

**MHIF FEATURED STUDY:**  
**COVID-PACT**

**OPEN AND ENROLLING:**

**EPIC message:** *Research MHIF Patient Referral*

<p><b>CONDITION:</b> Critically-ill patients hospitalized with COVID-19</p>	<p><b>PI:</b> Retu Saxena, MD</p>	<p><b>RESEARCH CONTACT:</b> Stephanie Ebnet, RN <a href="mailto:Stephanie.Ebnet@allina.com">Stephanie.Ebnet@allina.com</a>   612-863-6286</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR:</b> TIMI Study Group</p>
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**DESCRIPTION:**

Phase 2/3, randomized, open-label strategy trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of antithrombotic therapy for prevention of arterial and venous thrombotic complications in critically-ill patients with COVID-19. Subjects are randomized to standard dose prophylactic versus therapeutic dose anticoagulation (Heparin or Lovenox) and antiplatelet (Plavix) versus no antiplatelet therapy. Subjects are followed for 28 days or until discharge (whichever occurs first). Several trials of anticoagulant intensity in COVID-19 have been completed, but the results of these trials have not yet resolved the uncertainty regarding the optimal dosing of anticoagulant therapy and not led to changes in professional society guidelines from those in place.

**CRITERIA LIST/ QUALIFICATIONS:**

Inclusion:

- ≥ 18 years old
- Acute infection with SARS-CoV2
- Currently admitted to the ICU or receiving ICU level cares ≤ 96 hours

Exclusion:

- Ongoing (>48 hours) or planned full-dose anticoagulation
- Ongoing or planned treatment with dual antiplatelet therapy
- Contraindication to antithrombotic therapy or high risk of bleeding
- History of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia
- Ischemic stroke within the past 2 weeks
- Pregnancy

**MHIF FEATURED STUDY:**

# ACTIV-3

**OPEN AND ENROLLING:**

EPIC message: *Research MHIF Patient Referral*

<p><b>CONDITION:</b> Patients hospitalized for COVID-19</p>	<p><b>PI:</b> Jay Traverse, MD</p>	<p><b>RESEARCH CONTACT:</b> Irena Davies <a href="mailto:Irena.Davies@allina.com">Irena.Davies@allina.com</a>   612-863-4393</p>	<p><b>SPONSOR:</b> The University of Minnesota</p>
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**DESCRIPTION:** Phase 3 adaptive, double-blind, randomized placebo-controlled platform trial to evaluate the safety and efficacy of multiple investigational agents aimed at modifying the host immune response to SARS-CoV-2 infection or directly enhancing viral control in order to limit disease progression in patients hospitalized with COVID-19. Subjects are randomized to investigational agents available at our site versus placebo and receive single IV infusion. Subjects are followed for a total of 18 months with scheduled lab draws and follow-up visits.

**CRITERIA LIST/ QUALIFICATIONS:**

Inclusion:

- ≥ 18 years old
- Positive nucleic acid test (NAT) confirming SARS-CoV-2 infection ≤ 3 days of randomization **OR** positive NAT **and** progressive disease
- Symptoms attributable to COVID-19 first started within 12 days before randomization
- Requires admission for inpatient hospital acute medical care for COVID-19 infection

Exclusion:

- Received any SARS-CoV-2 hVIG, convalescent plasma, or SARS-CoV-2 neutralizing monoclonal antibody anytime prior to admission
- Not willing to abstain from participation in other COVID-19 treatment trials until after Day 5 (with approval from study leadership)
- Presence at enrollment for stroke, meningitis, encephalitis, myelitis, MI, myocarditis, pericarditis, symptomatic CHF, arterial or deep vein thrombosis or PE
- Current requirement for invasive mechanical ventilation, ECMO, mechanical ventilator support, vasopressor therapy, initiation of RRT

# Electrical Dyssynchrony and Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy:

Alan J. Bank, MD

Medical Director of Research

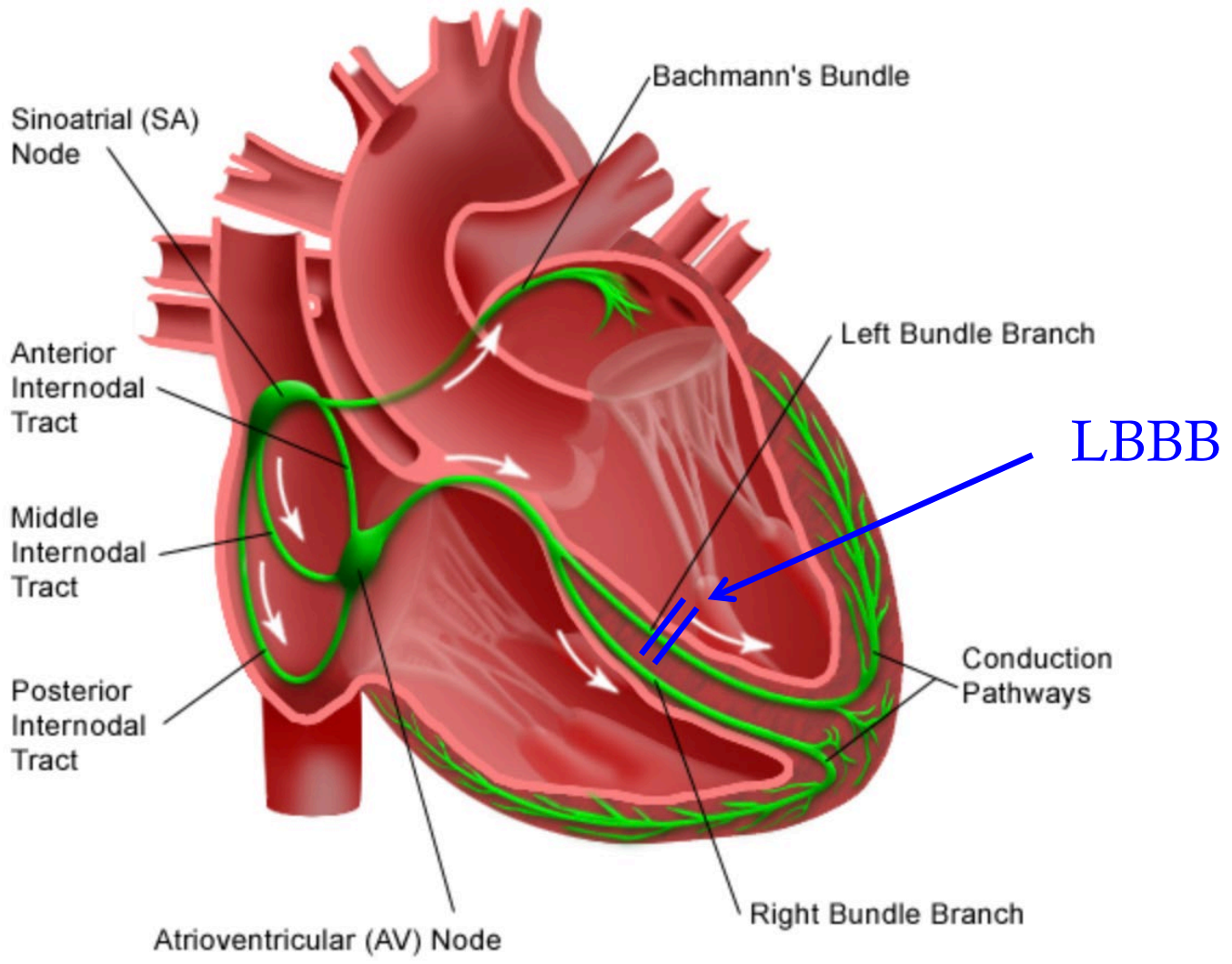
Minneapolis Heart Institute East at United Hospital

