹, Andrea Saglietto ^{1,4}, Beatriz Jaur Aldo Bellido¹, Jose Alderete ^{1,2}, Julia Meca-Sant Carlo Gaspardone¹, Rodolfo San Antonio ¹, Mar Óscar Cámara ⁵, José-Tomás Ortiz-Pérez ¹, Juan and Antonio Berrueto ^{1*}



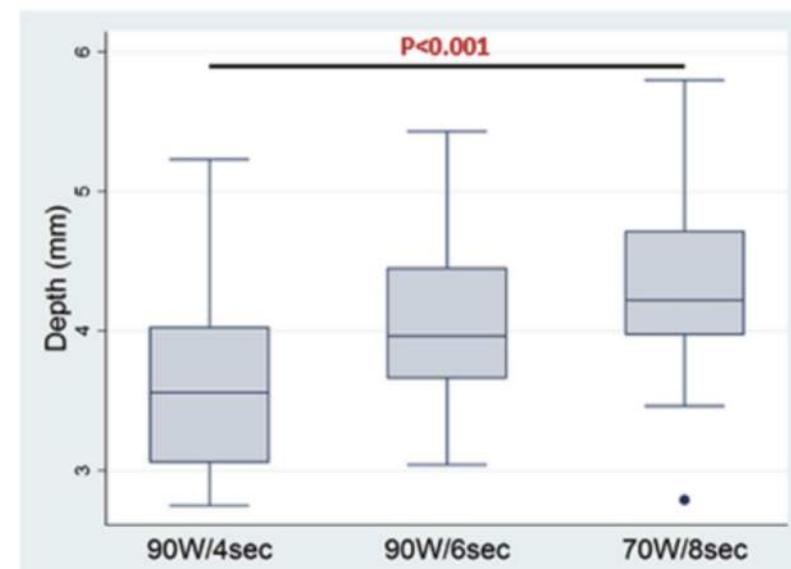
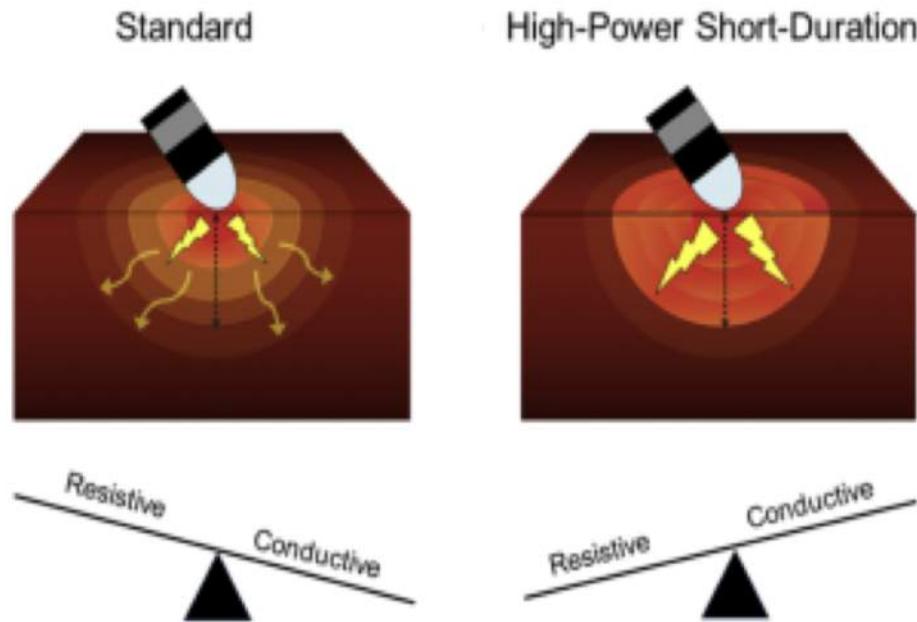
Personalized Pulmonary Vein Isolation with Very High-Power Short-Duration Lesions guided by Left Atrial Wall Thickness: the QDOT-by-LAWT Randomized Trial

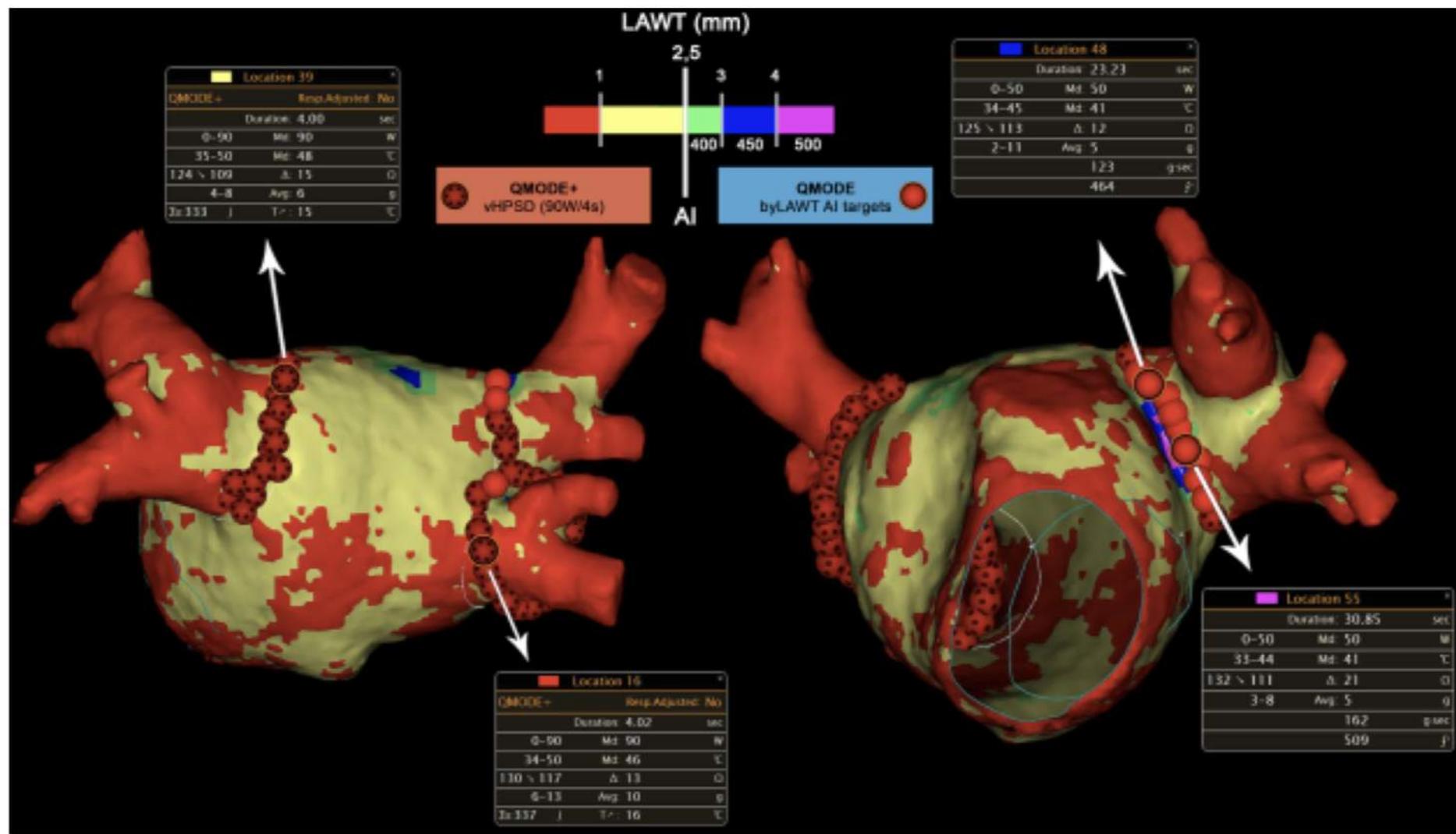
Clinical Trials: NCT04298177
IIS Biosense Webster

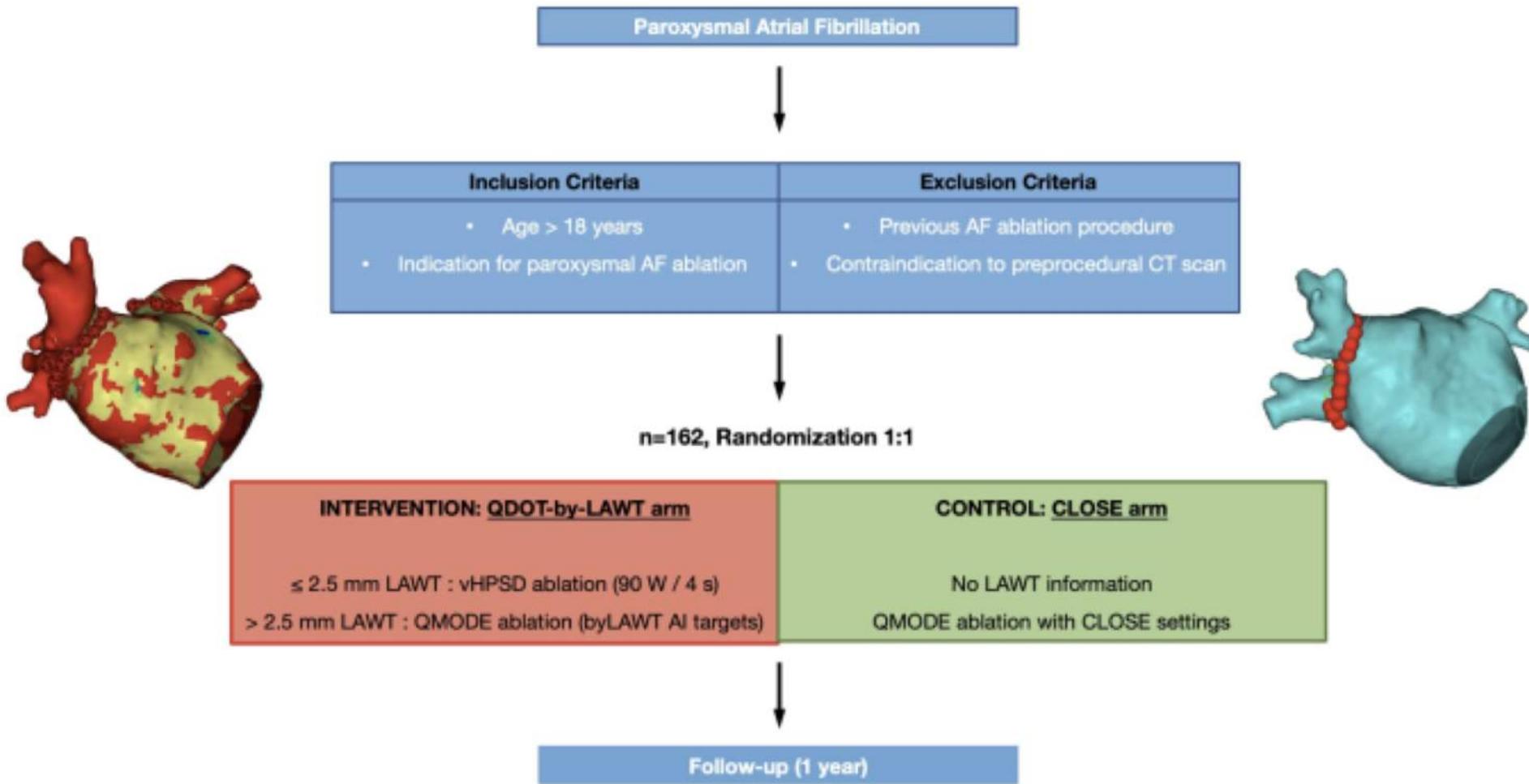
G. Falasconi^{1,2}, D. Penela^{1,2}, D. Soto-Iglesias¹, D. Turturiello¹, P. Francia¹, A. Saglietto¹, A. Bellido¹,
J. Alderete¹, D. Viveros¹, P. Franco-Ocaña¹, F. Zaraket¹, O. Camara¹, J.T. Ortiz-Pérez¹, J. Martí-Almor¹, A. Berruezo¹

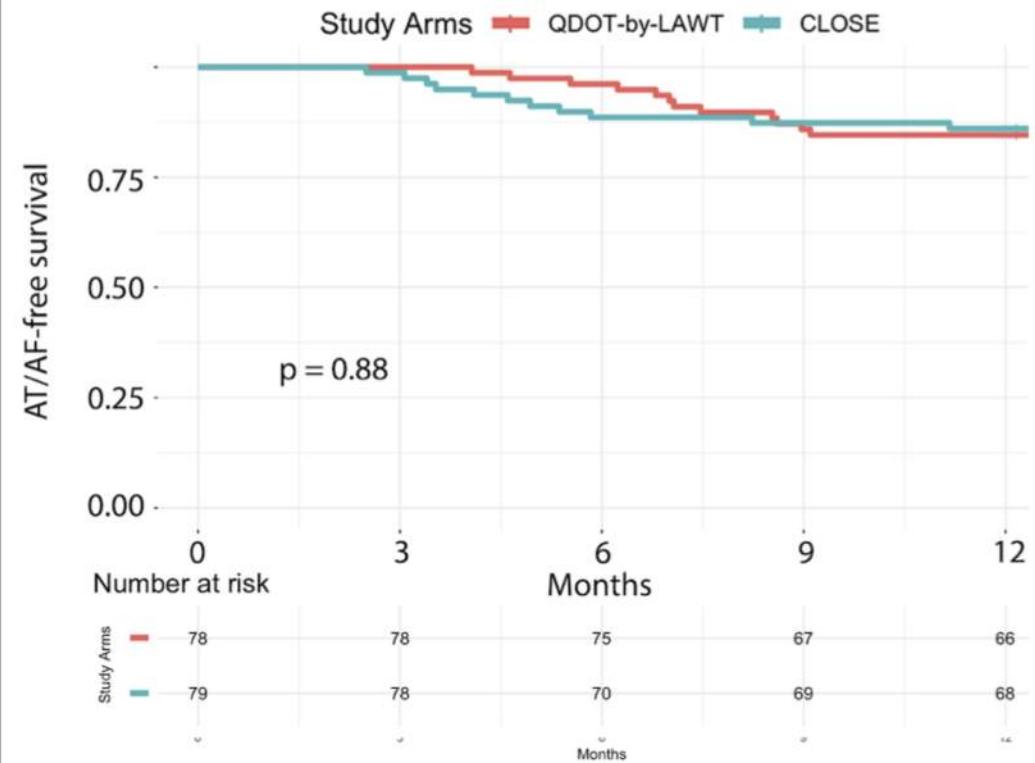
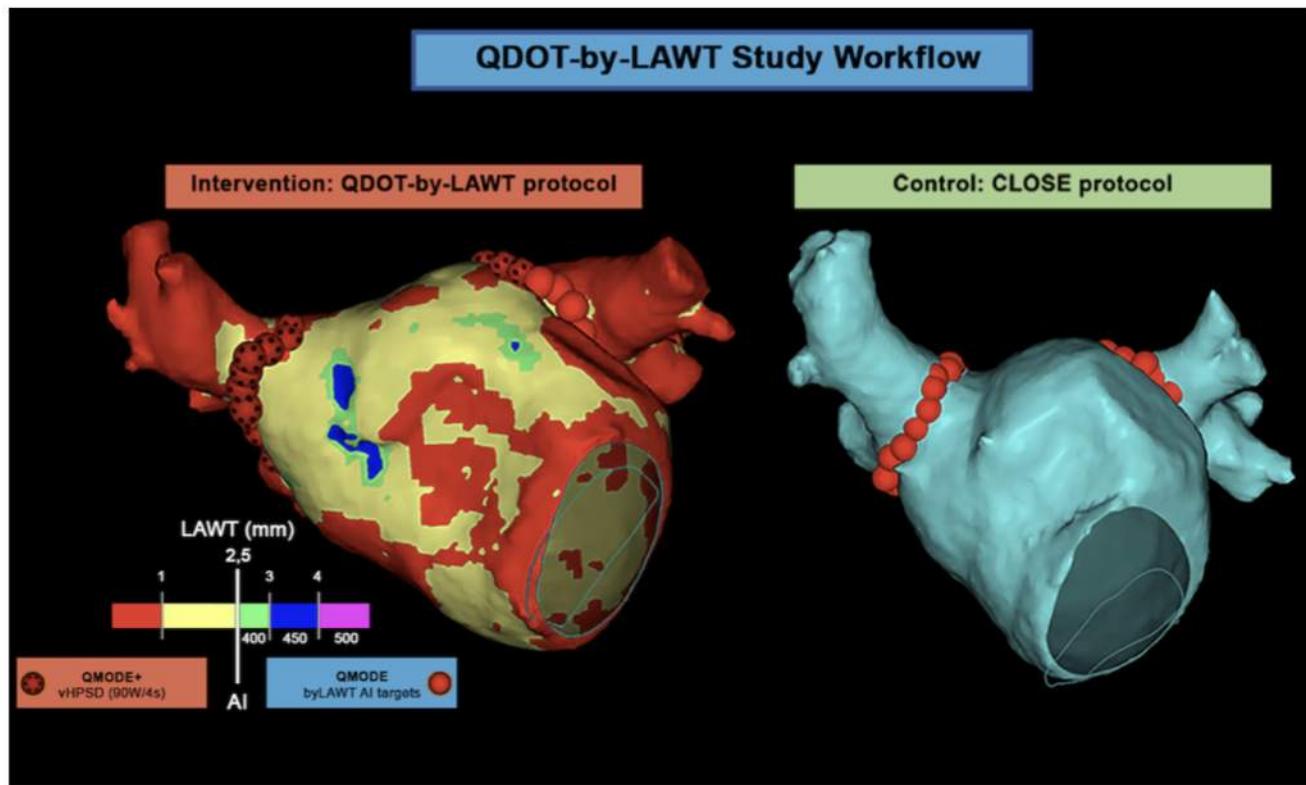
¹ Heart Institute, Teknon Medical Center, Barcelona, Spain

² Arrhythmia Department, IRCCS Humanitas Research Hospital, Milan, Italy







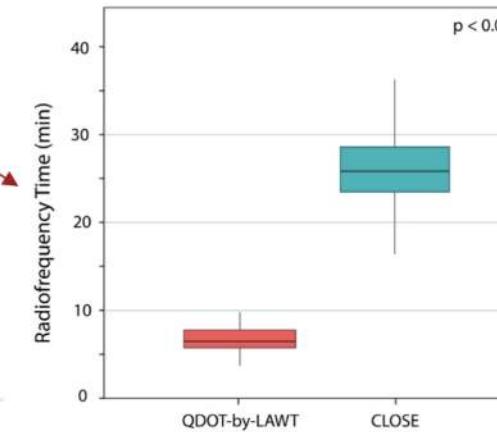
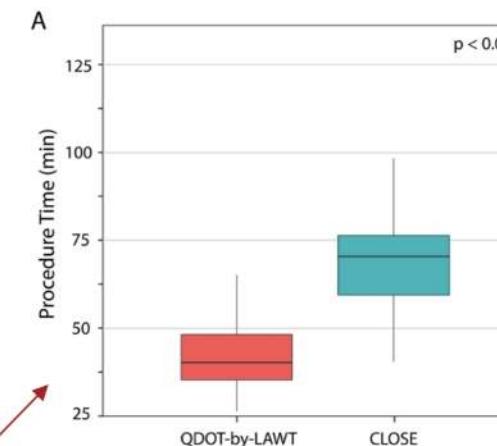


