Posterolateral Line
An Alternative to Cavotriscupid Isthmus Ablation for Treatment of Peritricuspid Re-Entry in Patients With Dextro-Transposition of the Great Arteries and Mustard Operation

Mikael Laredo, MD, Clément Karsenty, MD, Magalie Ladouceur, MD, PhD, Alexandre Zhao, MD

A 45-year-old man with dextro-transposition of the great arteries and previous Mustard operation was referred for catheter ablation of persistent intra-atrial re-entrant tachycardia (IART). After transbaffle puncture, bipolar voltage mapping showed an area of dense scar in the posterolateral pulmonary venous atrium (PVA) (Figure 1A). Electro-anatomical activation and entrainment mapping demonstrated a counterclockwise peritricuspid IART (Figure 1B). Linear ablation with irrigated radiofrequency between the tricuspid annulus and the posterolateral scar interrupted the arrhythmia with further noninducibility. Bidirectional block was easily demonstrated by pacing on both sides of the ablation line (Figure 1C). There was no IART recurrence during a follow-up of 7 months.

Among IART, the predominant atrial arrhythmias complicating the course of dextro-transposition of the great arteries several decades after the Senning and Mustard operation, peri-tricuspid re-entry is the most frequent form (1,2). In anatomically normal hearts, peritricuspid re-entry is treated by cavotriscupid isthmus (CTI) linear ablation, as CTI provides 2 anatomical conduction barriers at its extremities, namely the inferior vena cava and the tricuspid annulus. After an atrial switch operation, the CTI is transected by the baffle suture, partitioning the CTI into both sides of the baffle. Therefore CTI ablation is necessarily biatrial, crossing the suture line (3). Whereas high rates of acute procedural success are reported with biatrial CTI ablation, long-term IART recurrences are reported in 30% of patients and are mostly represented by peritricuspid re-entry recurrences and IART involving the incisural scar of the PVA posterolateral wall (4). In this case, we used an alternative to CTI ablation by creating a line of block between tricuspid annulus...
and the PVA posterolateral scar, which, in our experience, is always found in Mustard recipients. Consequently, the ablation occurred entirely in the PVA. This alternative technique might have the advantage to be performed afar from the suture line and to prevent future IART involving the PVA posterolateral wall.

**ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE:** Dr. Mikael Laredo, Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris, Groupe Hospitalier Pitié-Salpêtrière, Institut de Cardiologie, Unité de Rythmologie, 47-83 Boulevard de l’Hôpital, Paris, Ile de France 75013, France. E-mail: mik.laredo@gmail.com.

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