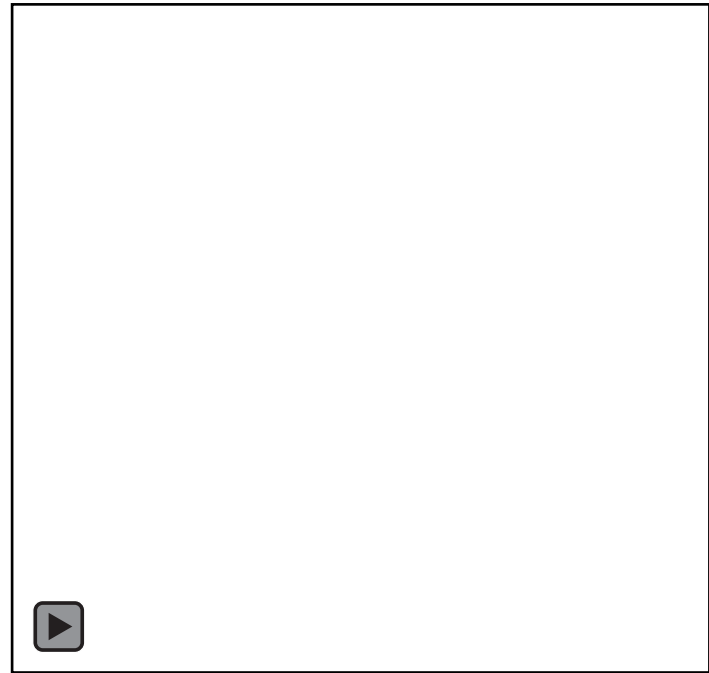
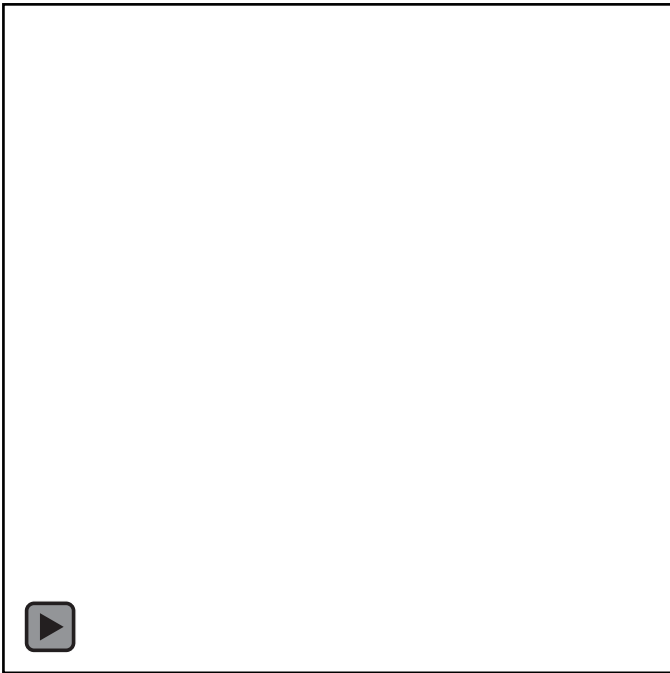
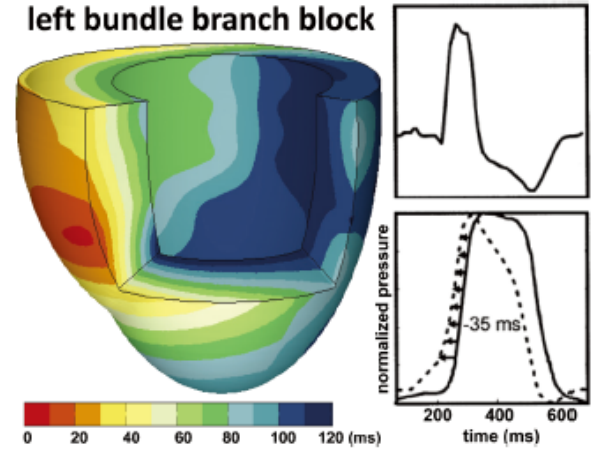
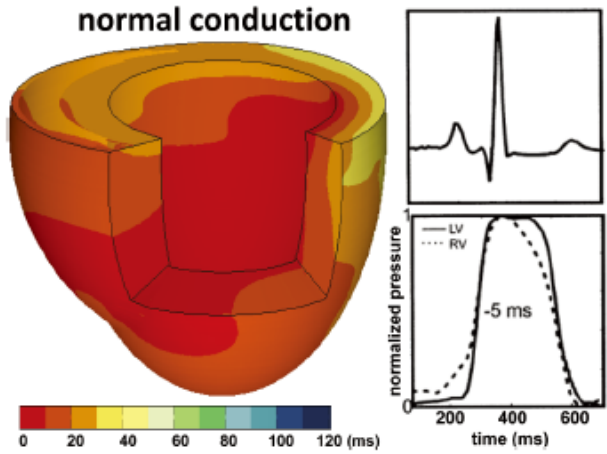
Allina Health

## OUTLINE

1. THE PROBLEMS: Underutilization, Non-response/Incomplete-response
2. THE MECHANISM: Wavefront Fusion
3. THE MEASUREMENT: Cardiac Resynchronization Index (CRI)
4. THE GRAPHICS: Electrical Dyssynchrony Mapping (EDM)
5. THE OUTCOMES: Clinical and Echocardiographic
6. THE FUTURE: Clinical use for patient selection, lead location, optimization

# Left Bundle Branch Block





# Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy (CRT) / Biventricular Pacing

BiV Pacing

RA lead

RV lead

LV lead



# CRT: Basic Facts

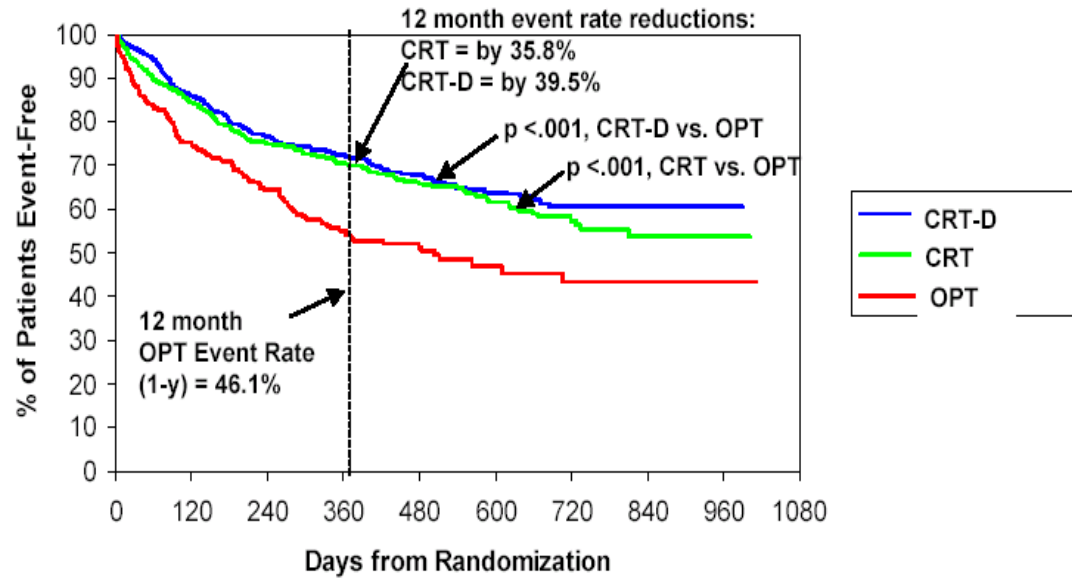
- Clinically available for ~ 20 years (with and without defibrillator)
- Indicated for patients with HF (EF < 35%) and conduction abnormalities (LBBB)
- Multicenter randomized trials > 10,000 patients with significant improvements in:
  - Symptoms and quality of life
  - Exercise capacity
  - Left ventricular size and function
  - Hospitalization rate
  - Mortality
- ~ 160K implants/year US (similar number OUS)
- > 2 million patients with CRT devices worldwide
- Annual sales revenue: ~ \$3.2 billion



# COMPANION CRT TRIAL



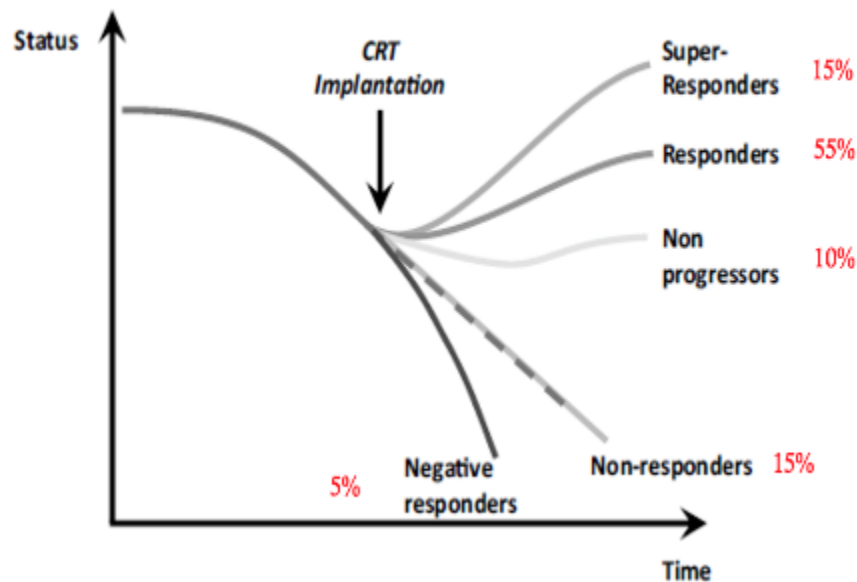
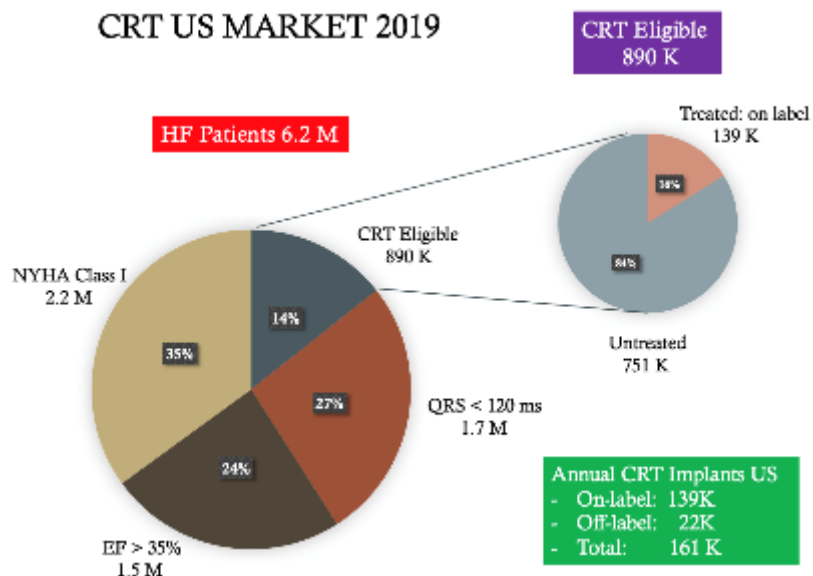
**Death (21%) or HF Hospitalization (73%),  
IV Rx >4 hrs (6%)**