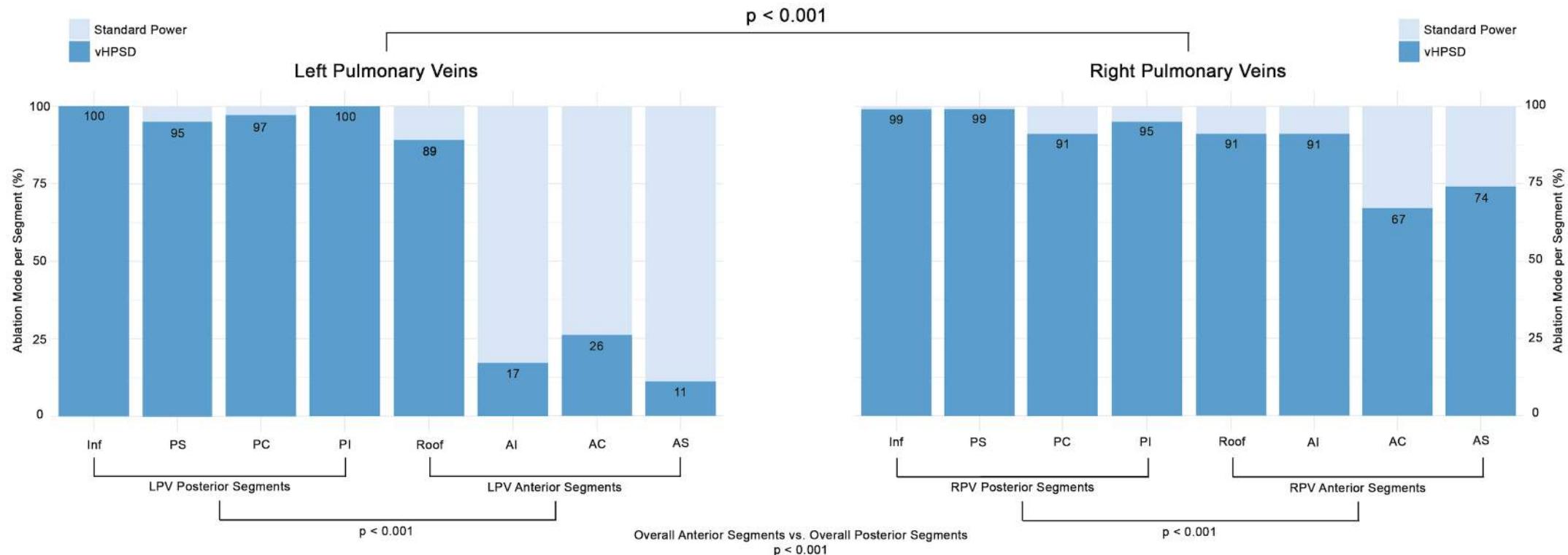
Results

LAWT-guided personalized PVI ablation proved greater efficiency compared to CLOSE protocol approach

| | QDOT-by-LAWT (N=81) | CLOSE (N=81) | Total patients (N=162) | p value |
|---|------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Ventilation rate (breaths/min) | 50.0 ± 3.9 | 49.7 ± 4.4 | 49.8 ± 4.1 | 0.78 |
| Tidal Volume (ml) | 237.2 ± 46.0 | 237.9 ± 38.2 | 237.6 ± 42.0 | 0.84 |
| Procedure time skin-to-skin (min) | 40.0 (35.0-48.0) | 70.0 (60.0-76.0) | 54.5 (40.0-70.0) | <0.001 |
| Fluoroscopy time (s) | 59 (39-94) | 74 (57-134) | 65.0 (48.0-114.0) | 0.01 |
| Fluoroscopy Dose (mGy) | 3.7 (2.0-5.7) | 4.7 (3.1-8.4) | 4.1 (2.3-6.8) | 0.02 |
| Dose Area Product (Gy*cm ²) | 1.0 (0.6 - 1.6) | 1.4 (0.9 - 2.3) | 1.2 (0.7 - 2.0) | 0.01 |
| Total RF time (min) | 6.6 (5.9-7.9) | 25.7 (23.2-28.5) | 9.7 (6.6-25.6) | <0.001 |

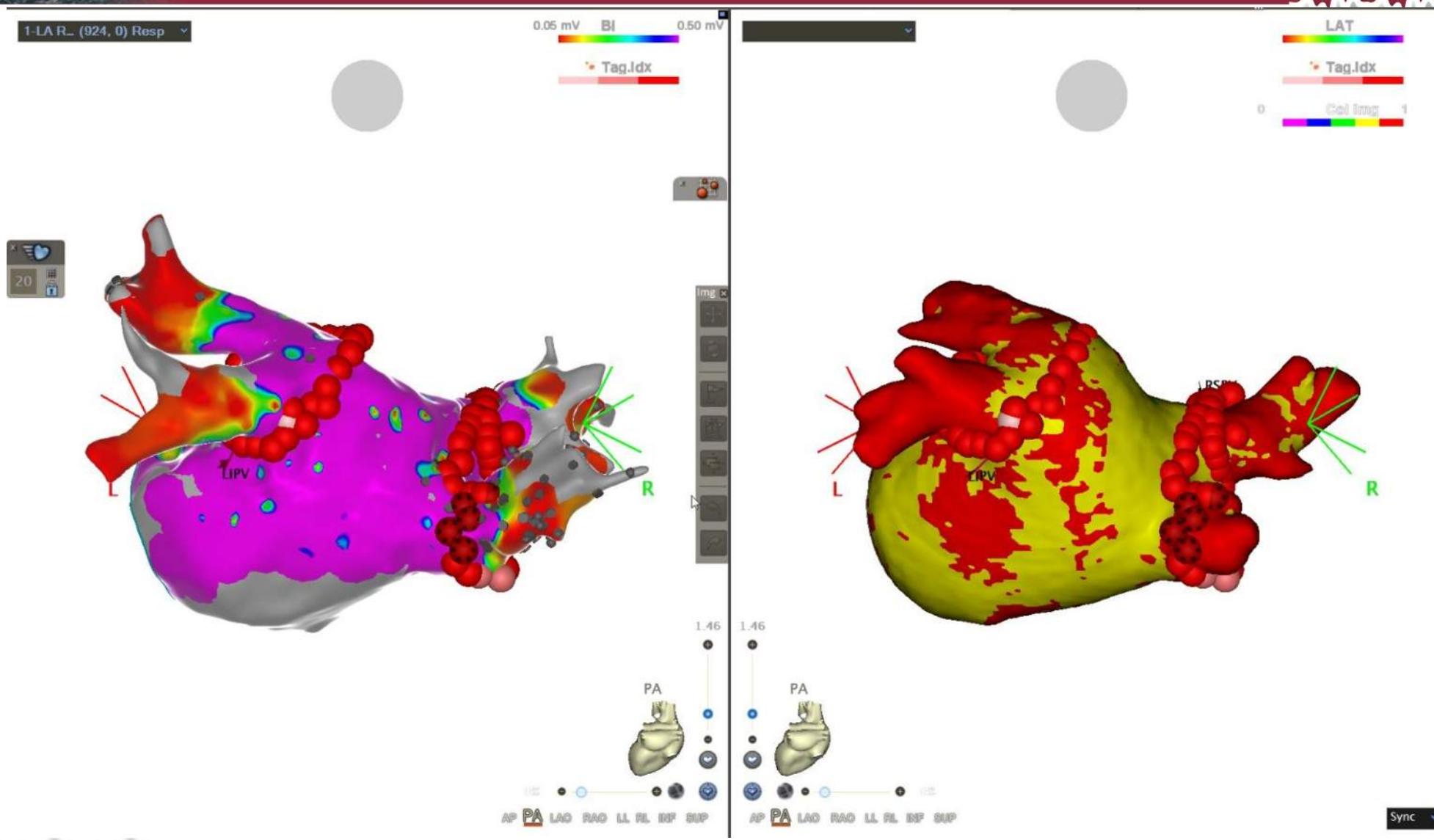
No significant differences were observed in first-pass isolation rate between the two groups
for both LPVs (91.4% vs. 91.4%, p=0.99) and RPVs (92.6% vs. 93.8%, p=0.99)

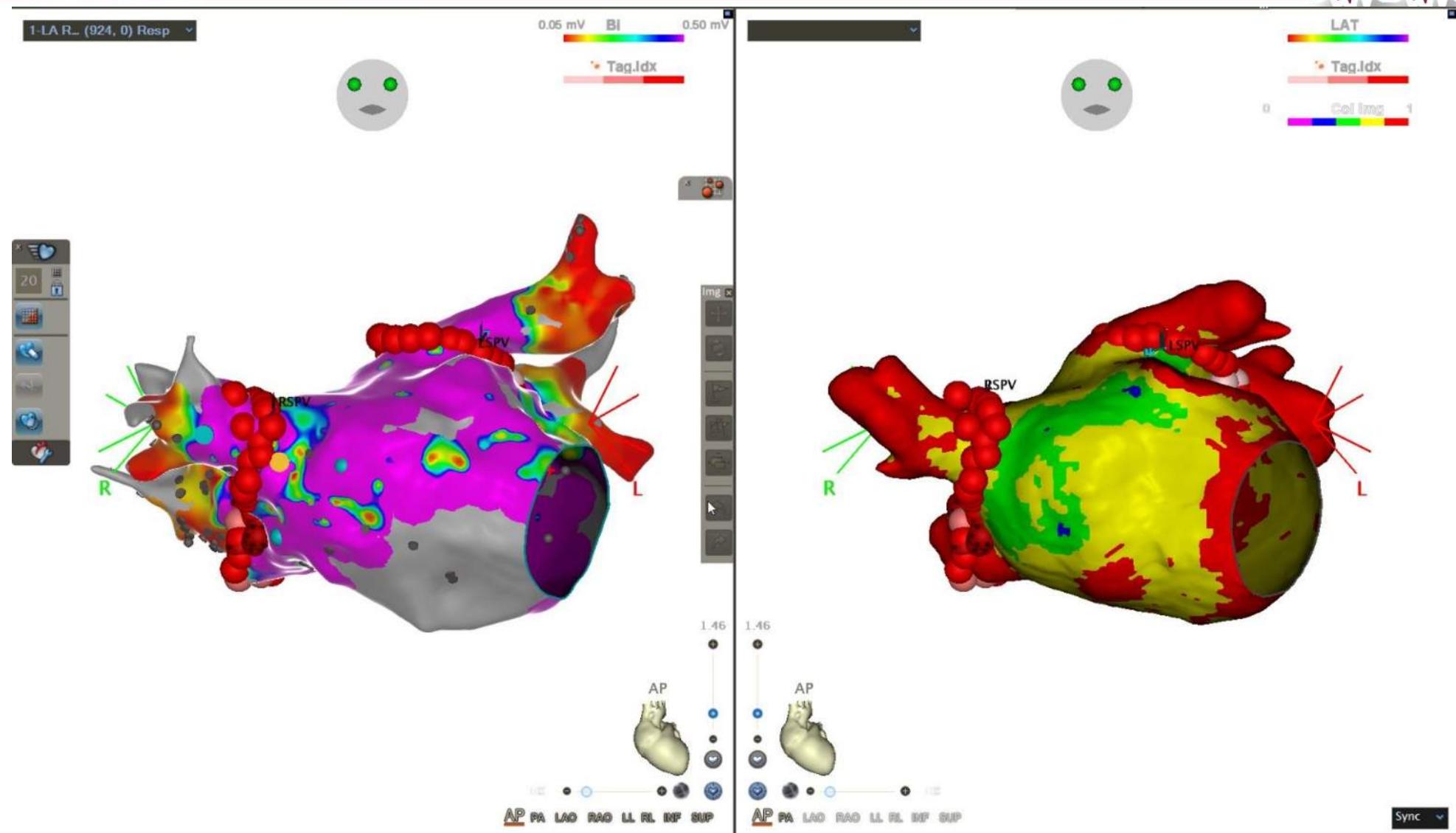


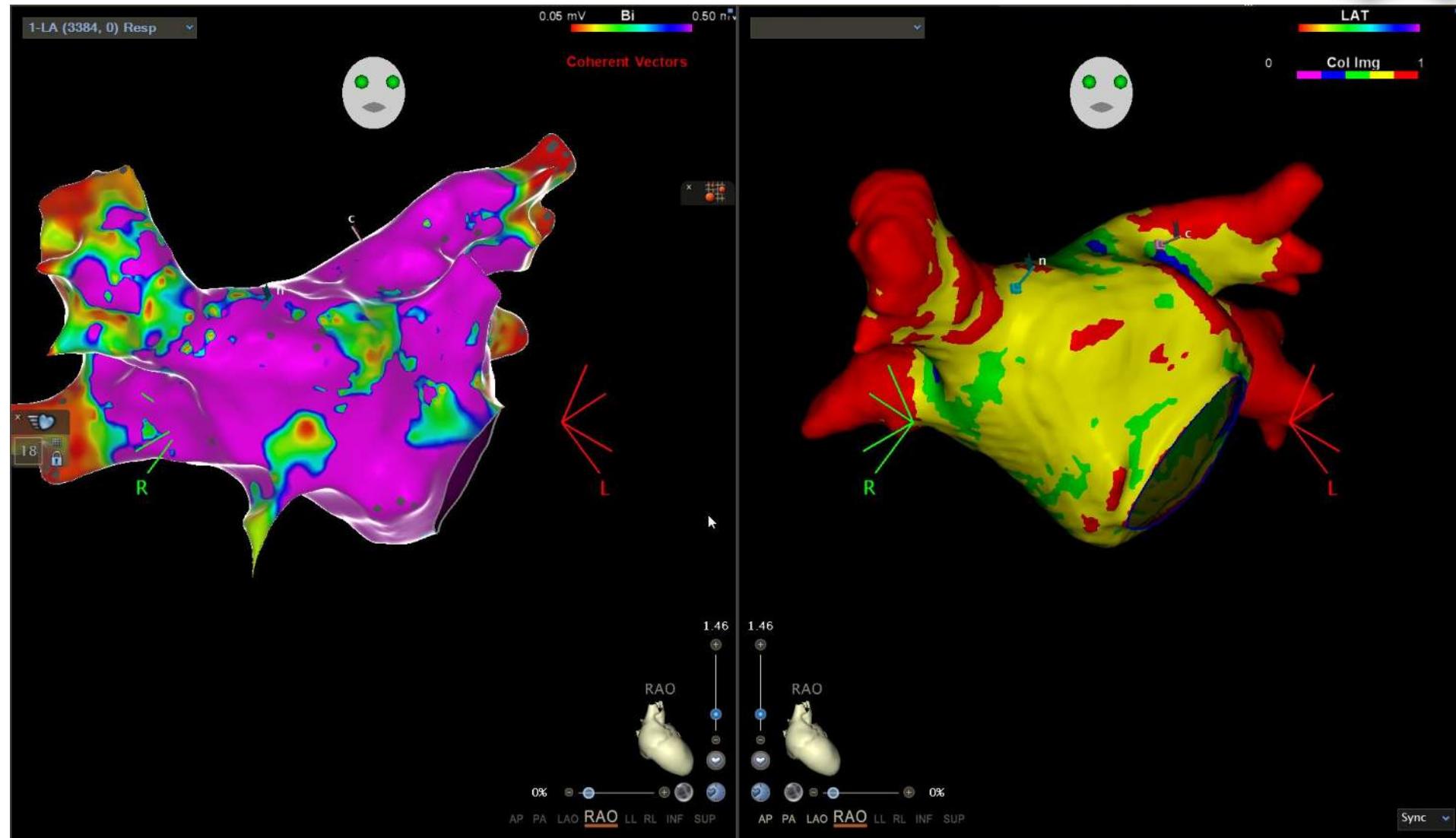


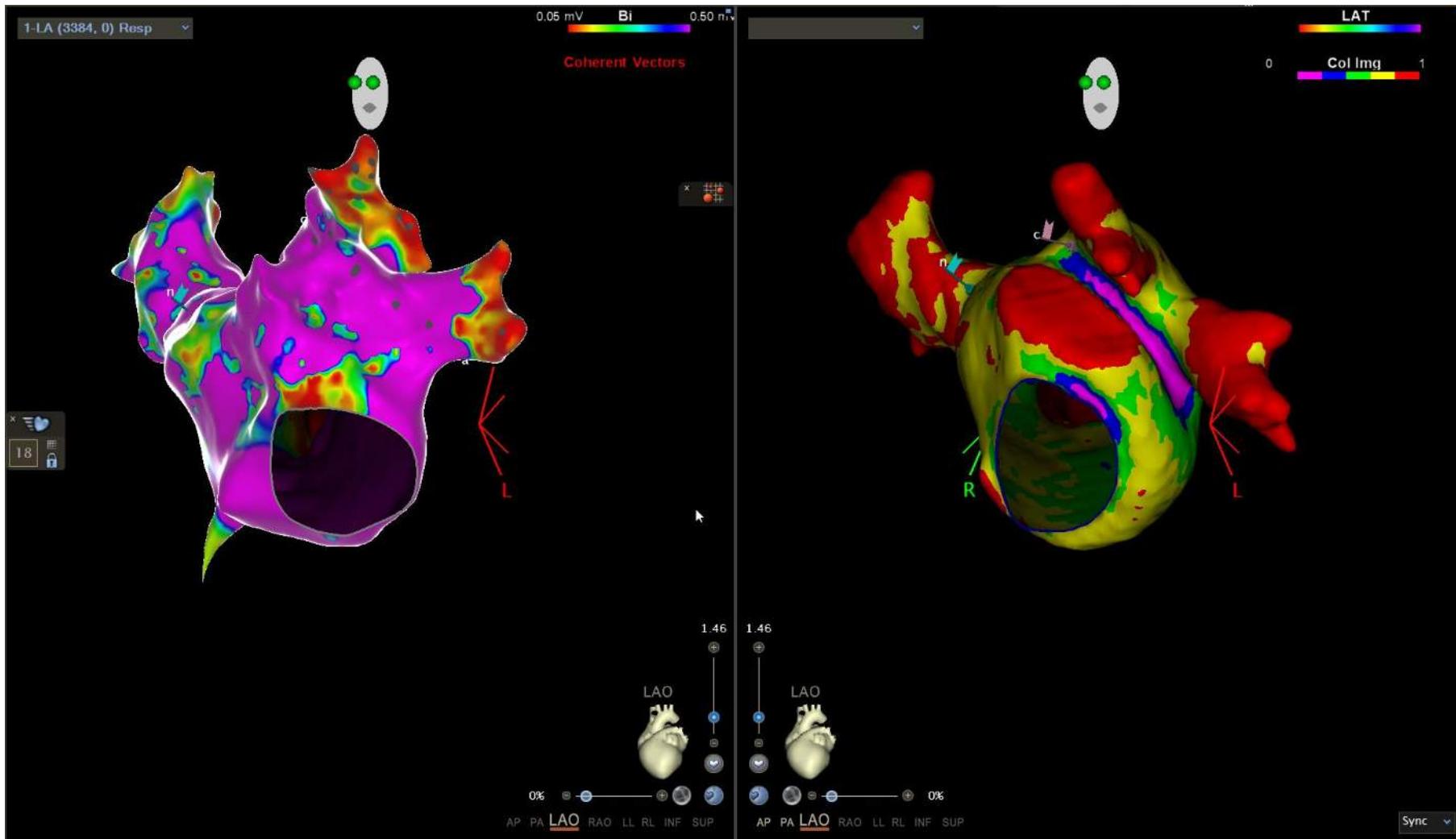
Unpublished data, courtesy of study investigators

