

Letters to the Editor

Atrial fibrillation – QT interval and catheter ablation

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The recent article about atrial fibrillation¹ states that the QT interval should be closely monitored, and sotalol is relatively contraindicated in patients with chronic renal impairment. How do we monitor QT interval in atrial fibrillation when it is not measurable?

Linda Mann
General practitioner, YourDoctors, Sydney

REFERENCE

1. McCallum CJ, Raja DC, Pathak RK. Atrial fibrillation: an update on management. *Aust Prescr* 2019;42:186-91. <https://doi.org/10.18773/austprescr.2019.067>

Great article on atrial fibrillation¹, but why is there no mention of cryoablation when radiofrequency ablation was mentioned?

Paul Salmon
Radiologist, Sydney

REFERENCE

1. McCallum CJ, Raja DC, Pathak RK. Atrial fibrillation: an update on management. *Aust Prescr* 2019;42:186-91.

Deep Chandh Raja, one of the authors of the article, comments:



In response to Linda Mann's query, we suggest measuring the QT interval in atrial fibrillation as an average over five ventricular beats. This has been shown to correspond very closely to the QT interval of the same patients in sinus rhythm, when corrected for heart rate.¹ A heart rate correction formula (e.g. Bazett's) should be used, however there is no robust evidence to show superiority of one particular formula over the other.¹

With regards to the query from Paul Salmon about catheter ablation, there are different sources of energy for catheter ablation – radiofrequency energy, cryotherapy and pulsed field ablation.² Radiofrequency energy continues to remain the widely practised mode of catheter ablation, although radiofrequency energy and cryotherapy have similar efficacy rates. Pulsed field ablation or electroporation has recently shown promising results in the first-in-human trials.²

REFERENCES

1. Tooley J, Ouyang D, Hadley D, Turakhia M, Wang P, Ashley E, et al. Comparison of QT interval measurement methods and correction formulas in atrial fibrillation. *Am J Cardiol* 2019;123:1822-7. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjcard.2019.02.057>
2. Reddy VY, Neuzil P, Koruth JS, Petru J, Funosako M, Cochet H, et al. Pulsed field ablation for pulmonary vein isolation in atrial fibrillation. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2019;74:315-26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jacc.2019.04.021>



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