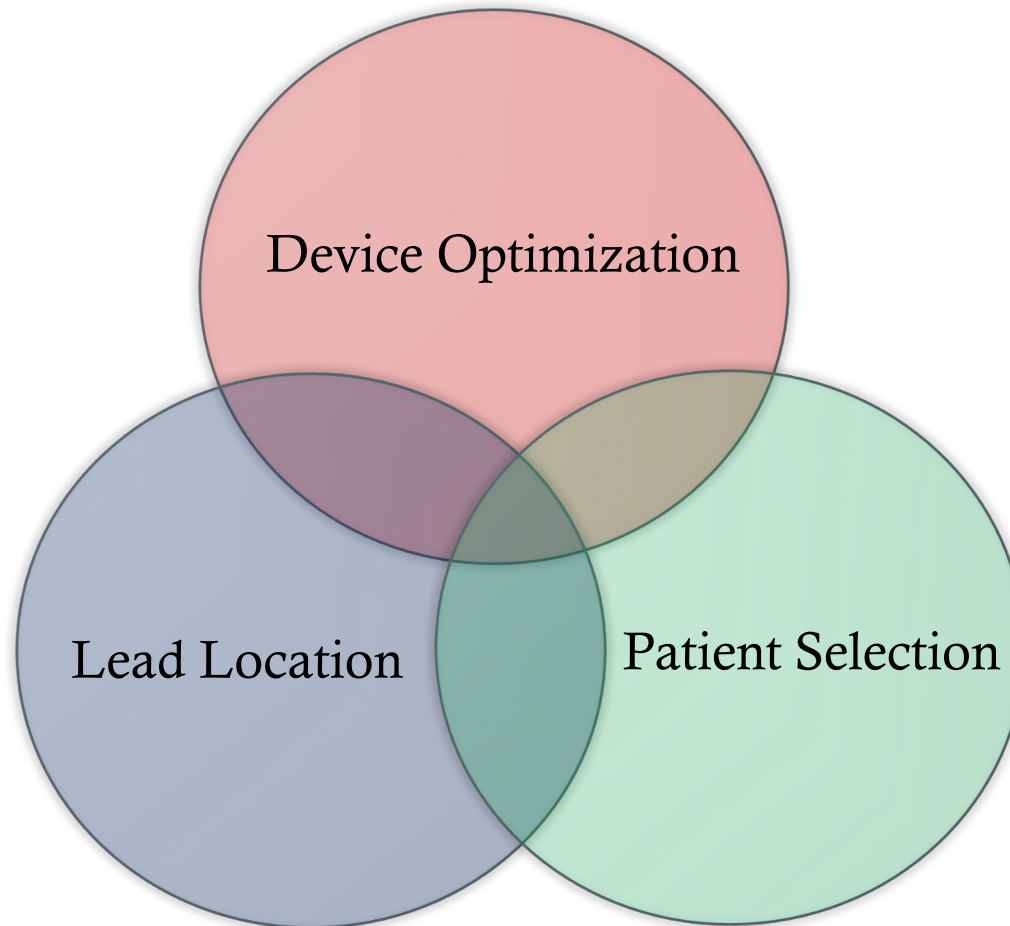
# CRT: THE PROBLEMS

Underutilization (~16% penetrance)

Non-Response (~30%)