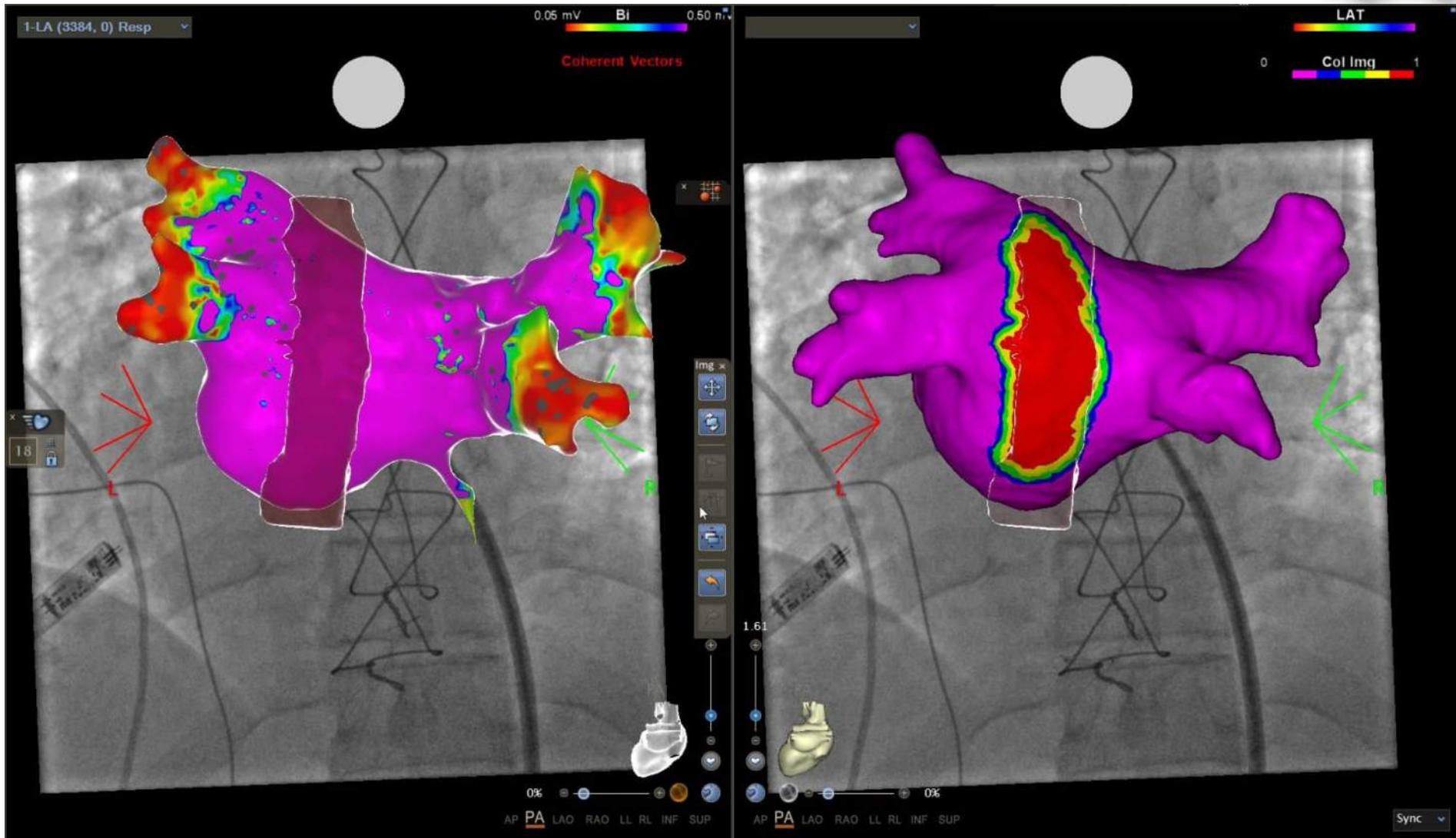
AC: Anterior Carina; AI: Antero-Inferior; AS: Antero-Superior; Inf: Inferior;
LPV: Left Pulmonary Vein; PC: Posterior Carina; PI: Postero-Inferior; PS:
Postero-superior;

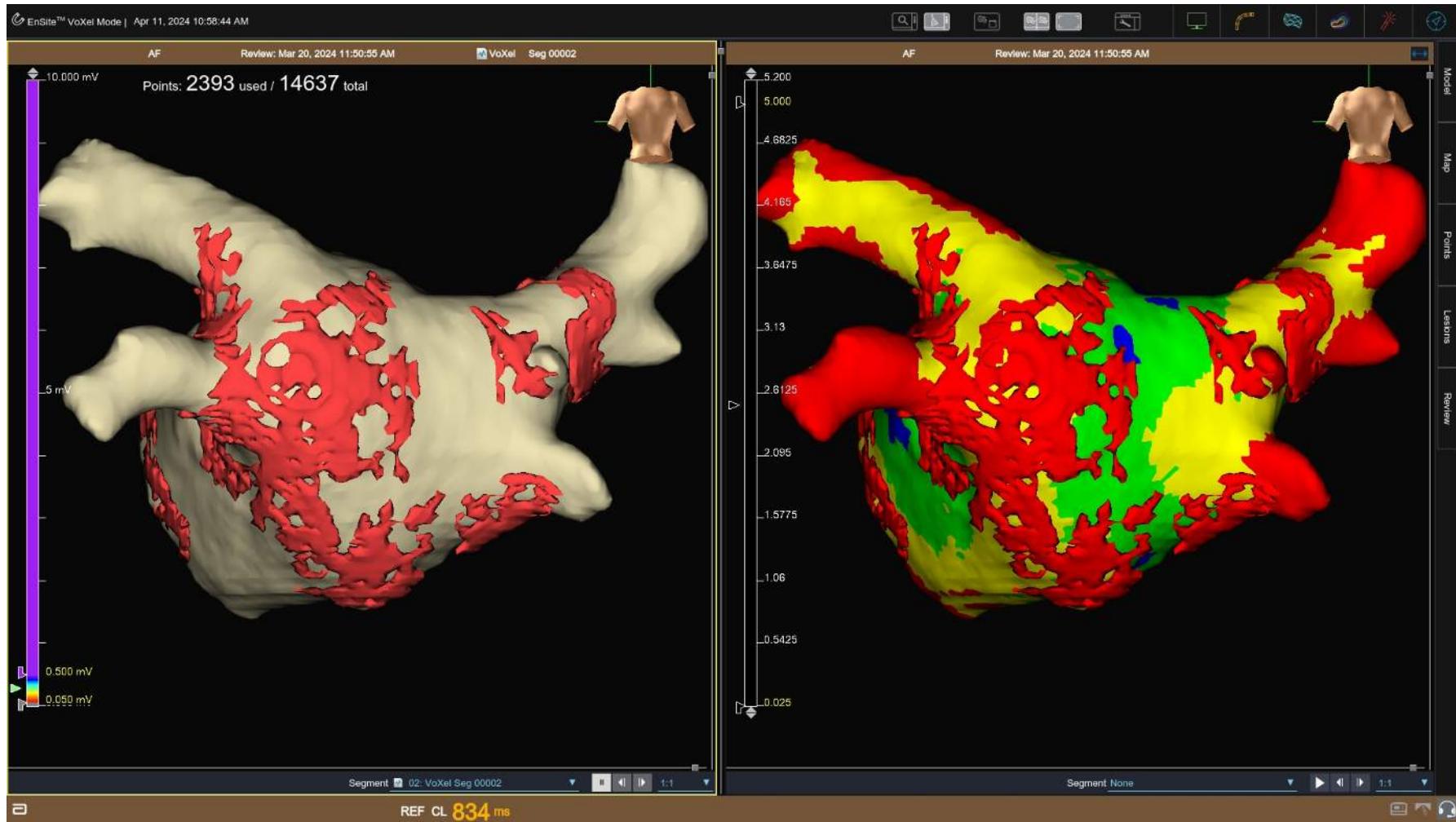


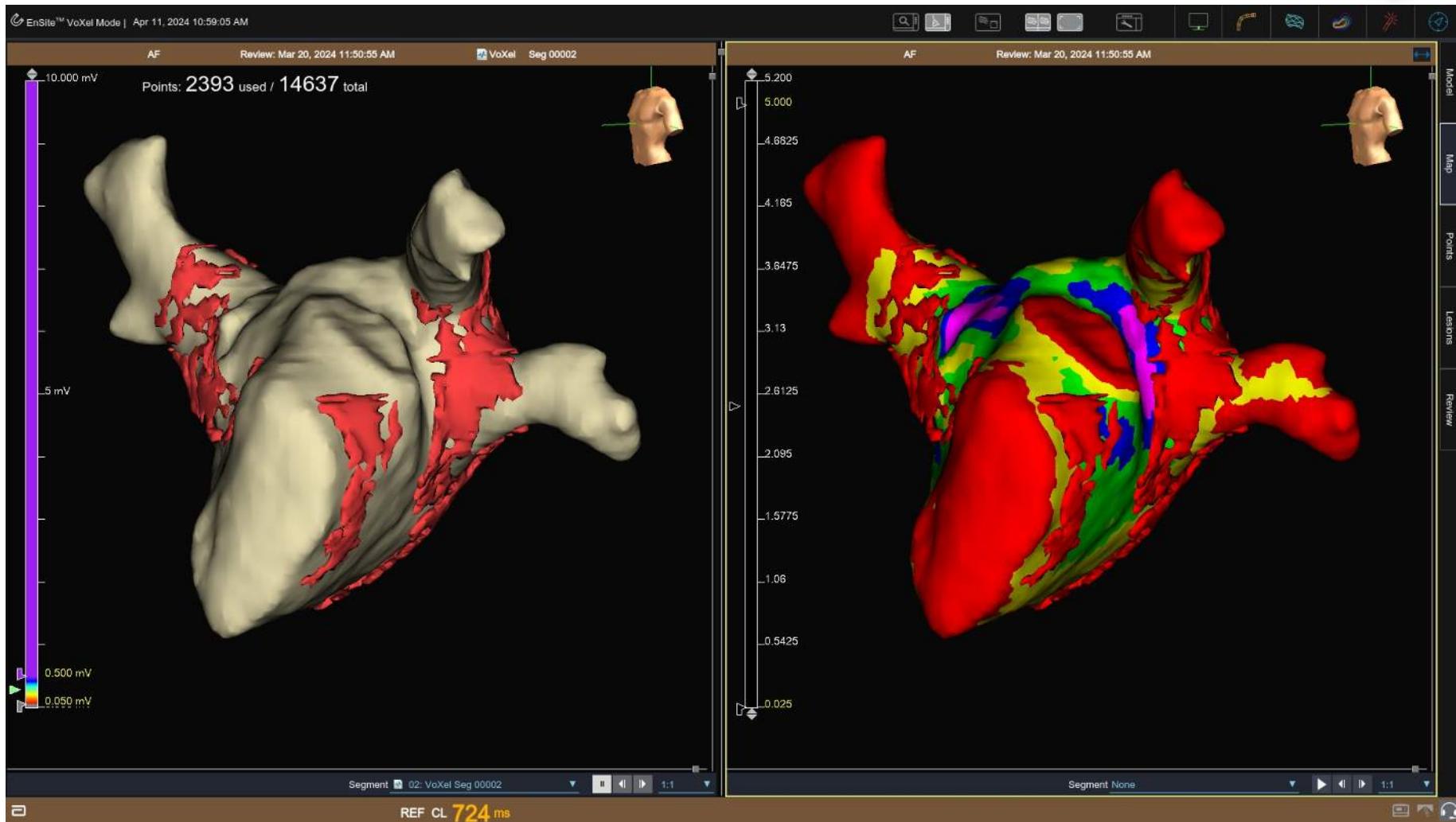


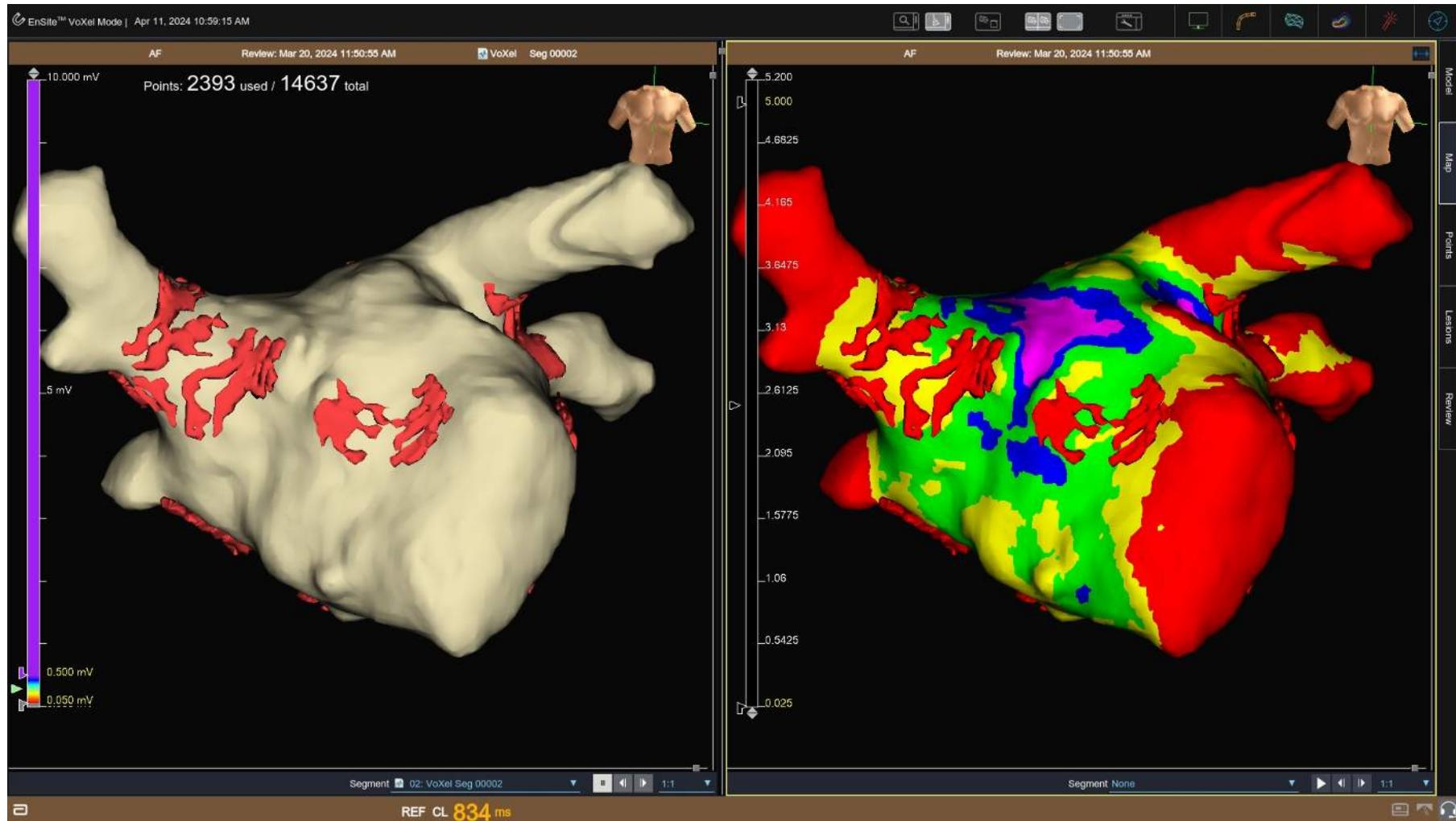


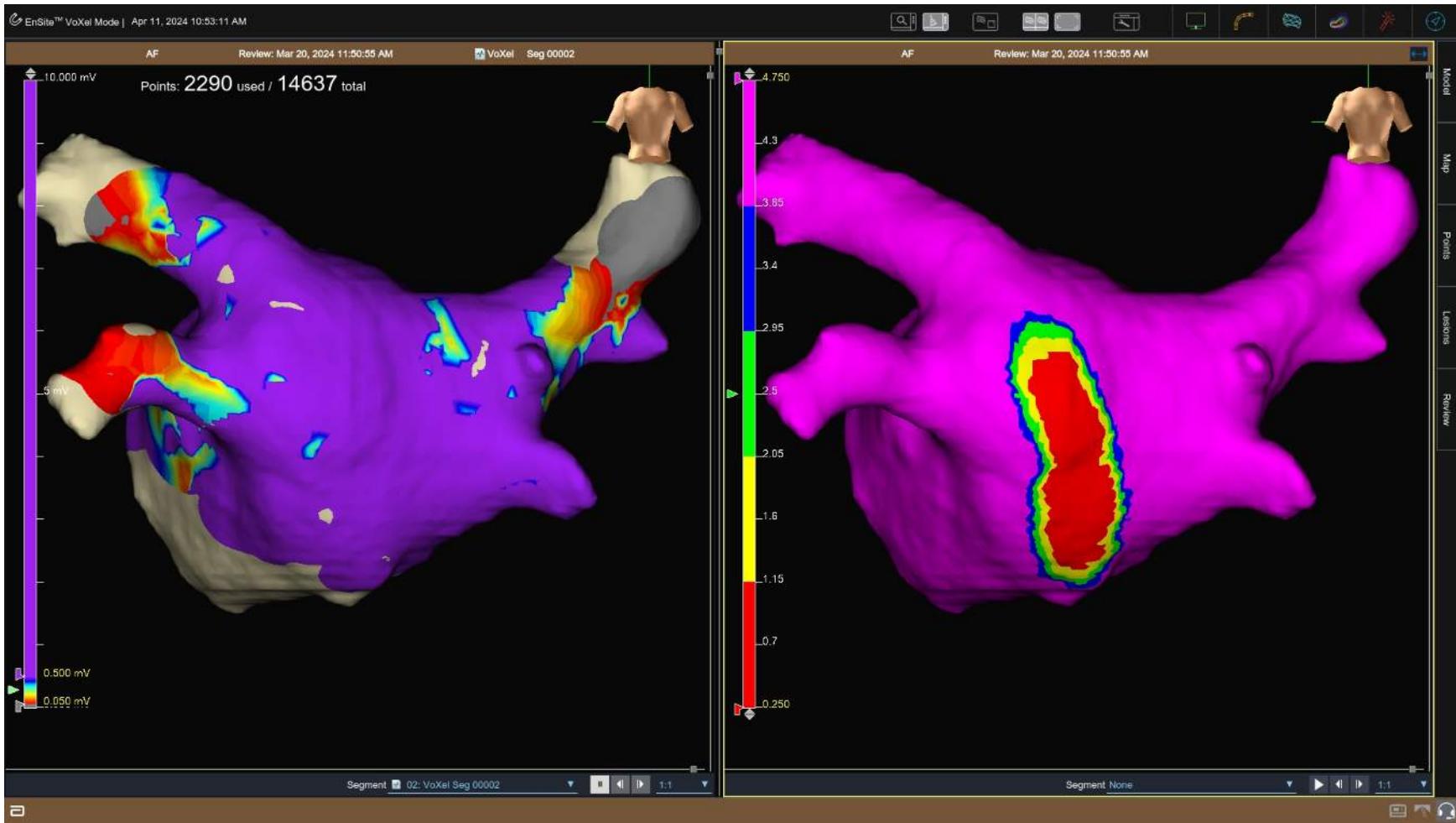


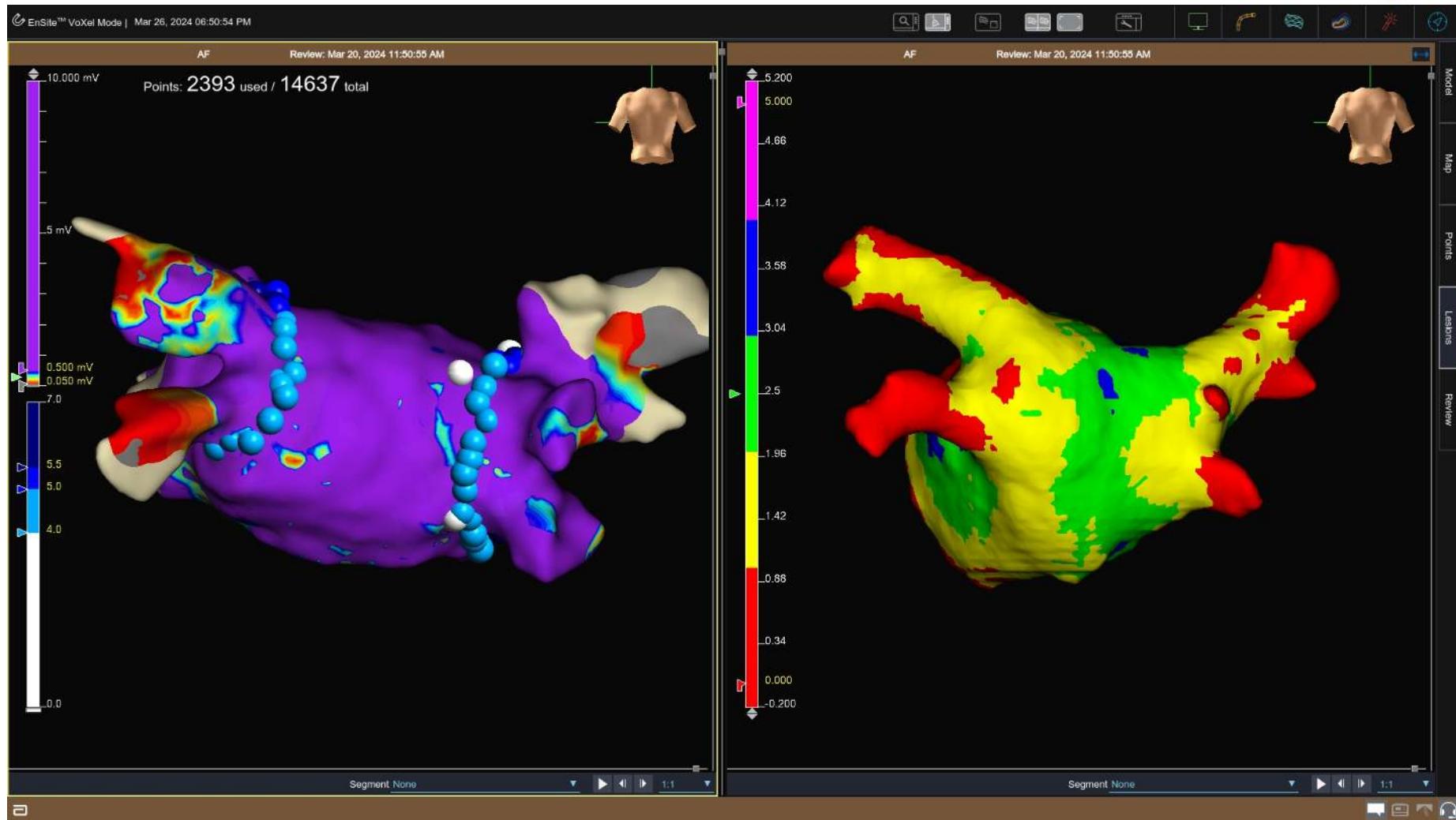


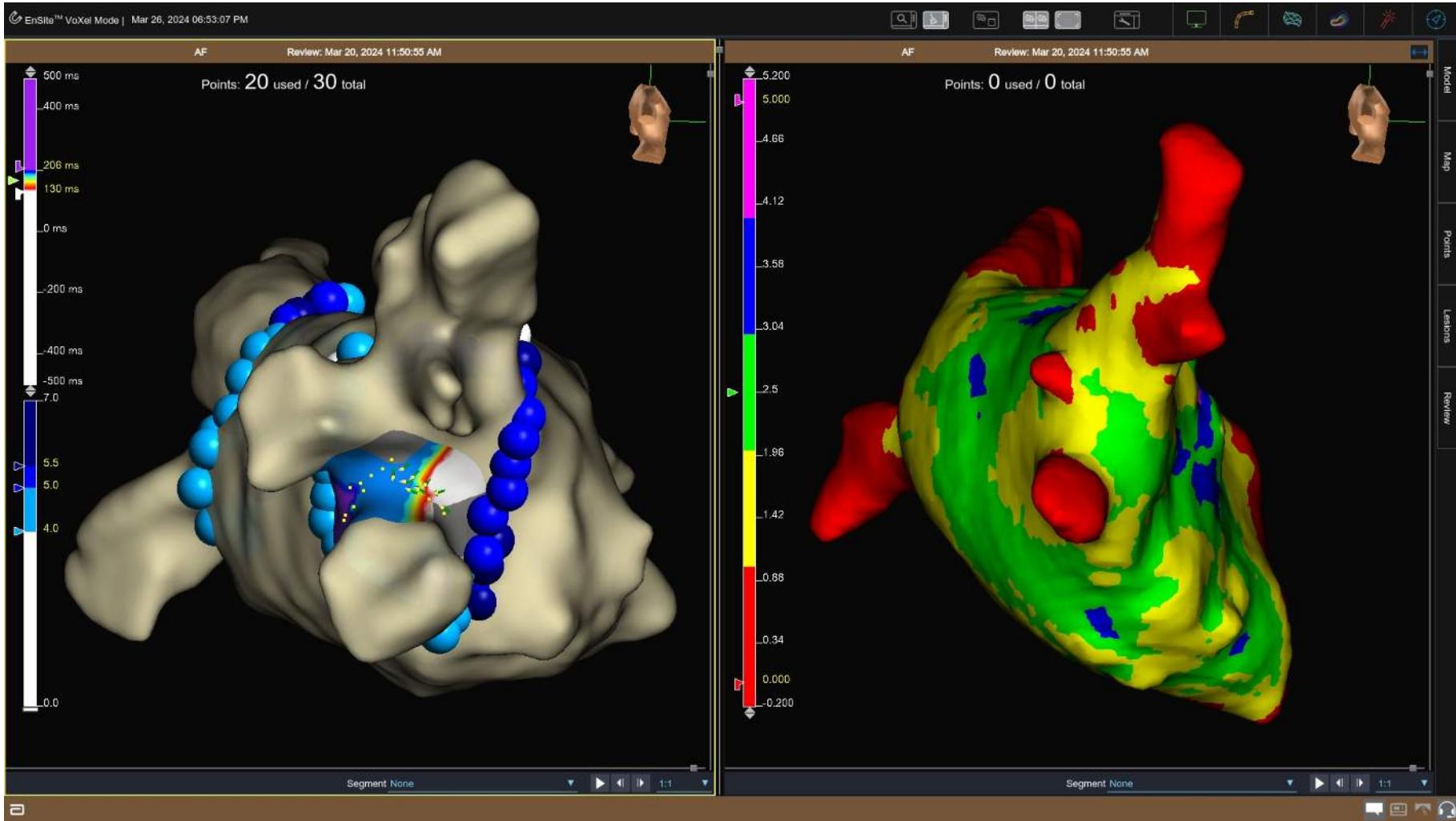


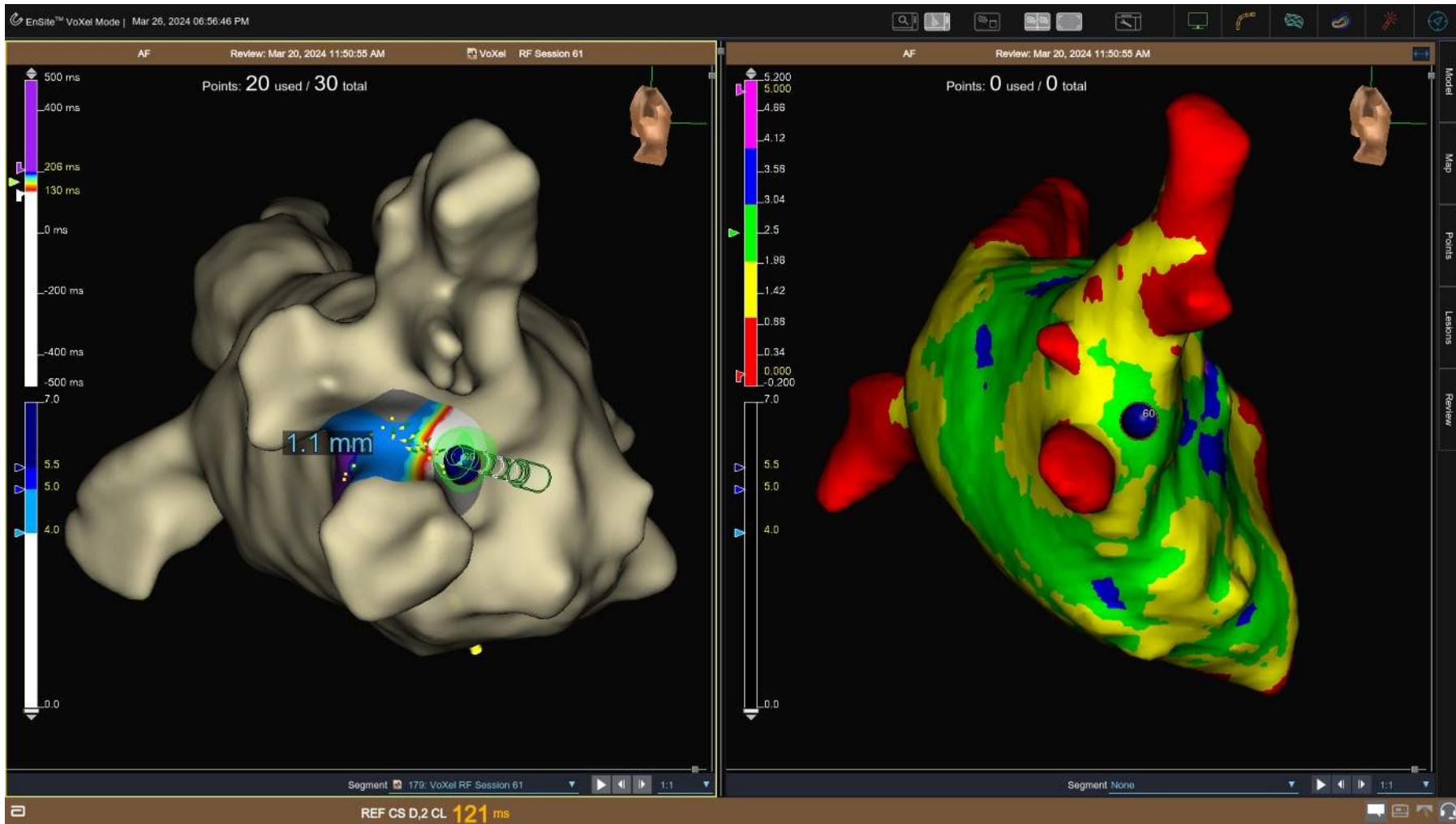


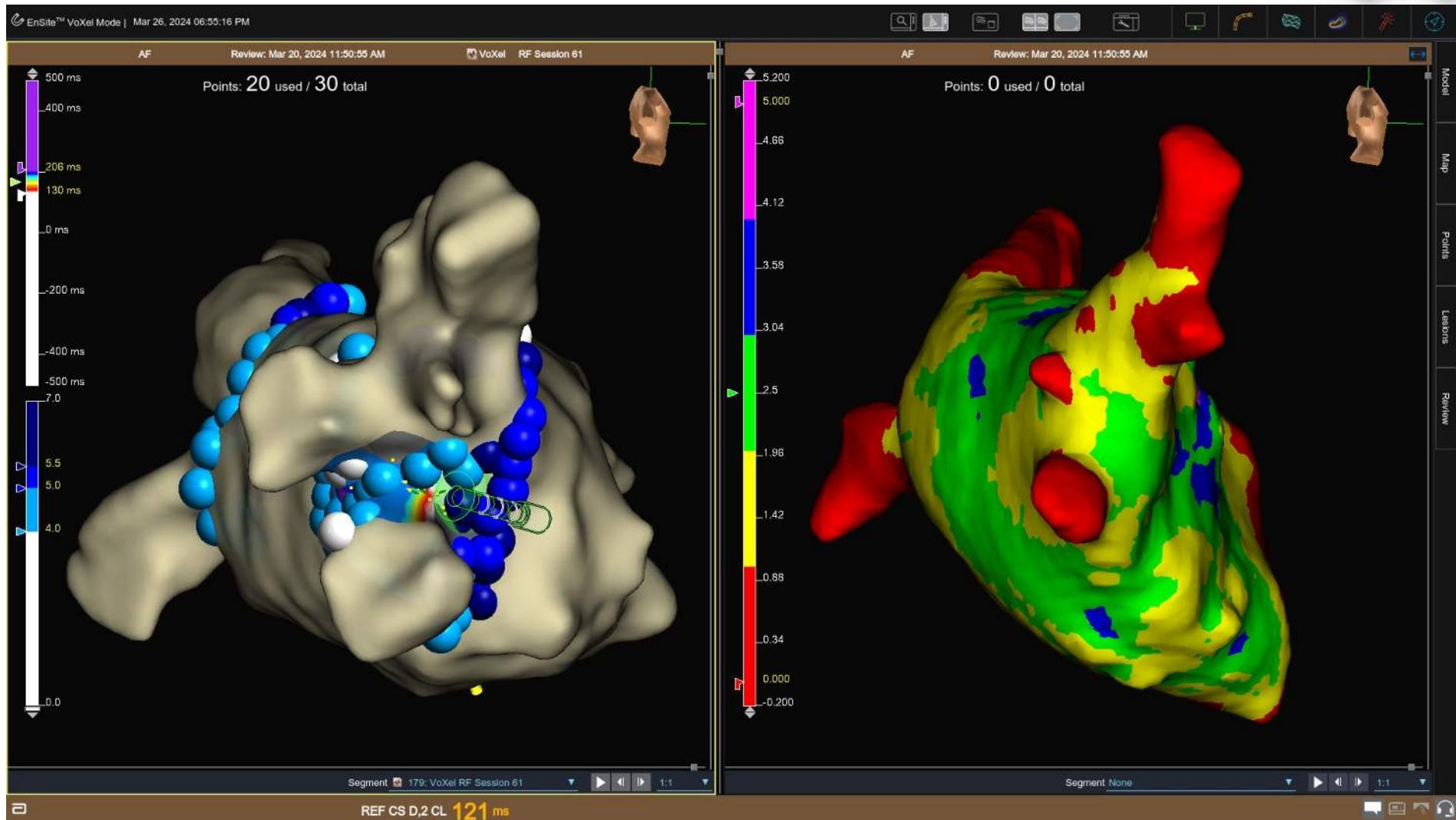


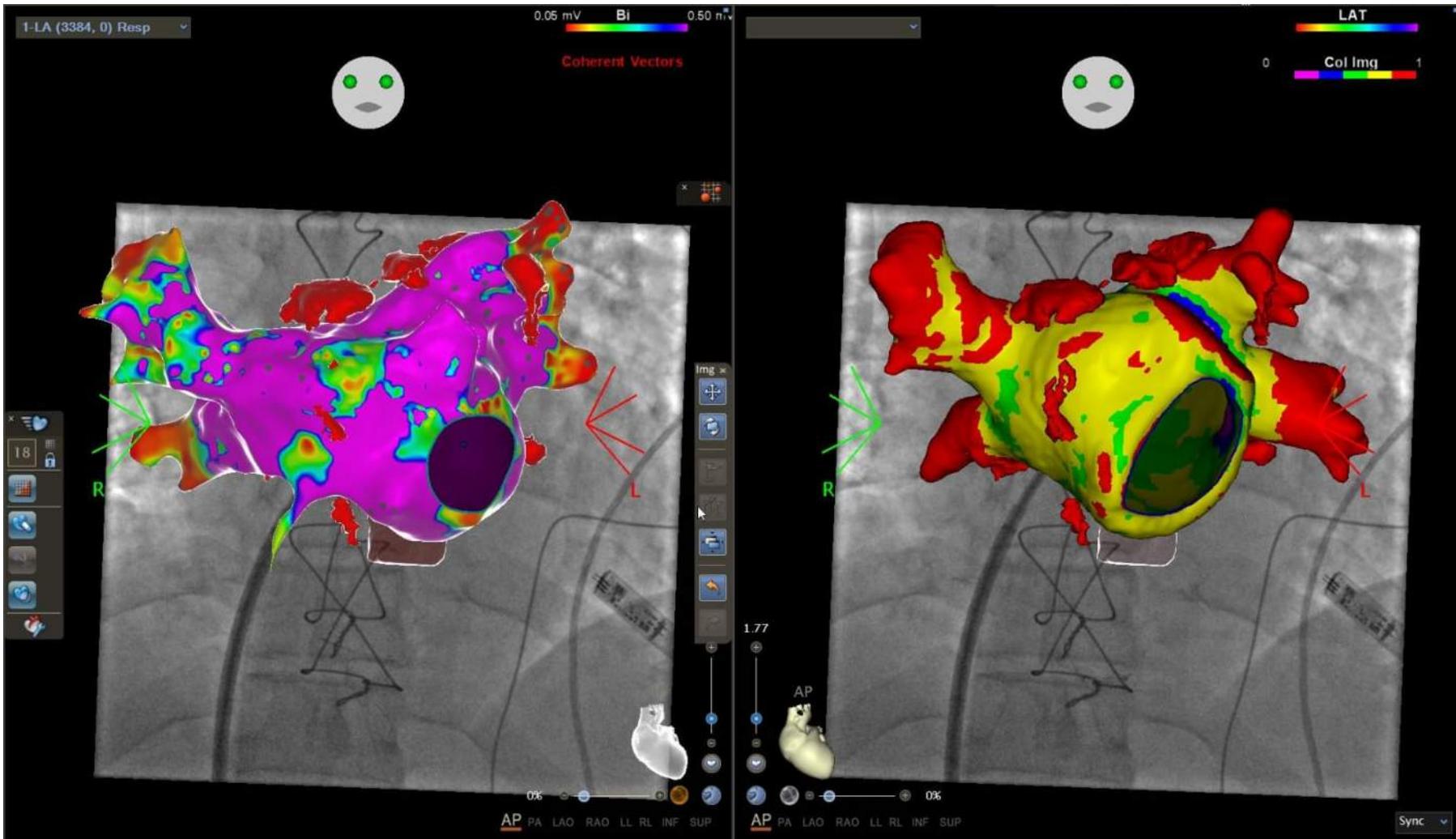


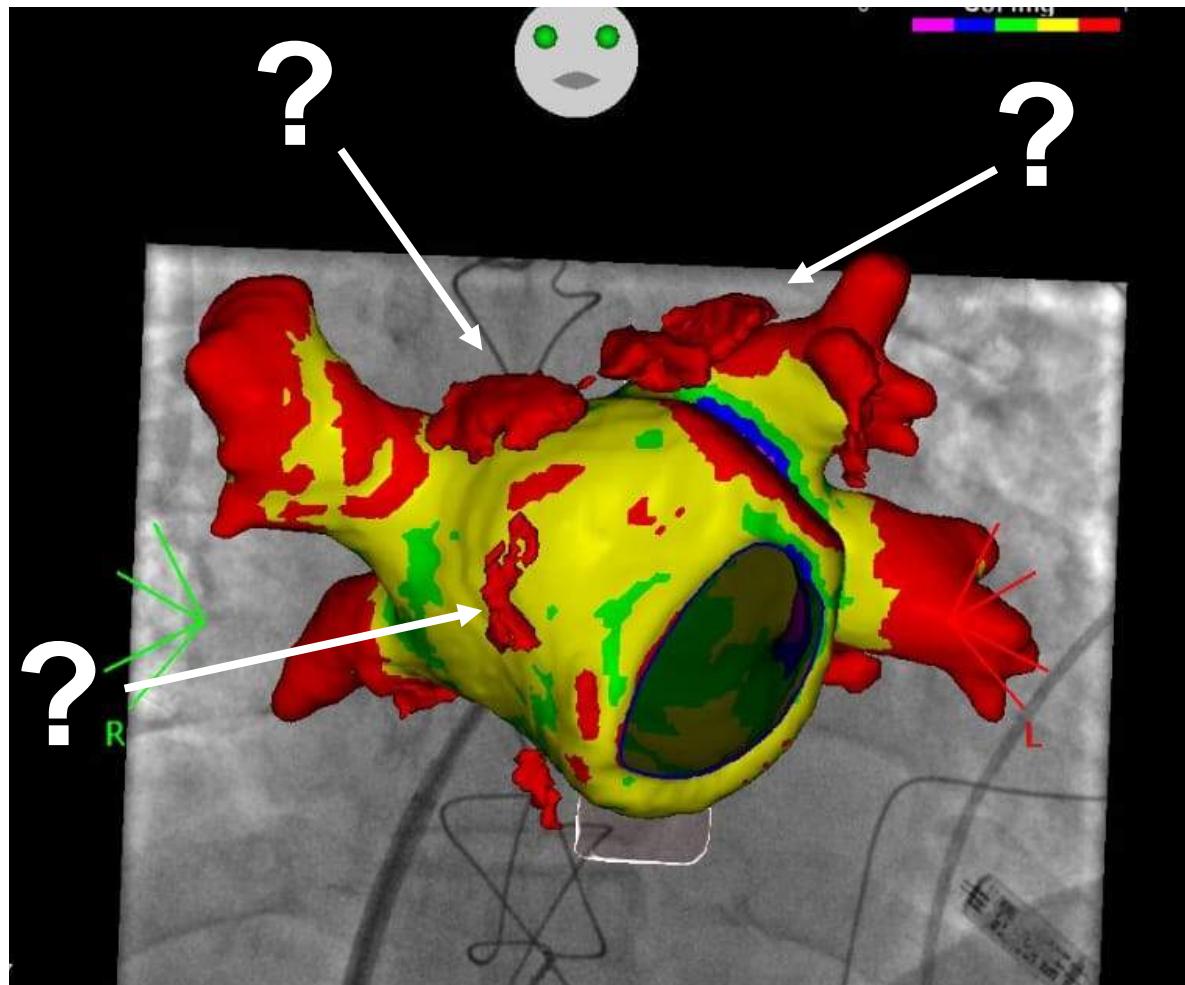


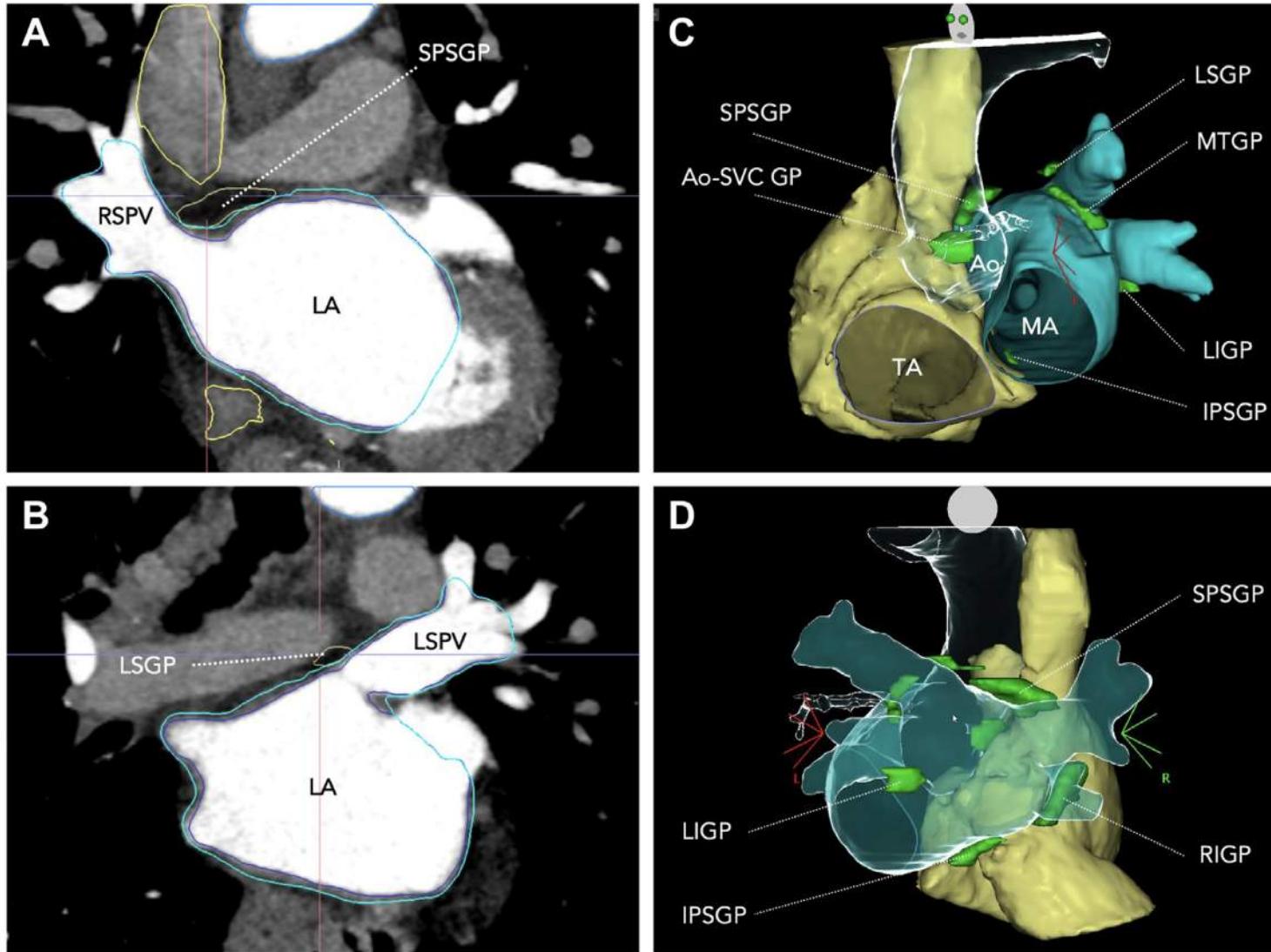


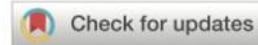












Clinical impact of aging on outcomes of cardioneuroablation for reflex syncope or functional bradycardia: Results from the cardionEuroabLation: patiEnt selection, imaGe integrAtioN and outComEs—The ELEGANCE multicenter study

Pietro Francia, MD,^{*†} Daniel Viveros, MD,^{*} Giulio Falasconi, MD,^{*} Diego Penela, MD,^{*} David Soto-Iglesias, PhD,^{*} Julio Martí-Almor, MD, PhD,^{*} José Alderete, MD,^{*} Andrea Saglietto, MD,^{*} Aldo Francisco