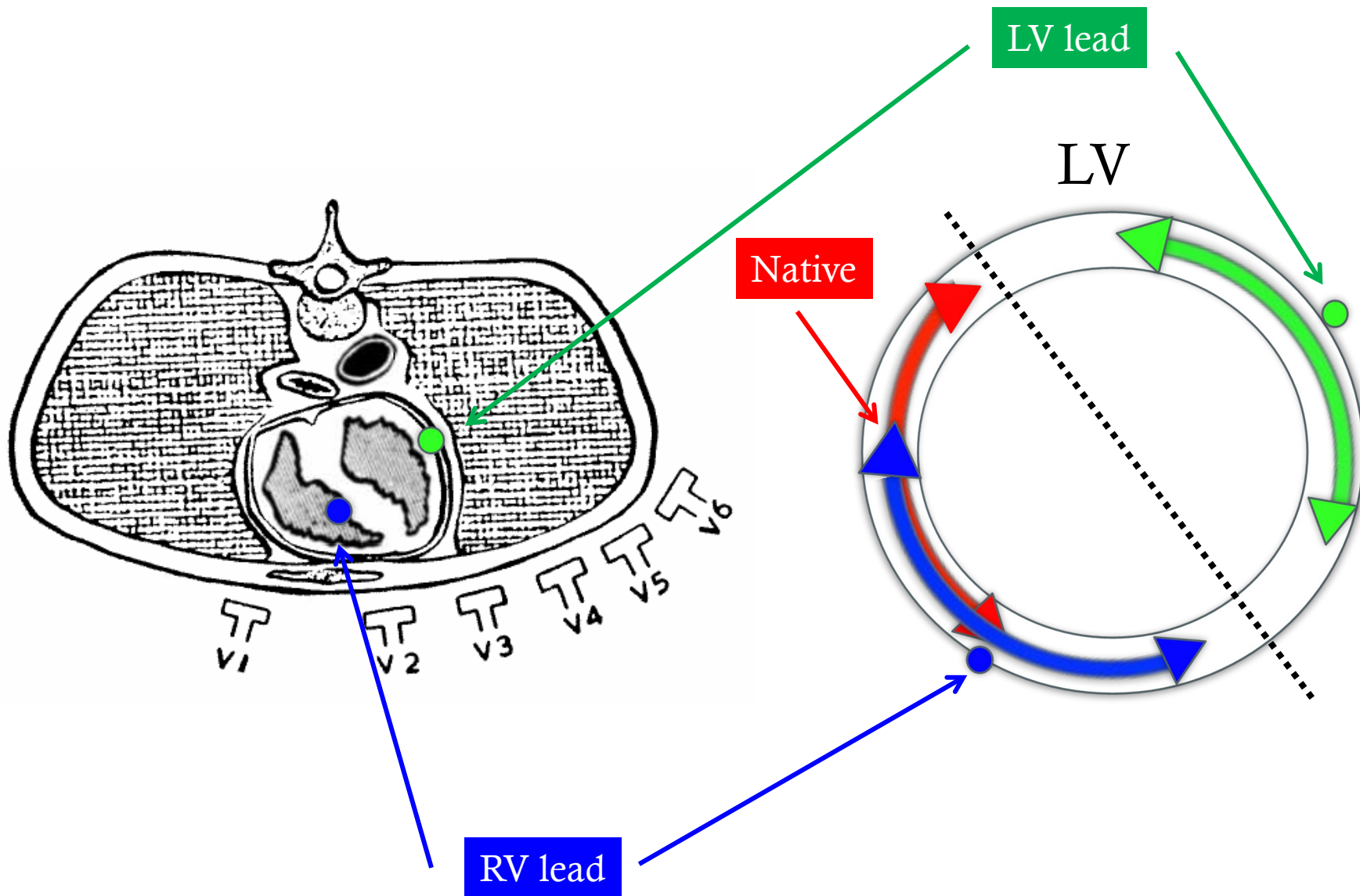


# CRT: Clinical Issues to Address to Improve Underutilization and Non-Response

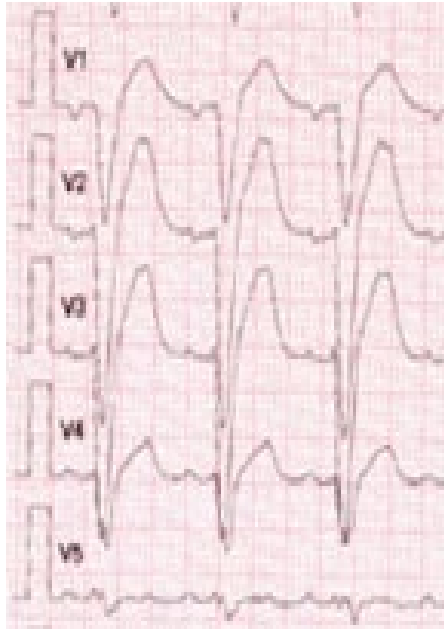


# THE MECHANISM

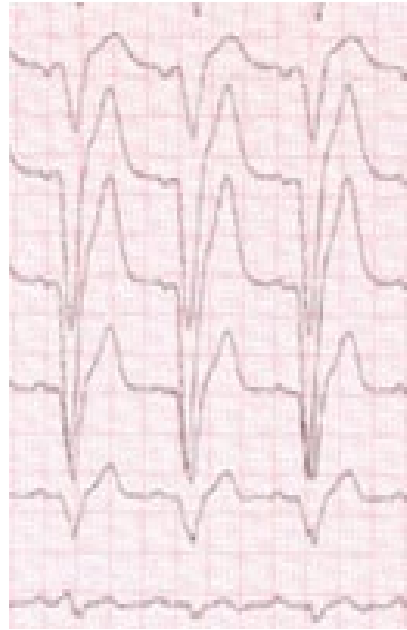
# Wavefront Fusion in CRT



# QRS Morphology and Electrical Wavefronts



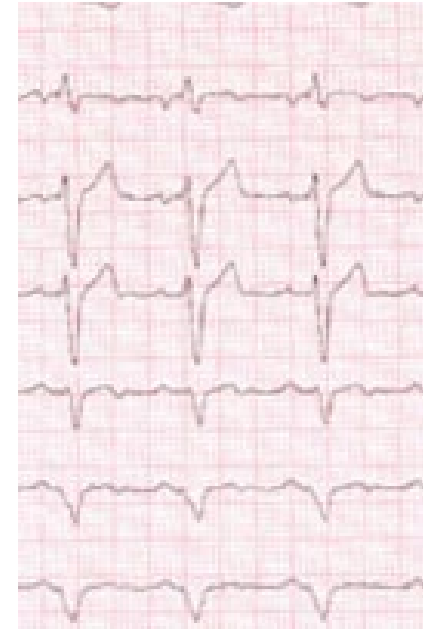
Native LBBB



RV pacing

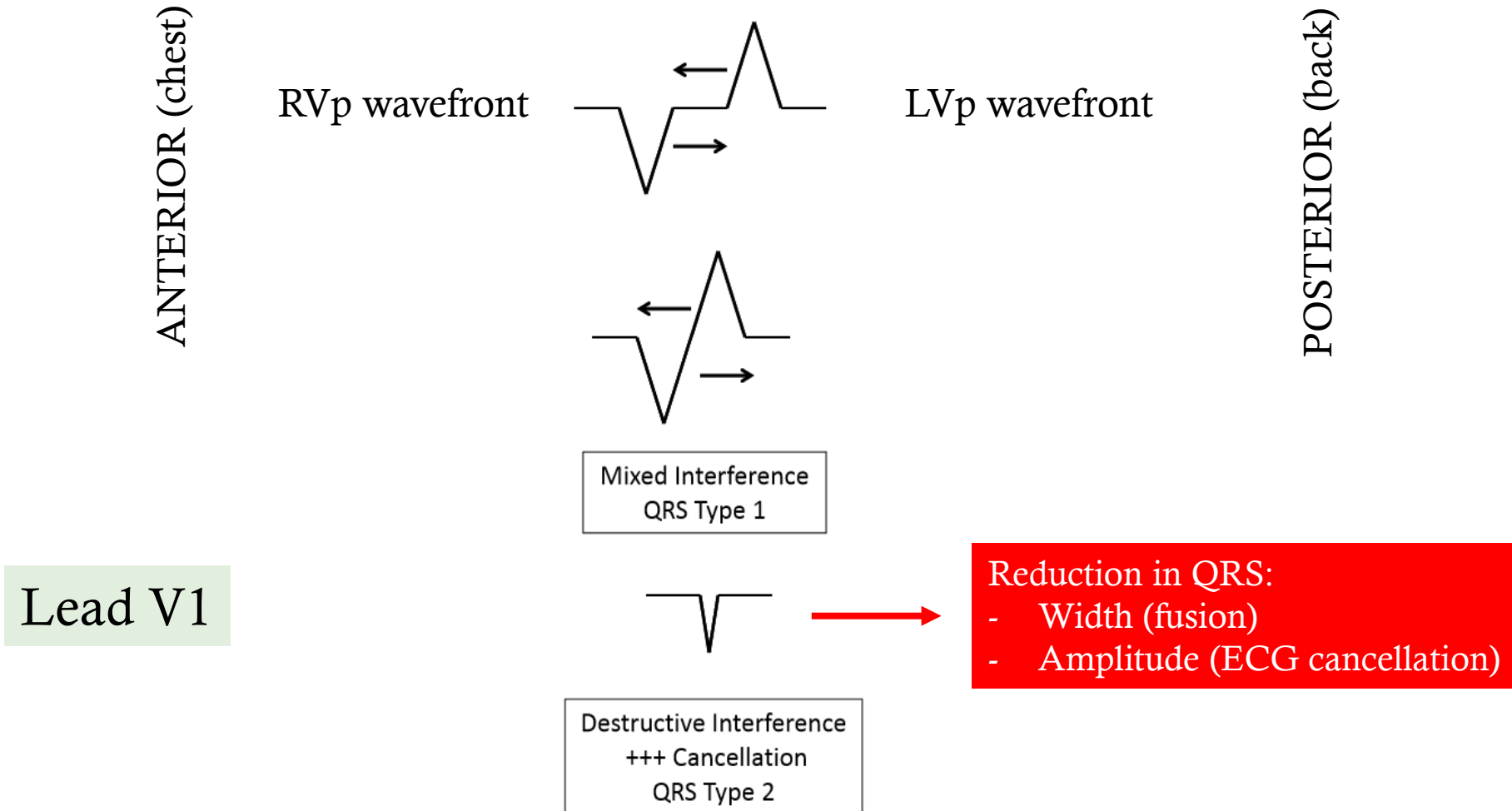


RBBB

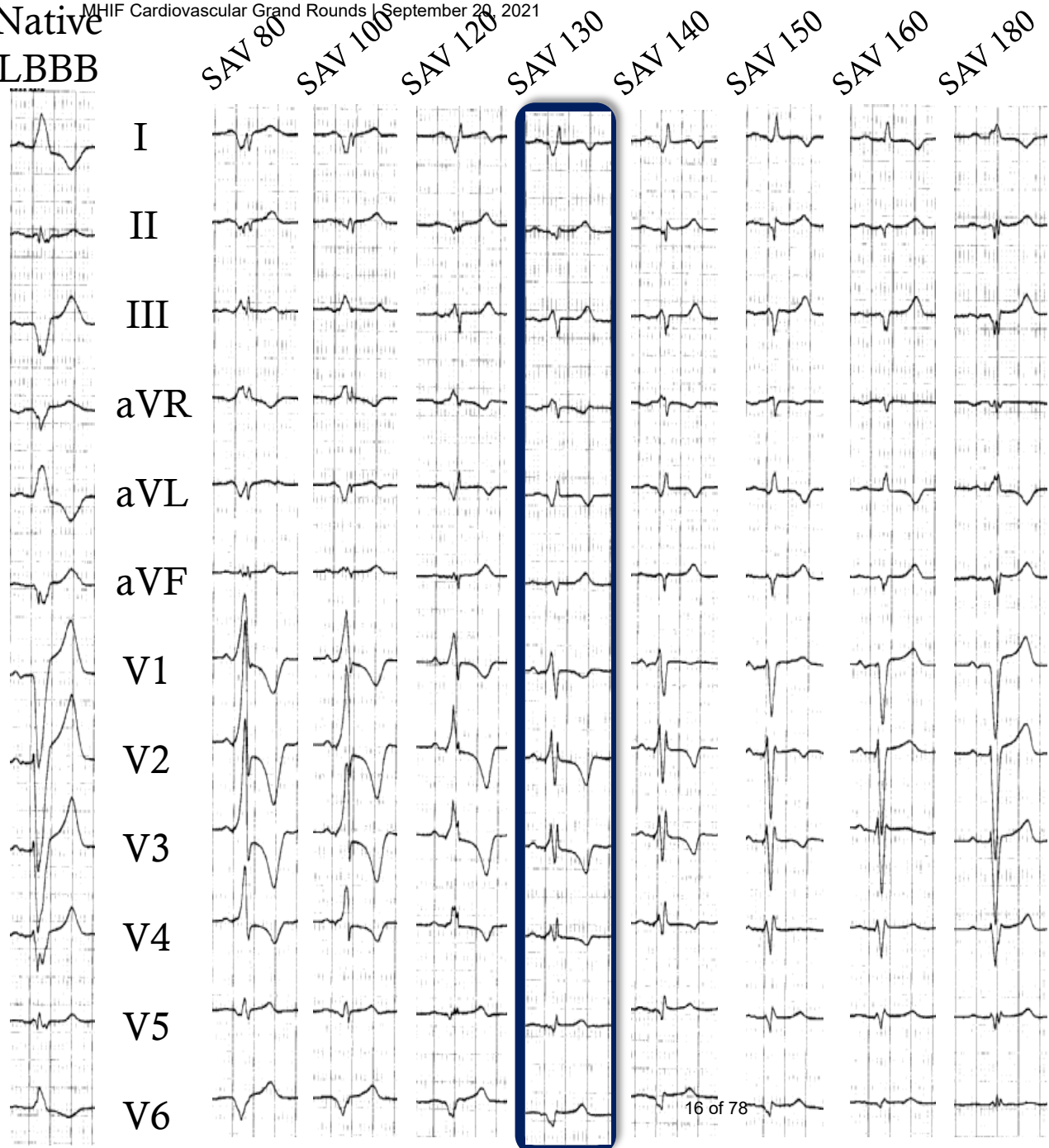