Bellido, MD,^{*} Paula Franco-Ocaña, BS,^{*} Fatima Zaraket, MD,^{*‡} María Matiello, MD,[§] Juan Fernández-Armenta, MD,[¶] Rodolfo San Antonio, MD,^{*||} Antonio Berrueto, MD, PhD^{*}

*From the *Arrhythmia Department, Teknon Heart Institute, Teknon Medical Center, Barcelona, Spain,
†Cardiology Unit, Department of Clinical and Molecular Medicine, Sant'Andrea Hospital, University
Sapienza, Rome, Italy, ‡Clínica del Pilar, Barcelona, Spain, §Hospital General de Catalunya,
Barcelona, Spain, ¶Puerta del Mar University Hospital, Cádiz, Spain, and ||Hospital Universitari de
Bellvitge, Barcelona, Spain.*

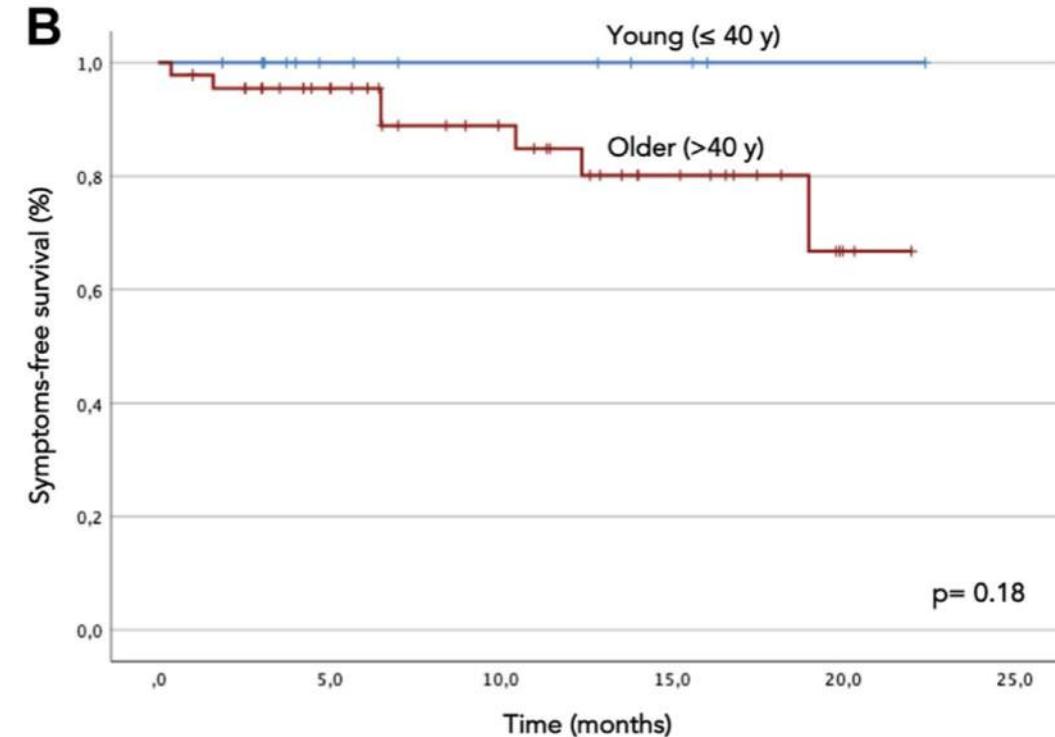
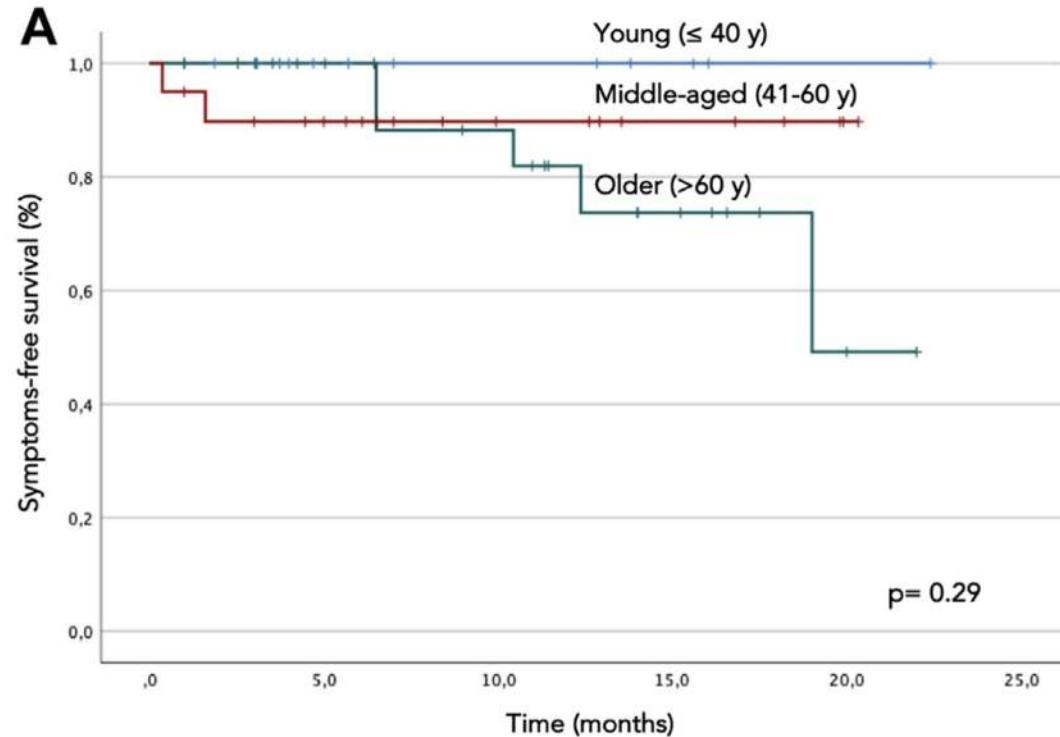
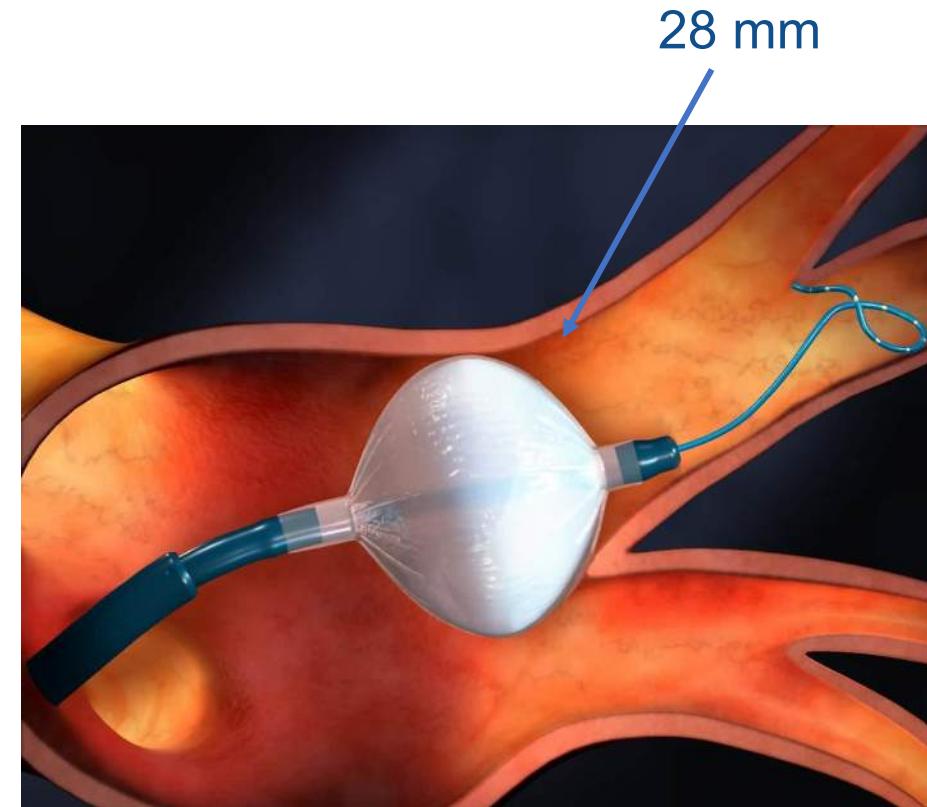
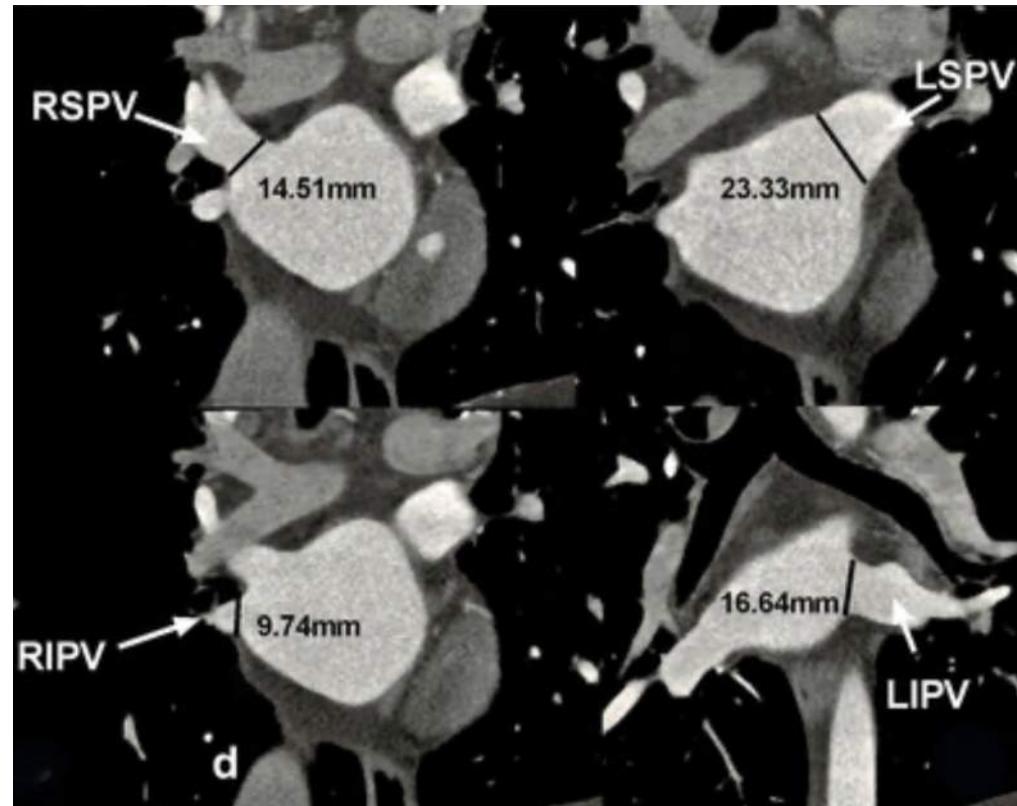


Figure 4 Outcomes of cardioneuroablation. Cumulative survival free from syncope in the 3 predefined age groups (A) and in patients young (≤ 40 years) vs older (>40 years) (B). P values determined by the log-rank test.

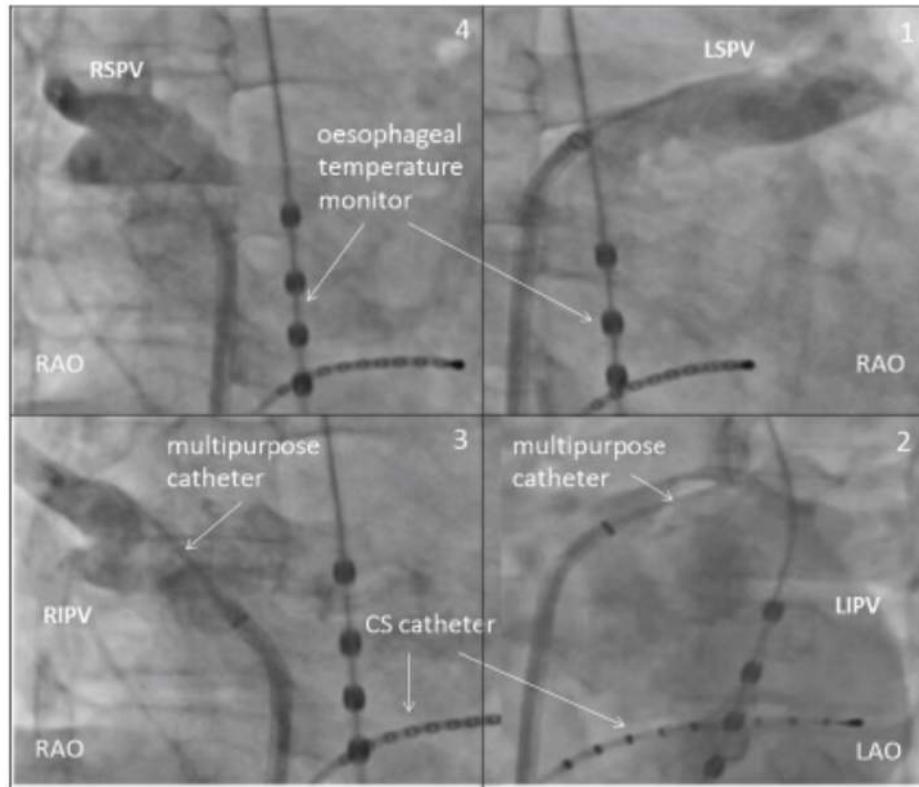


CT: ruolo nella crioterapia

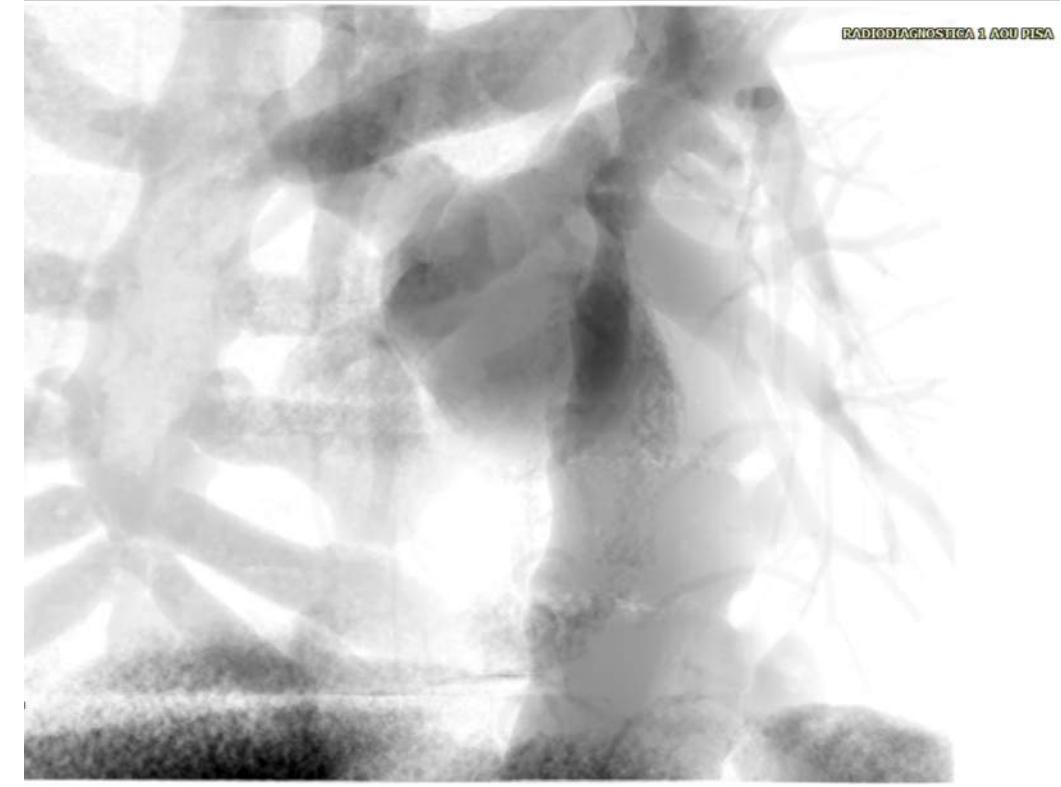




CT-aided workflow



Fluoro



Virtual fluoro (CT)



RM?



Cosa vorremmo dalla RM

- Individuazione affidabile delle aree di fibrosi
- Aree di fibrosi come “target” dell’ablazione
- Individuazione dei “gap” nelle procedure redo
- Tutte le informazioni anatomiche della TC





JAMA | Original Investigation

Effect of MRI-Guided Fibrosis Ablation vs Conventional Catheter Ablation on Atrial Arrhythmia Recurrence in Patients With Persistent Atrial Fibrillation The DECAAF II Randomized Clinical Trial

Nassir F. Marrouche, MD; Oussama Wazni, MD; Christopher McGann, MD; Tom Greene, PhD; J. Michael Dean, MD;
Lilas Dagher, MD; Eugene Kholmovski, PhD; Moussa Mansour, MD; Francis Marchlinski, MD; David Wilber, MD;
Gerhard Hindricks, MD; Christian Mahnkopf, MD; Darryl Wells, MD; Pierre Jais, MD; Prashanthan Sanders, MD;
Johannes Brachmann, MD; Jeroen J. Bax, MD; Leonie Morrison-de Boer, MD; Thomas Deneke, MD;
Hugh Calkins, MD; Christian Sohns, MD; Nazem Akoum, MD; for the DECAAF II Investigators

Effect of MRI-Guided Fibrosis Ablation vs Conventional Catheter Ablation on Atrial Arrhythmia Recurrence in Patients With Persistent Atrial Fibrillation

The DECAAF II Randomized Clinical Trial

Nassir F. Marrouche, MD; Oussama Wazni, MD; Christopher McGann, MD; Tom Greene, PhD; J. Michael DeLille, MD; Lilas Dagher, MD; Eugene Kholmovski, PhD; Moussa Mansour, MD; Francis Marchlinski, MD; David Wilber, MD; Gerhard Hindricks, MD; Christian Mahnkopf, MD; Darryl Wells, MD; Pierre Jais, MD; Prashanthan Sanders, MD; Johannes Brachmann, MD; Jeroen J. Bax, MD; Leonie Morrison-de Boer, MD; Thomas Deneke, MD; Hugh Calkins, MD; Christian Sohns, MD; Nazem Akoum, MD; for the DECAAF II Investigators

JAMA

QUESTION Does the addition of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)-guided fibrosis ablation affect atrial arrhythmia recurrence?

CONCLUSION MRI-guided fibrosis ablation plus pulmonary vein isolation (PVI), compared with PVI alone, resulted in no significant difference in atrial arrhythmia recurrence among patients with persistent atrial fibrillation.

POPULATION

665 Men
178 Women



Adults with symptomatic or asymptomatic persistent AF and undergoing AF ablation

Mean age: 62.7 years

INTERVENTION

843 Patients randomized
815 Patients analyzed



421

PVI plus MRI-guided atrial fibrosis ablation

PVI followed by ablation of all fibrotic areas observed on MRI

422

PVI alone

Electrical isolation of all pulmonary veins

LOCATIONS

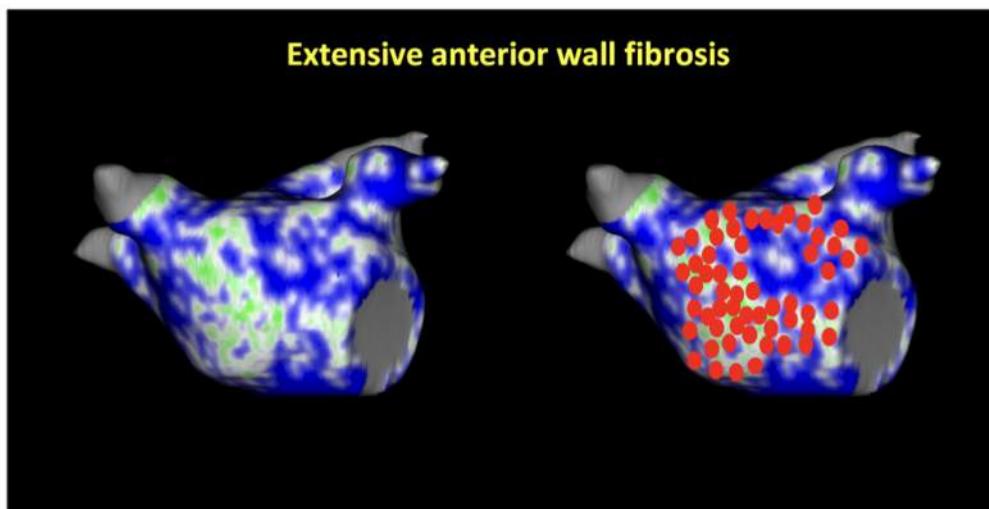
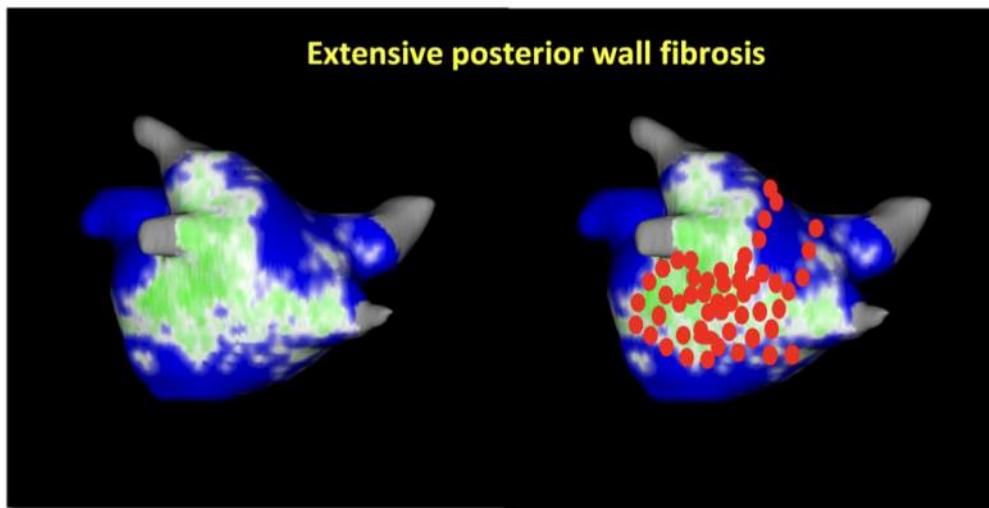
44
Medical centers
in 10 countries



PRIMARY OUTCOME

Time to first atrial arrhythmia recurrence
after a 90-day blanking period postablation

Marrouche NF, Wazni O, McGann C, et al. Effect of MRI-guided fibrosis ablation vs conventional catheter ablation on atrial arrhythmia recurrence in patients with persistent atrial fibrillation: the DECAAF II randomized clinical trial. *JAMA*. Published June 21, 2022. c



**MARREK™
Utah method**



Effect of MRI-Guided Fibrosis Ablation vs Conventional Catheter Ablation on Atrial Arrhythmia Recurrence in Patients With Persistent Atrial Fibrillation

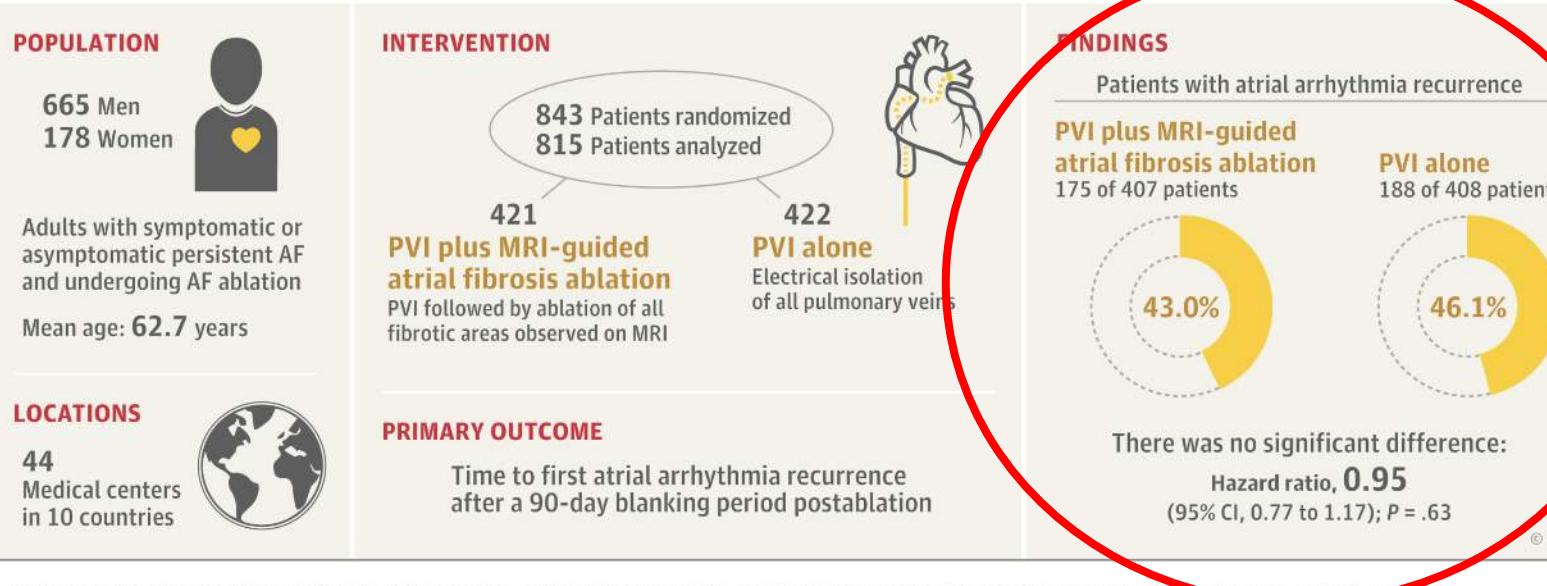
The DECAAF II Randomized Clinical Trial

Nassir F. Marrouche, MD; Oussama Wazni, MD; Christopher McGann, MD; Tom Greene, PhD; J. Michael Dean, MD; Lilas Dagher, MD; Eugene Kholmovski, PhD; Moussa Mansour, MD; Francis Marchlinski, MD; David Wilber, MD; Gerhard Hindricks, MD; Christian Mahnkopf, MD; Darryl Wells, MD; Pierre Jais, MD; Prashanthan Sanders, MD; Johannes Brachmann, MD; Jeroen J. Bax, MD; Leonie Morrison-de Boer, MD; Thomas Deneke, MD; Hugh Calkins, MD; Christian Sohns, MD; Nazem Akoum, MD; for the DECAAF II Investigators

JAMA®

QUESTION Does the addition of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)-guided fibrosis ablation to conventional catheter ablation affect atrial arrhythmia recurrence?

CONCLUSION MRI-guided fibrosis ablation plus pulmonary vein isolation (PVI), compared with PVI catheter ablation only, resulted in no significant difference in atrial arrhythmia recurrence among patients with persistent atrial fibrillation (AF).