CRT

# Wavefront Fusion and Electrocardiographic Cancellation



Adapted from: Sweeney MO, Hellkamp AS, Electrocardiographic Method of Wave Interference for Characterizing Ventricular Fusion During CRT



73 yr, Male  
NICM, LBBB

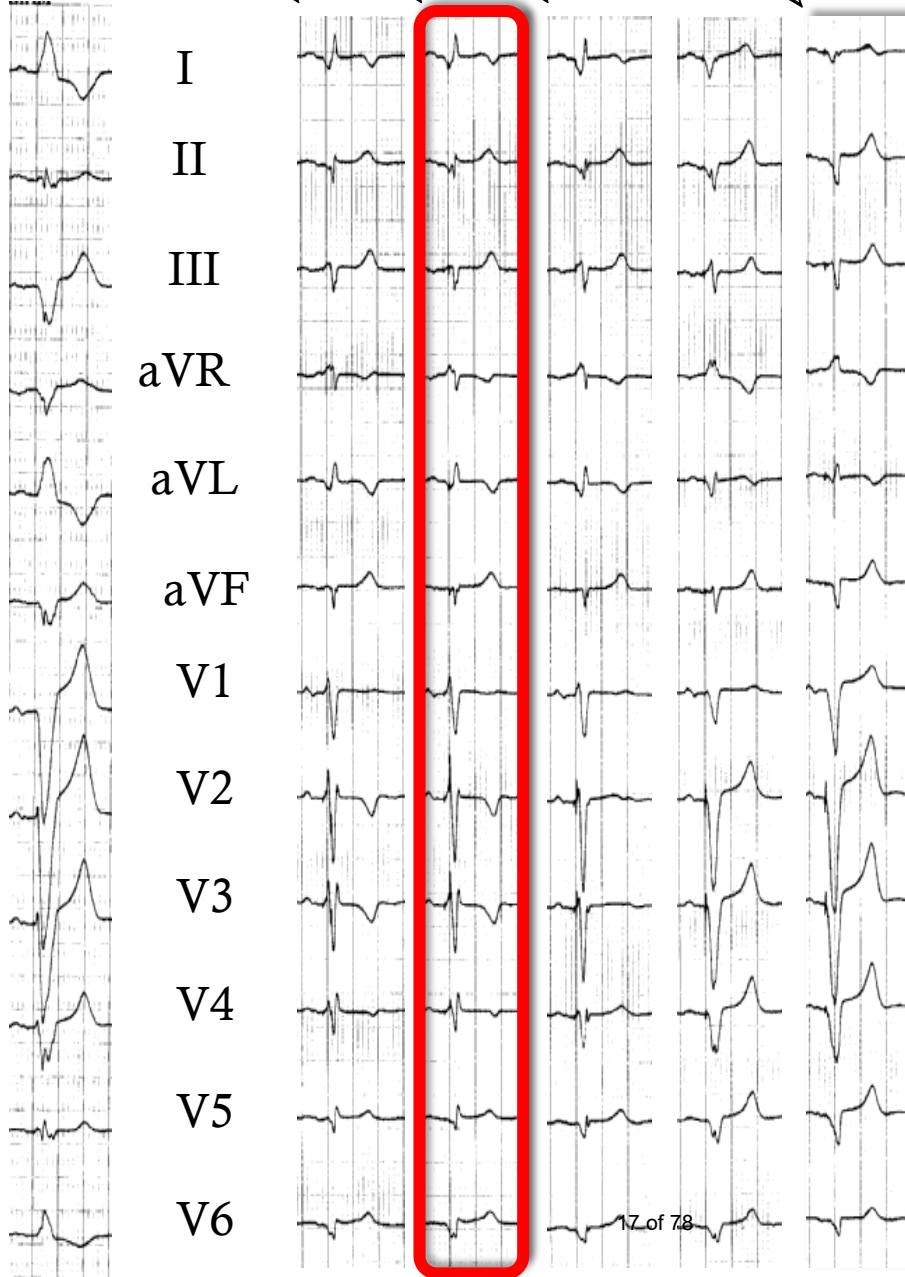
PR: 190 ms  
QRSd: 170 ms

AsRVs – 190 ms  
ApRVs – 230 ms

A-sensed LV-paced

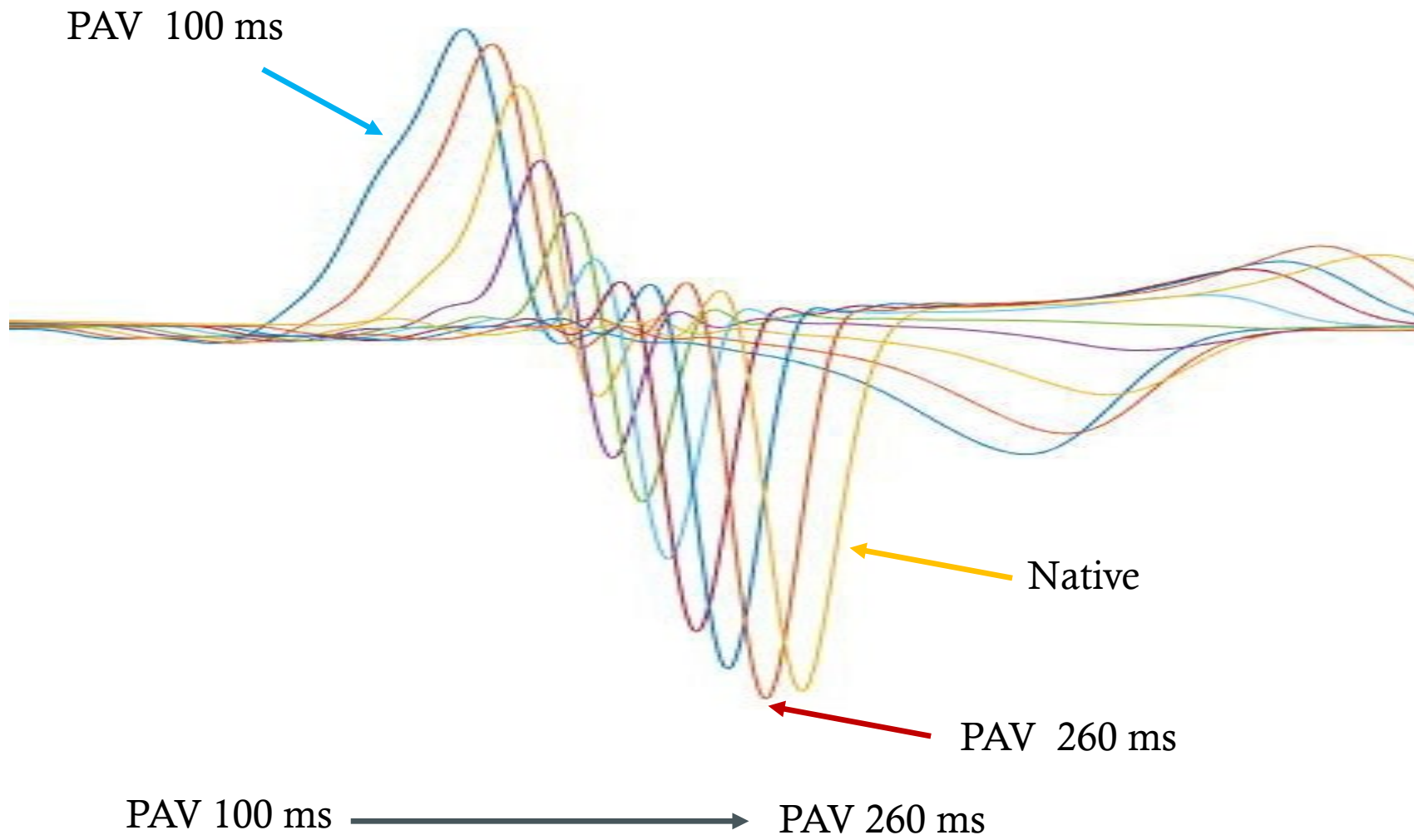


Native  
LBBB



A-sensed BiV-paced (SAV 140)