Marrouche NF, Wazni O, McGann C, et al. Effect of MRI-guided fibrosis ablation vs conventional catheter ablation on atrial arrhythmia recurrence in patients with persistent atrial fibrillation: the DECAAF II randomized clinical trial. JAMA. Published June 21, 2022. doi:10.1001/jama.2022.8831



EP Europace

EHJ Arrhythmias and Electrophysiology

JOURNAL ARTICLE ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Effect of Fibrosis Regionality on Atrial Fibrillation Recurrence: Insights from DECAAF II

Ala' Assaf, Mario Mekhael, Charbel Noujaim, Nour Chouman,
Hadi Younes, Han Feng, Abdelhadi El Hajjar, Botao Shan, Peter Kistler,
Omar Kreidieh ... [Show more](#)

EP Europace, euad199, <https://doi.org/10.1093/europace/euad199>

Published: 10 July 2023 [Article history ▾](#)



Effect of Fibrosis Regionality on Atrial Fibrillation Recurrence

EPE

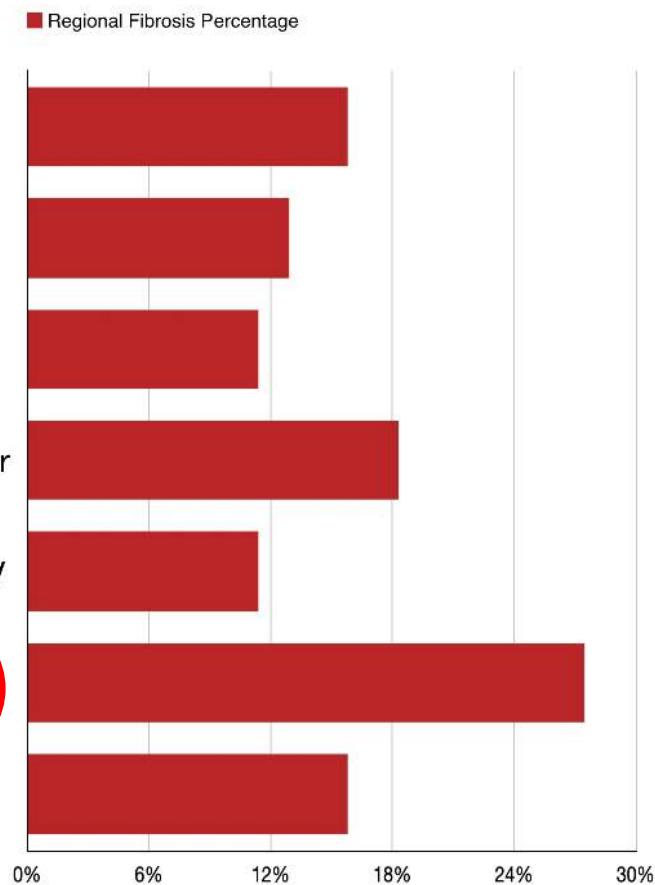
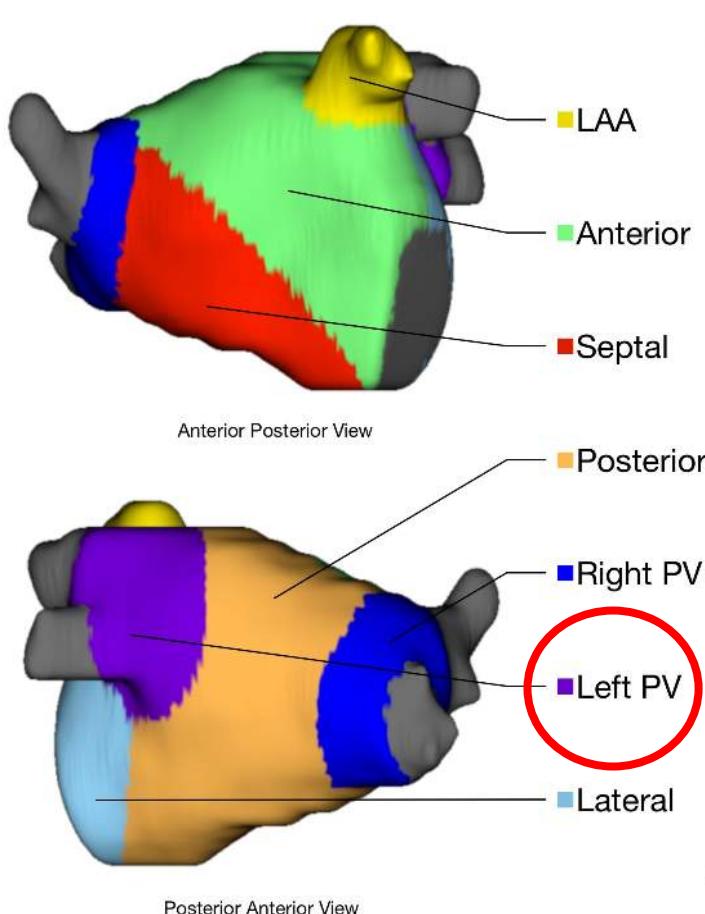
EHJ Arrhythmia

$$\text{Regional Fibrosis Percentage} = \frac{\text{Fibrosis in a Region}}{\text{Total Fibrosis in LA}}$$

Atrial remodeling is not a homogenous process, and does not affect the LA wall uniformly

The **left pulmonary vein** exhibits a greater amount of fibrosis in comparison with the rest of the wall, which may explain the **superiority of PVI** as a treatment for AF

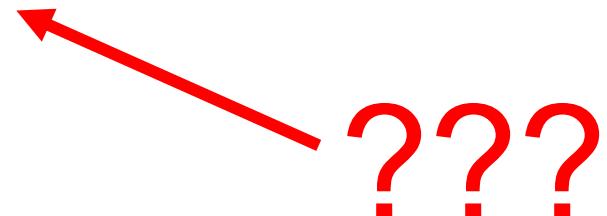
Regional Fibrosis Percentage of **LAA** is a **significant predictor** of AF recurrence only in patients in the PVI + SM group (OR=1.02, p=0.01)



Atrial remodeling is not a homogenous process, and does not affect the LA wall uniformly

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Regional Fibrosis Percentage of **LAA** is a **significant predictor** of AF recurrence only in patients in the PVI + SM group ($OR=1.02$, $p=0.01$)





EP Europace

EHJ Arrhythmias and Electrophysiology

JOURNAL ARTICLE

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Does the Spatial Distribution of Atrial Arrhythmogenic Substrate Matter? Insights from the DECAAF II trial

Till F Althoff, MD ✉, Andreu Porta-Sanchez, MD, PhD ✉

EP Europace, euad282, <https://doi.org/10.1093/europace/euad282>

Published: 15 September 2023 Article history ▾

3 transmural lesions.²⁰ Moreover, complete isolation of the LAA was not envisaged in the
4 study protocol and would have implicated further considerations such as LAA closure.
5 Taken together, although we can only speculate, reluctant, incomplete ablation resulting
6 in iatrogenic substrate may have caused an unfavourable outcome in patients in whom
7 peri-LAA fibrosis was targeted.



2024 European Heart Rhythm Association/ Heart Rhythm Society/Asia Pacific Heart Rhythm Society/Latin American Heart Rhythm Society expert consensus statement on catheter and surgical ablation of atrial fibrillation



6.1.2.2. Magnetic resonance imaging fibrosis guidance

Magnetic resonance imaging has been used to identify areas of atrial fibrosis in patients scheduled for AF catheter ablation.^{105,583,584} However, adequate spatial resolution remains problematic in the thin-walled LA, and reproducibility of the different imaging techniques across centers remains low (Section 5.2.1.4.). Several RCTs have failed to document that ablation of MRI-detected fibrotic areas provides incremental benefit in postablation rhythm outcome (Section 8.2.6.).

Ablation of MRI-detected atrial delayed enhancement areas is not beneficial during persistent AF ablation^a

Advice NOT TO
DO

META ^{848,849}



European Society
of Cardiology

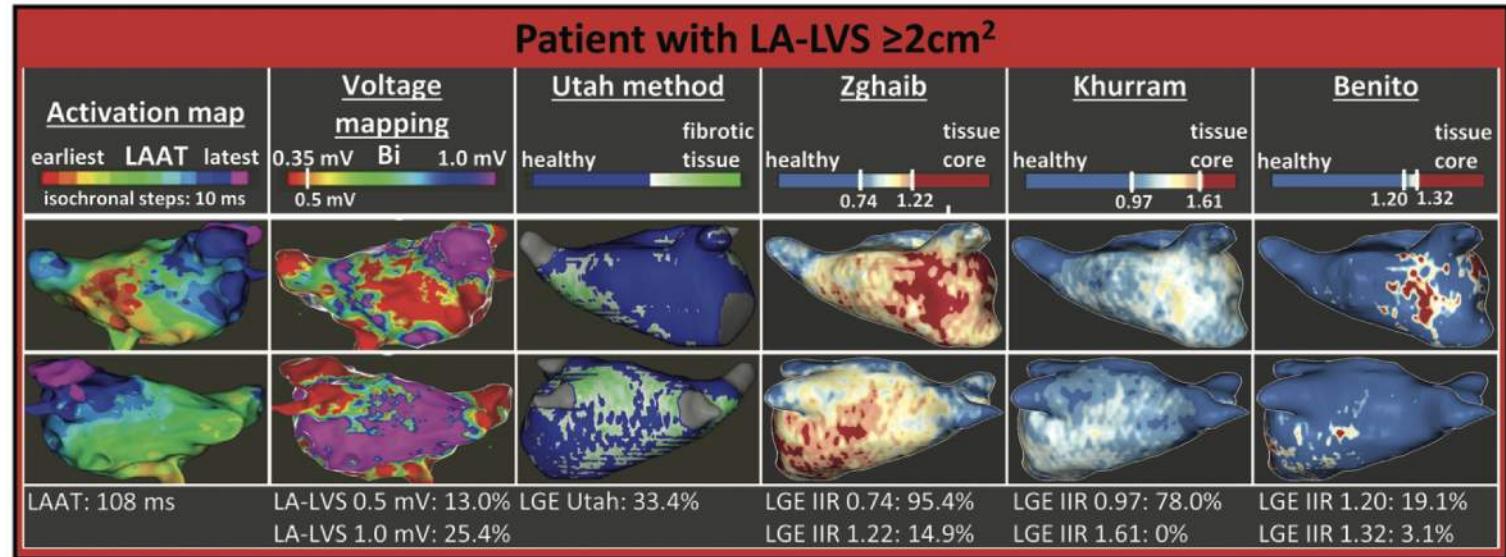
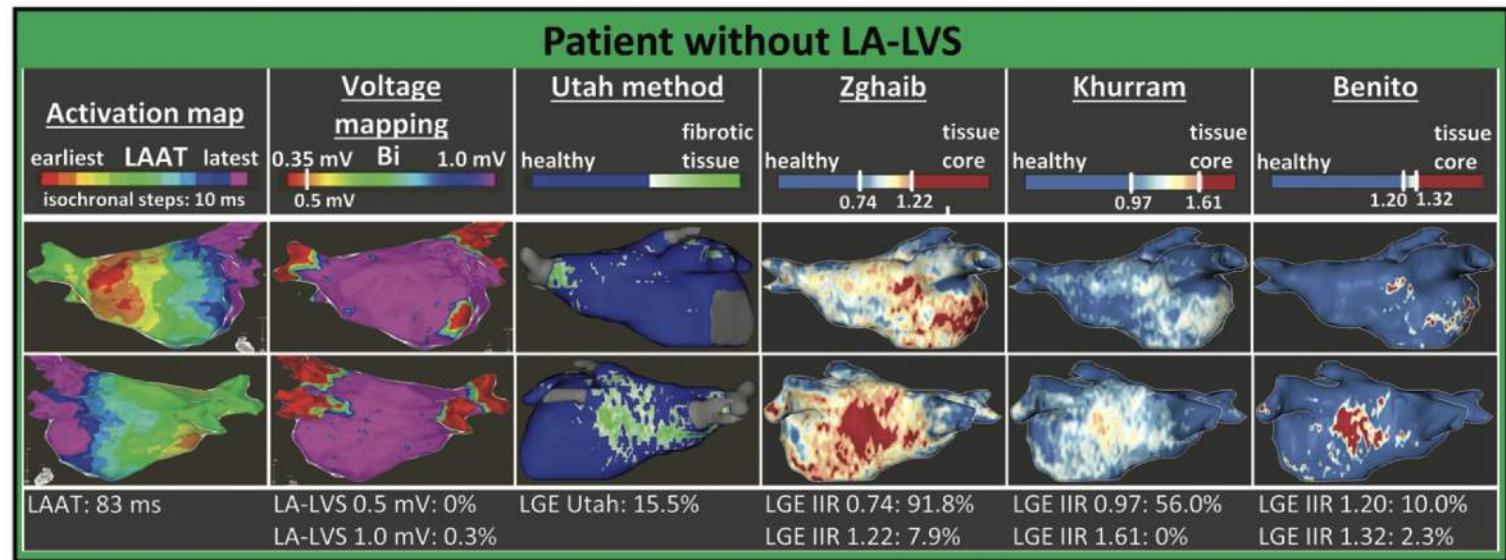
Europace (2022) **24**, 1102–1111
<https://doi.org/10.1093/europace/euac010>

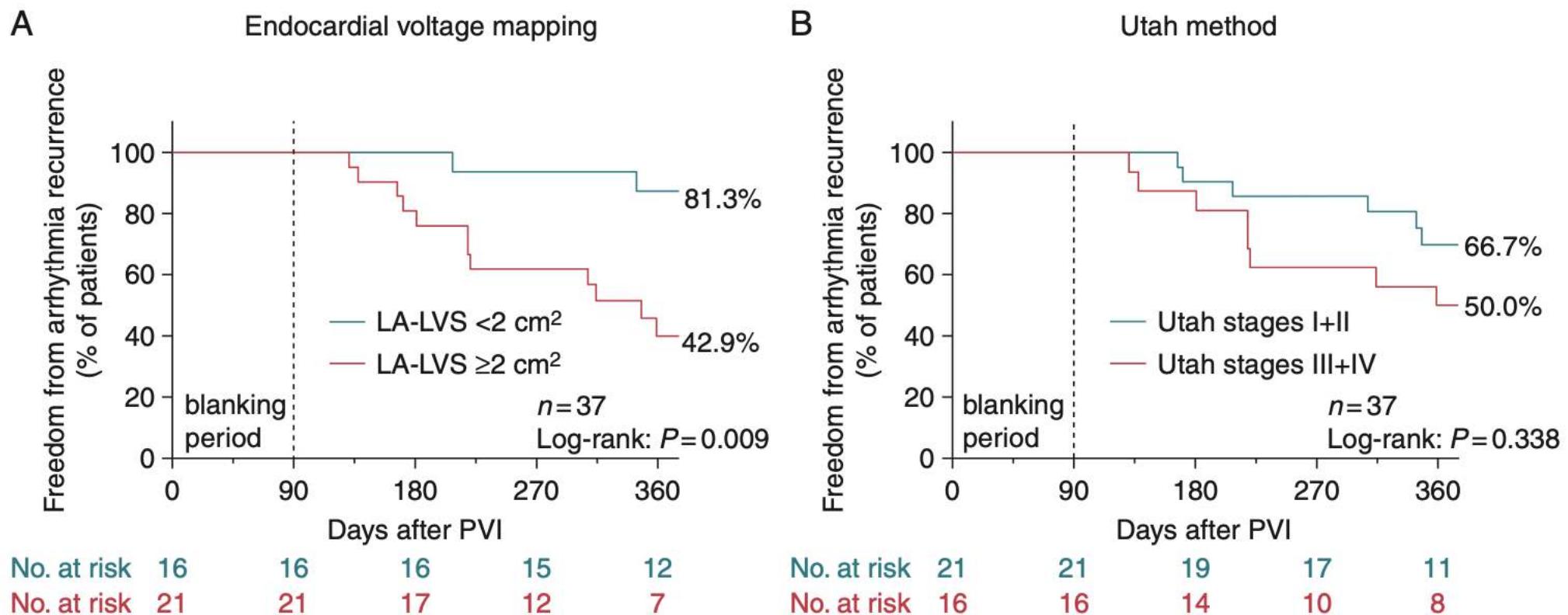
CLINICAL RESEARCH

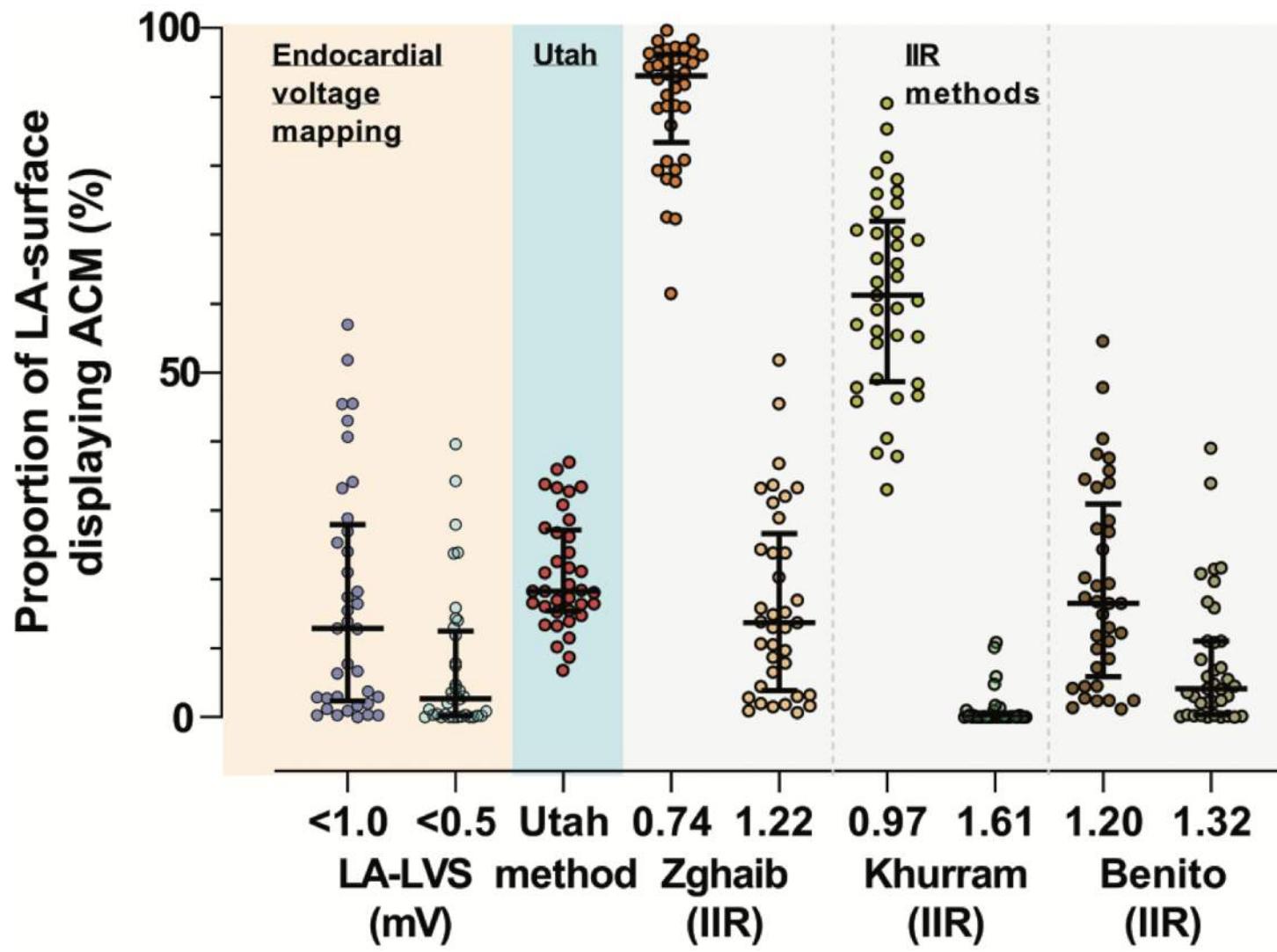
Ablation for atrial fibrillation

Comparison of various late gadolinium enhancement magnetic resonance imaging methods with high-definition voltage and activation mapping for detection of atrial cardiomyopathy

Martin Eichenlaub ^{1*}, Bjoern Mueller-Edenborn¹, Jan Minners¹,
Rosa M. Figueras i Ventura², Barbara Rubio Forcada², Anna Vallès Colomer²,
Manuel Hein¹, Philipp Ruile¹, Heiko Lehmann¹, Simon Schoechlin¹,
Juergen Allgeier¹, Marius Bohnen¹, Dietmar Trenk¹, Franz-Josef Neumann¹,
Thomas Arentz¹, and Amir Jadidi¹