# Lead V1 during LV-only Pacing in Patient with Underlying LBBB



# Fusion of Native and LVp (at short AVD) Wavefronts (Lead V1)

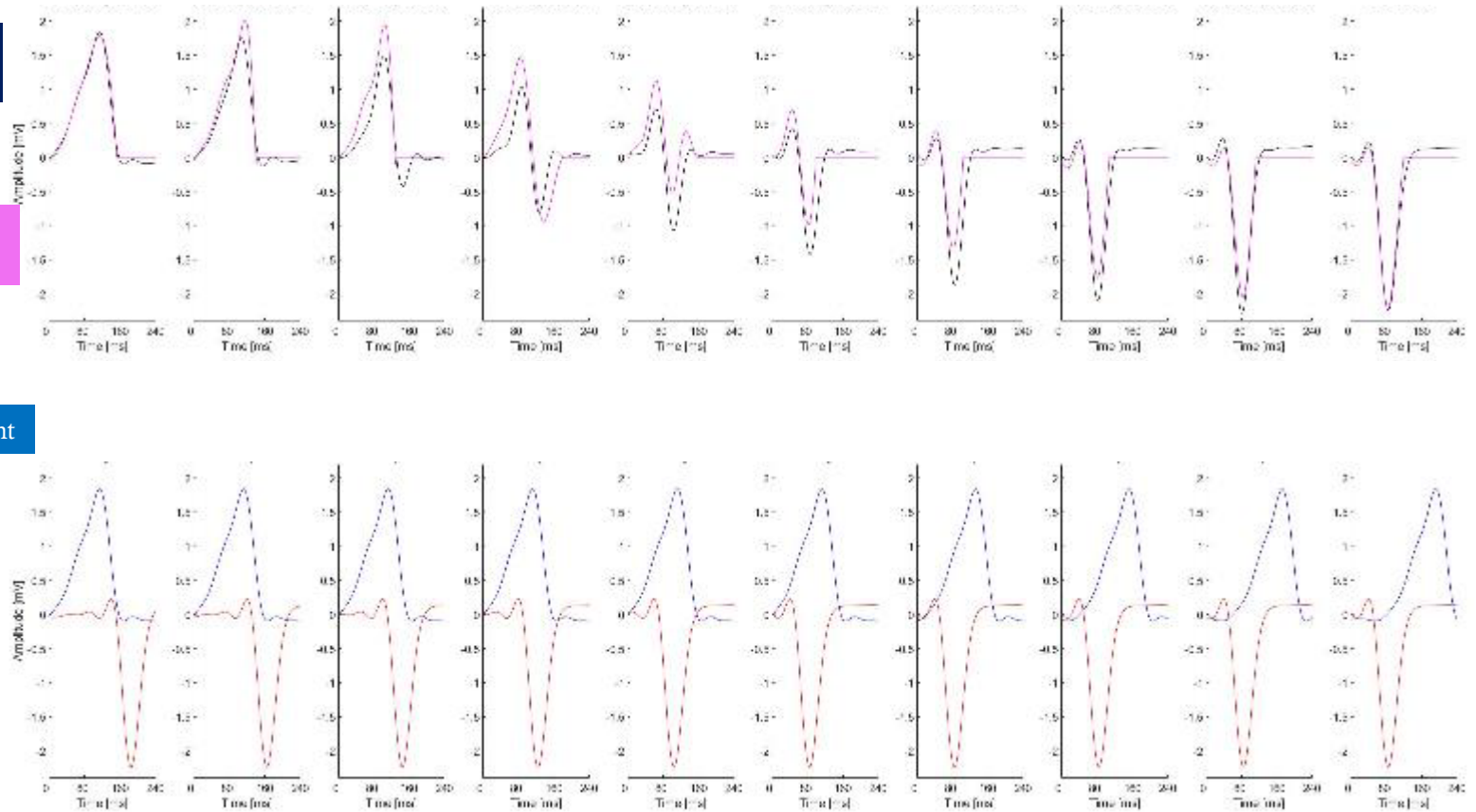
PAVD      100      120      140      160      180      \* 200      220      240      260      Native

Measured Electrogram

Reconstructed Electrogram

LVp wavefront

Native wavefront



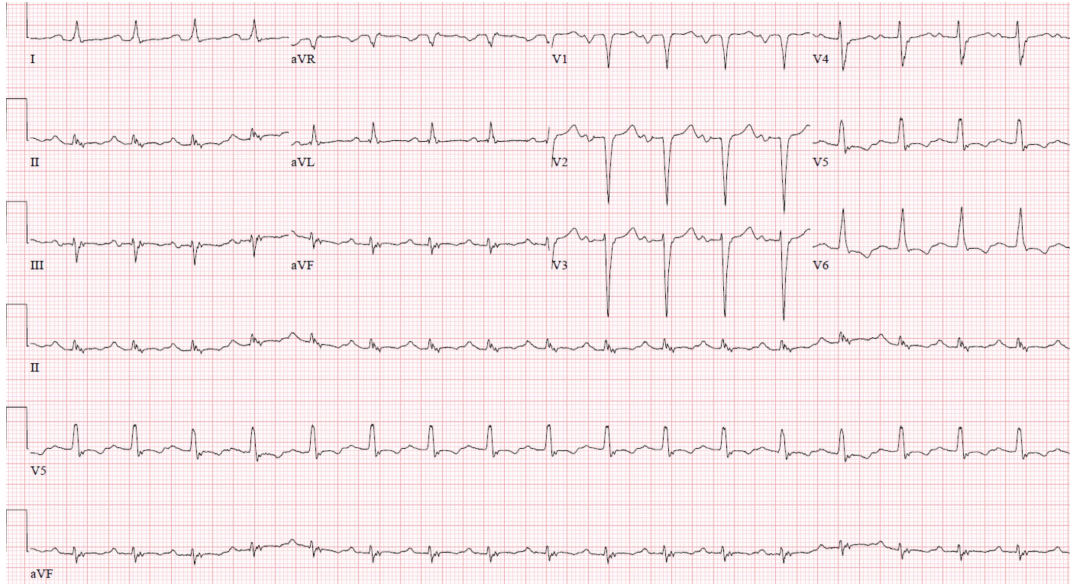
\* Optimal PAVD = 190 ms (CRI > 90%)

# THE MEASUREMENT (of electrical dyssynchrony)

# Electrical Dyssynchrony: $QRS_d$

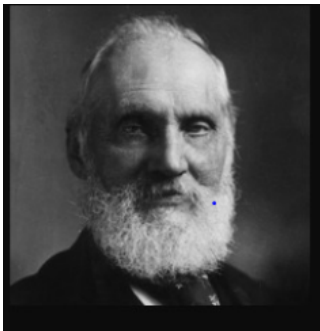
$QRS_d$  has been the only measure of electrical dyssynchrony clinically available and used in the selection and management of CRT patients.

$QRS_d$  serves as a surrogate for LV total activation time.



## Measurement of $QRS_d$

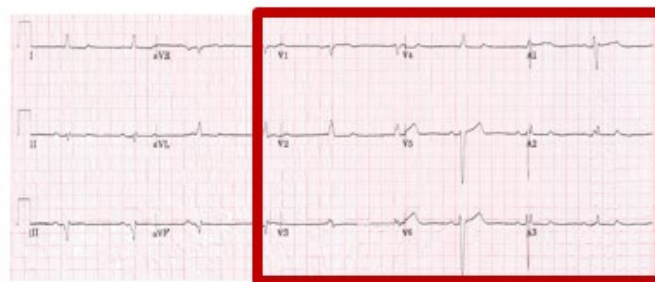
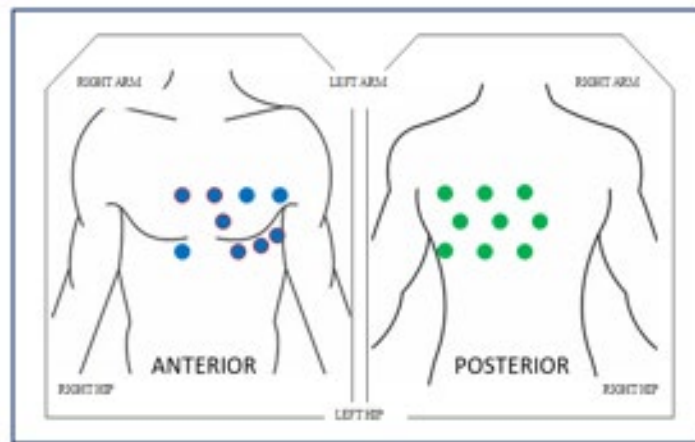
- Single lead? If so, which lead?
- Single beat or average multiple beats?
- Average all leads or longest  $QRS_d$  (global)?
- What defines start and end of QRS?
- Calipers or automated?
- Paper speed?
- Reproducibility: interobserver, intraobserver?