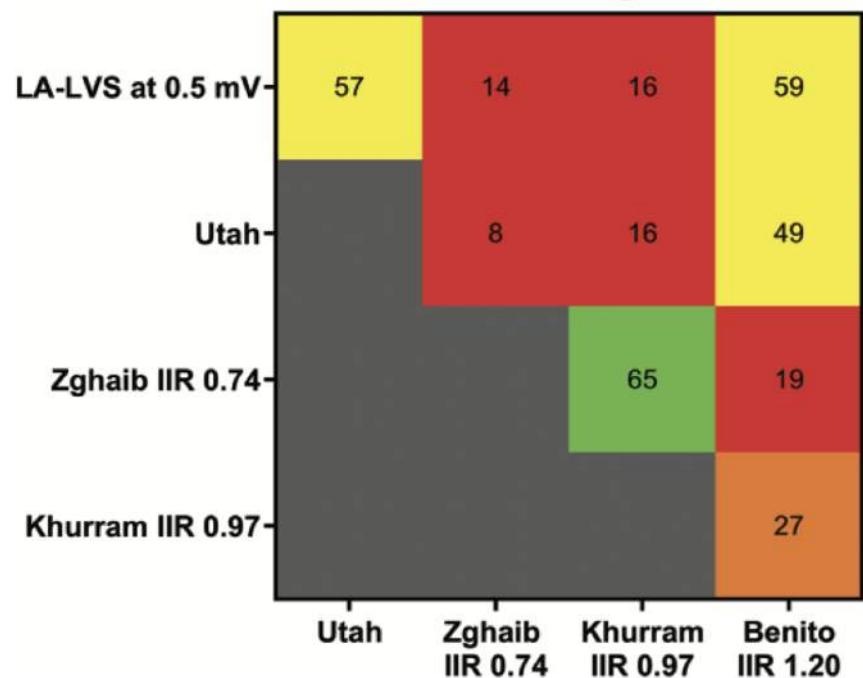




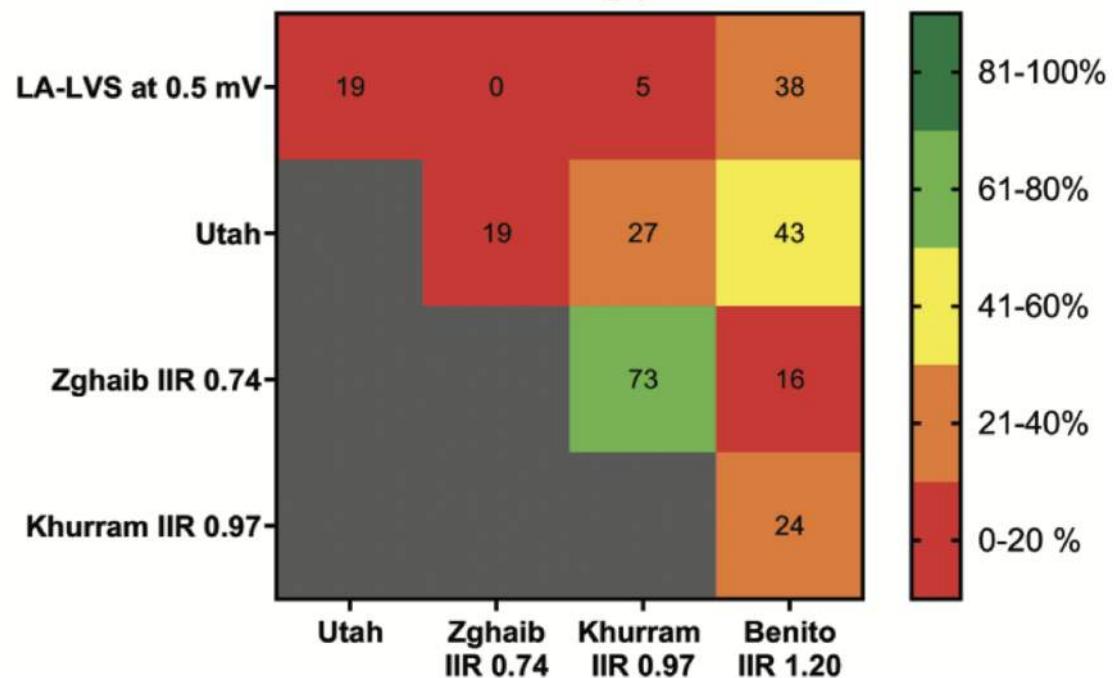




Qualitative matching anterior wall



Qualitative matching posterior wall



81-100%
61-80%
41-60%
21-40%
0-20%



ESC
European Society of Cardiology

Europace (2023) **25**, 211–222
<https://doi.org/10.1093/europace/euac116>

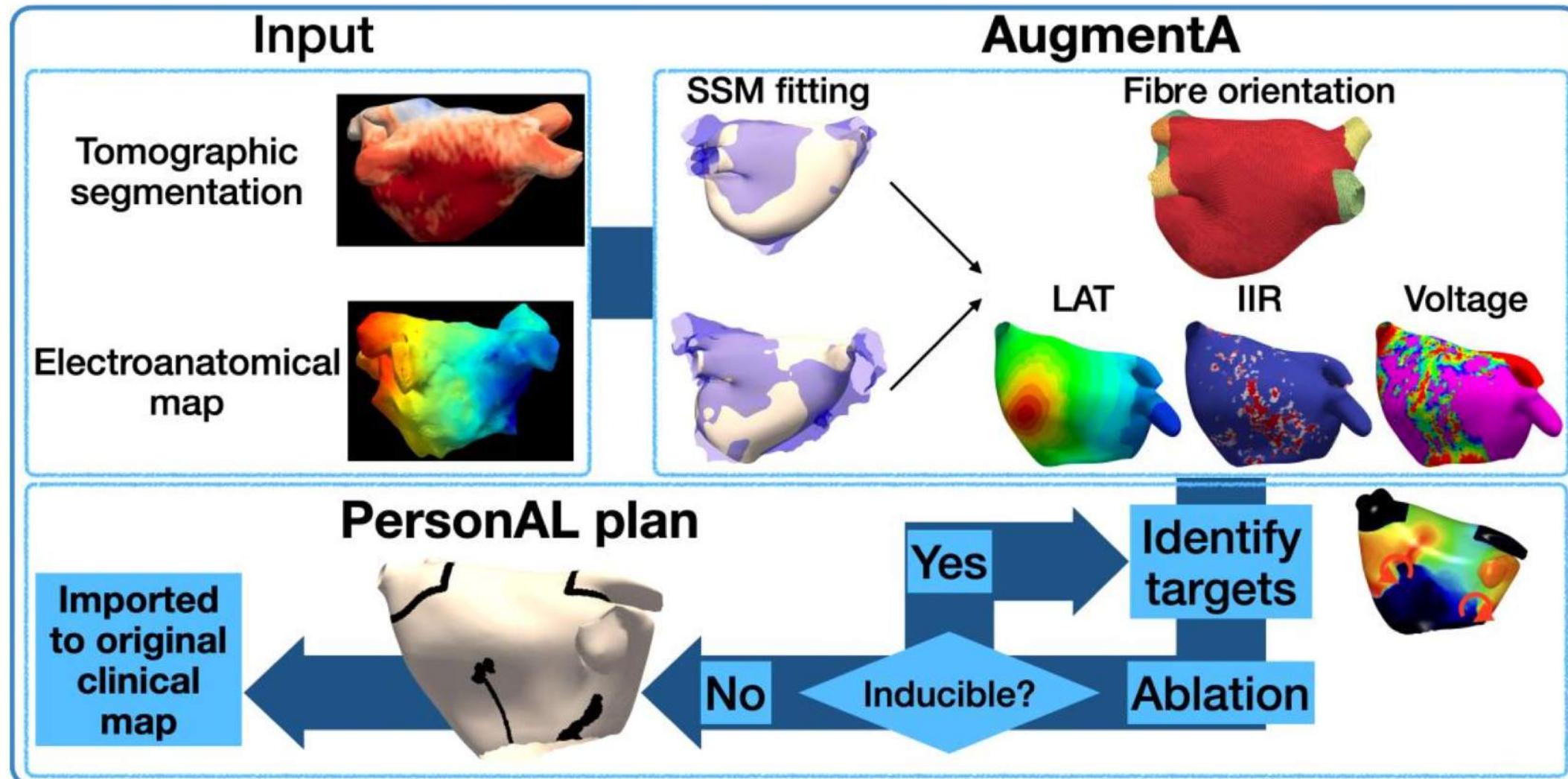
BASIC SCIENCE

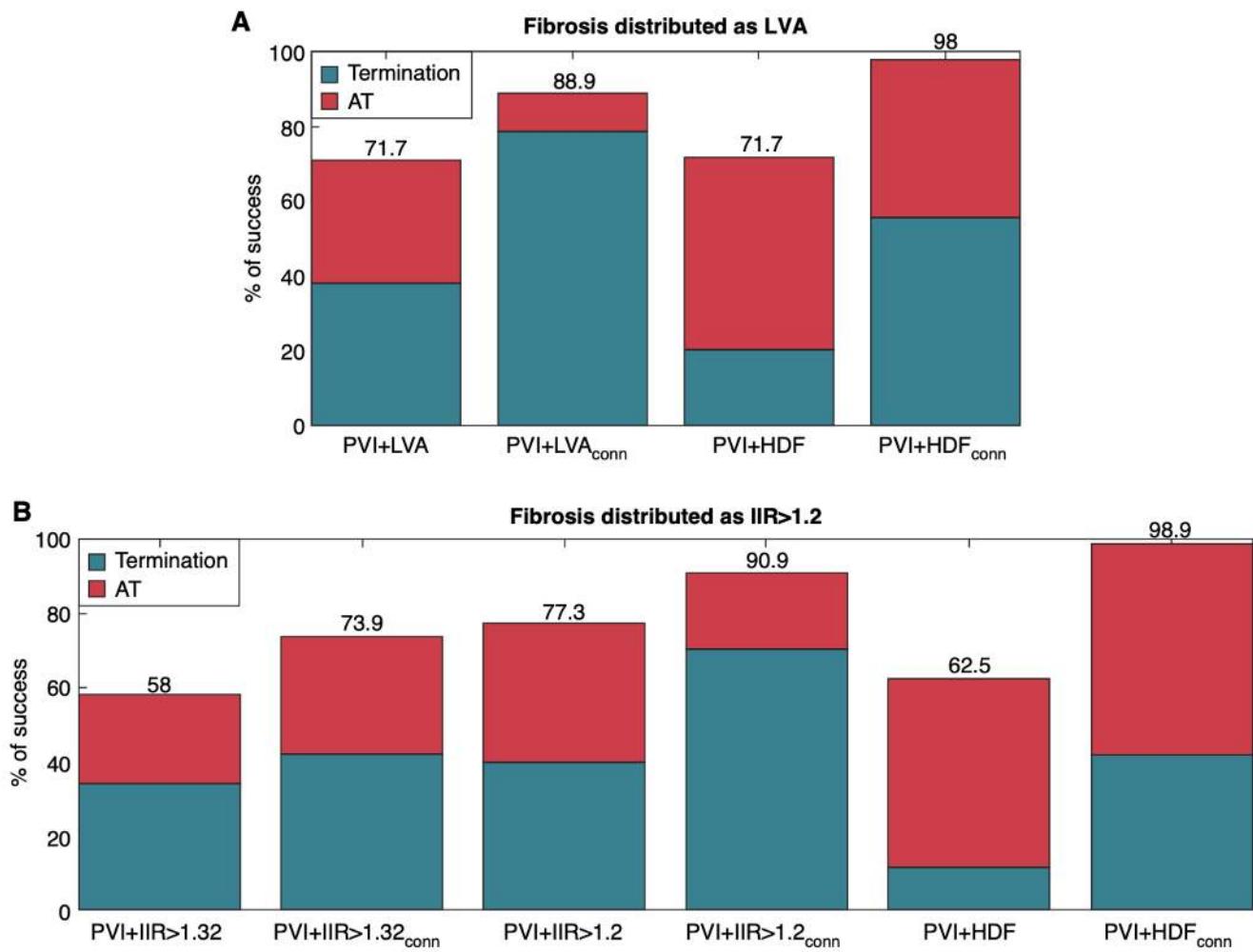
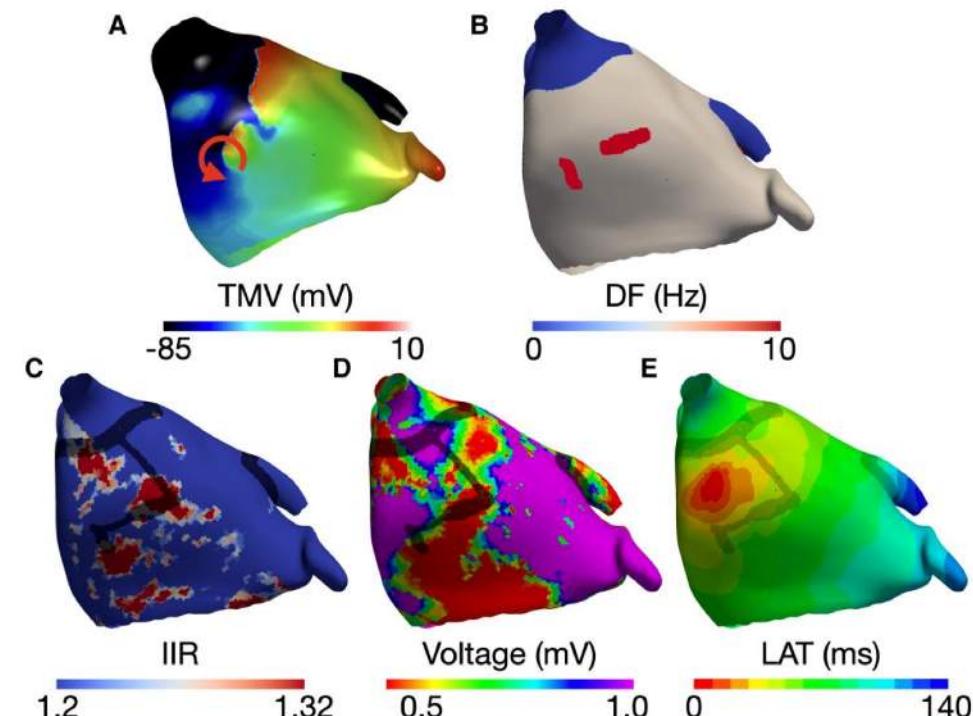
Personalized ablation vs. conventional ablation strategies to terminate atrial fibrillation and prevent recurrence

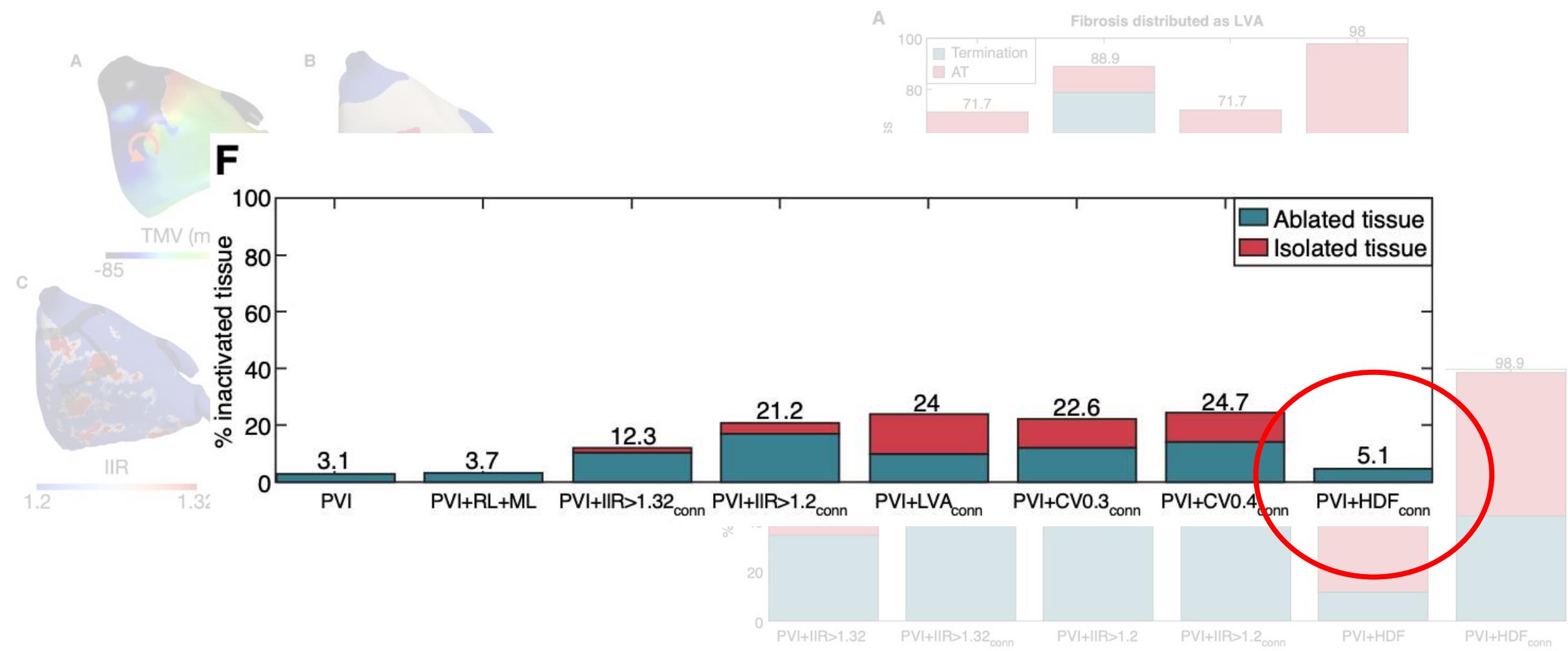
Luca Azzolin  ^{1*}†, Martin Eichenlaub  ^{2†}, Claudia Nagel¹, Deborah Nairn¹, Jorge Sanchez¹, Laura Unger¹, Olaf Dössel  ¹, Amir Jadidi^{2†}, and Axel Loewe^{1†}

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Take home messages

- CT: anatomia → wall-thickness → efficienza e sicurezza (e ...*non solo RF*)
- CT: individuazione affidabile grasso → CT-guided CNA ...e?
- CMR: tecnologia immatura *not ready for prime time* (DECAAF-II)
- CT+CMR+EAM+AI: attenzione al futuro “*digital twin aided*”

Grazie per tutto quello che mi hai insegnato perché di tutto
quello che oggi so, sicuramente gran parte è merito tuo .

Ti saluto come facevamo sempre :
"Ora e sempre Resistenza "

Ti voglio bene



Tutti noi volevamo essere un po' Ezio,
Solo che Ezio lo è stato sempre e fino in fondo

Dott. Ezio Soldati
1957-2024