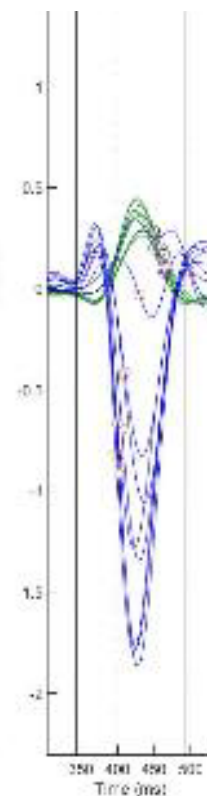
“To measure is to know; If you cannot measure it, you cannot improve it.”

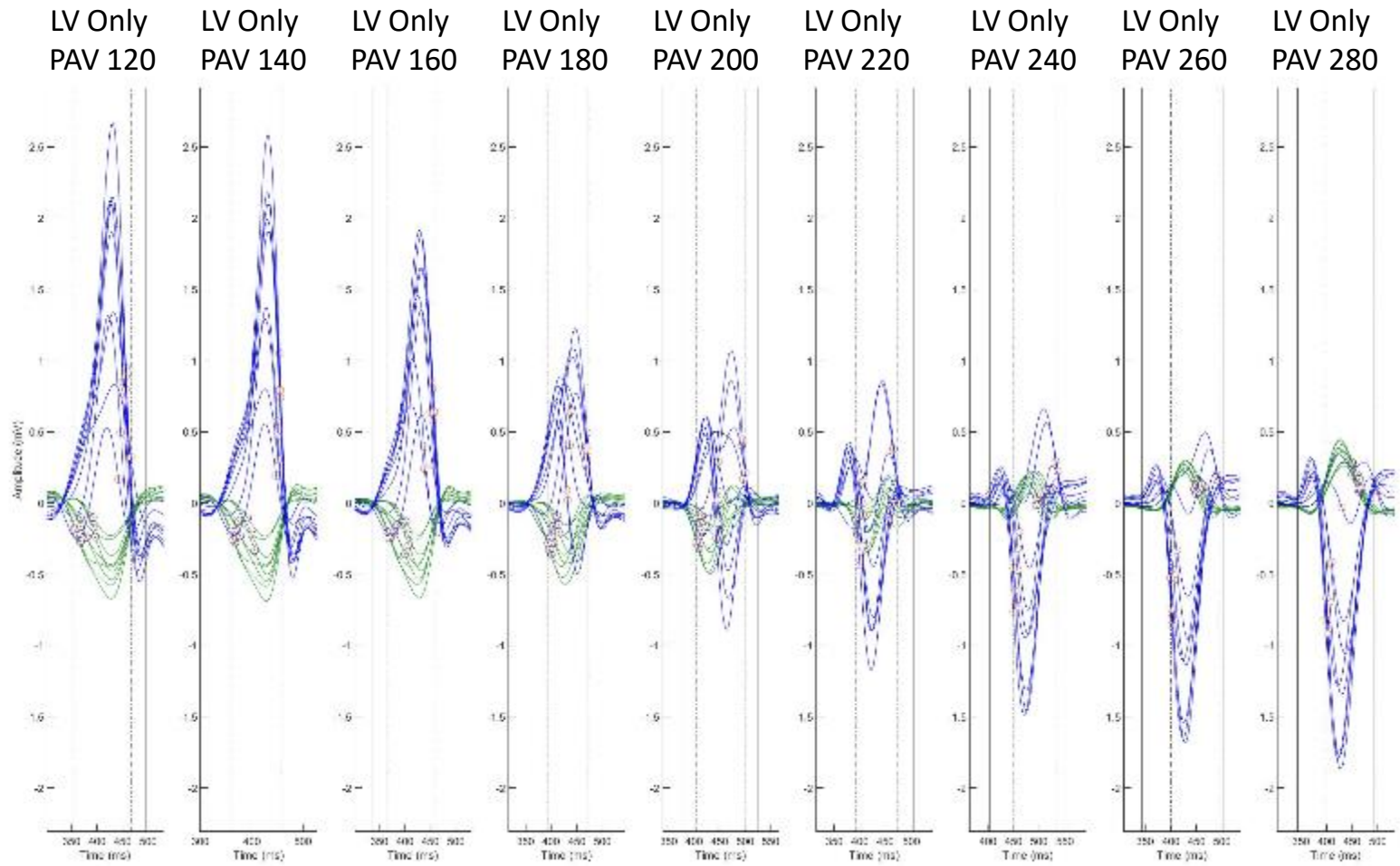
Lord Kelvin  
1824-1907

# Multi-lead ECG to Measure Dyssynchrony



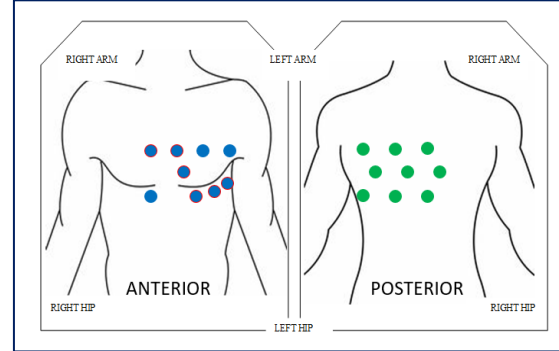
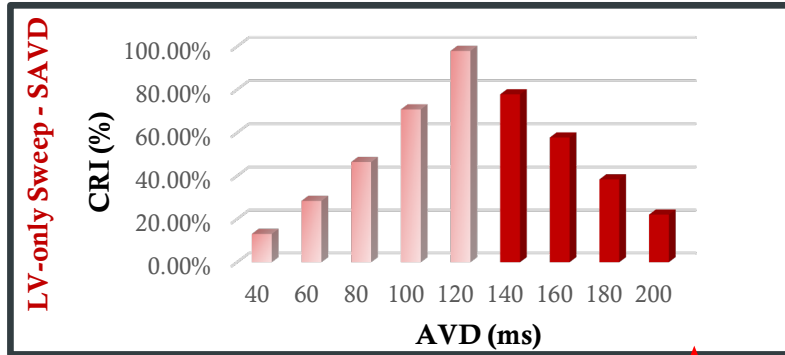
18 Unipolar Electrodes



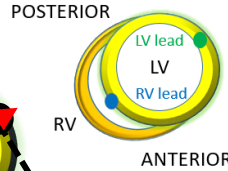


CRI (%)    -16            1            16            45            68            94            75            58            40

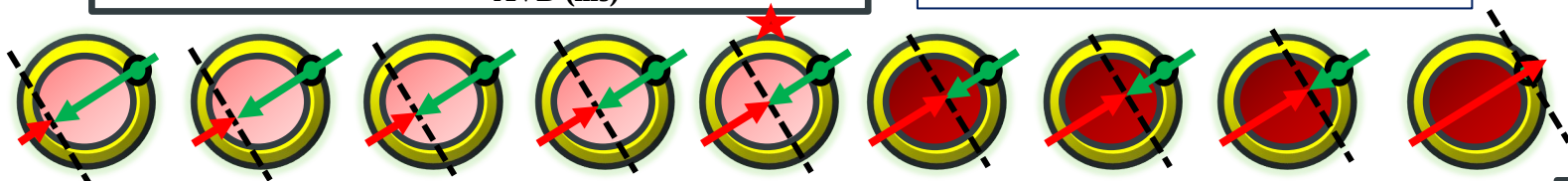
# Cardiac Resynchronization Index



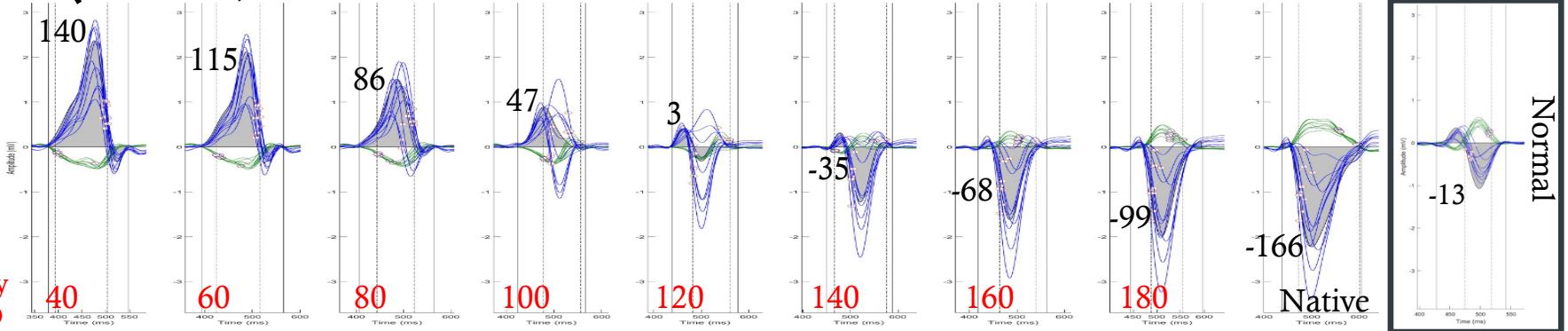
Multi-lead ECG Electrode Array



Wavefront Fusion



AUC (shaded)



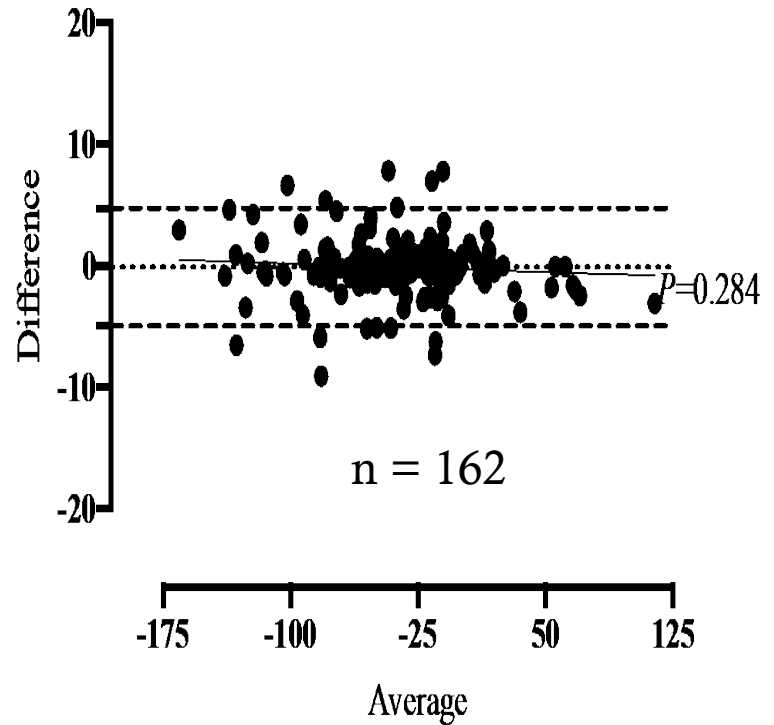
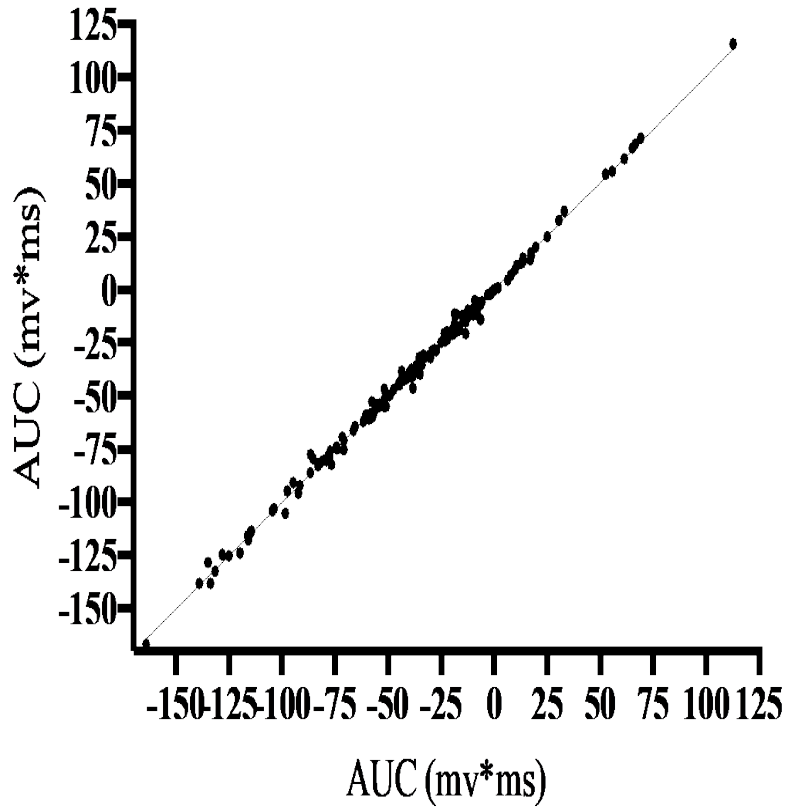
LV-only SAVD

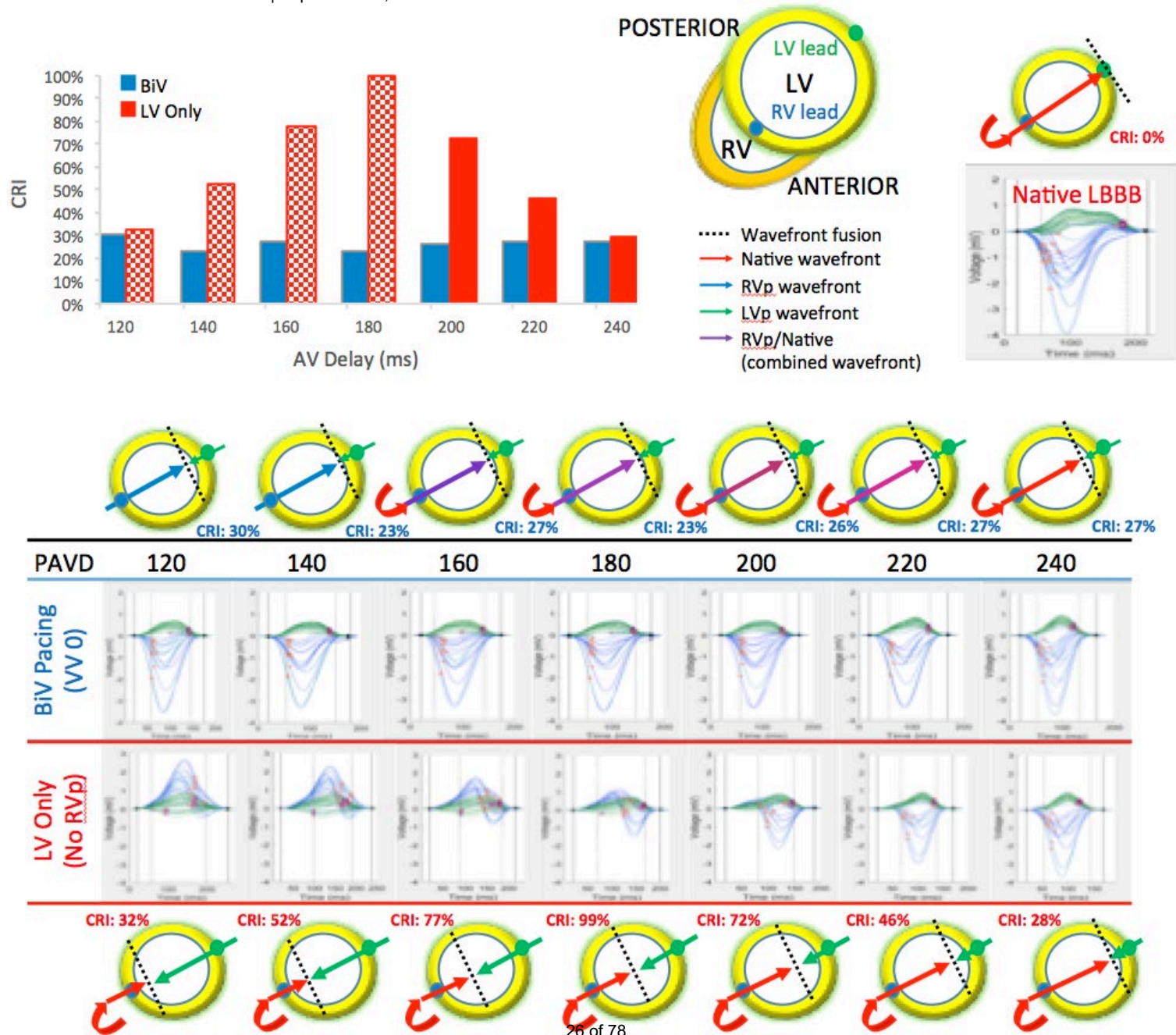
CRI: % change in AUC at any given setting compared to native

$$CRI = \left| \frac{AUC_{native} - AUC_x}{AUC_{native}} \right| \times 100$$



# Short-term Reproducibility of AUC Measurement

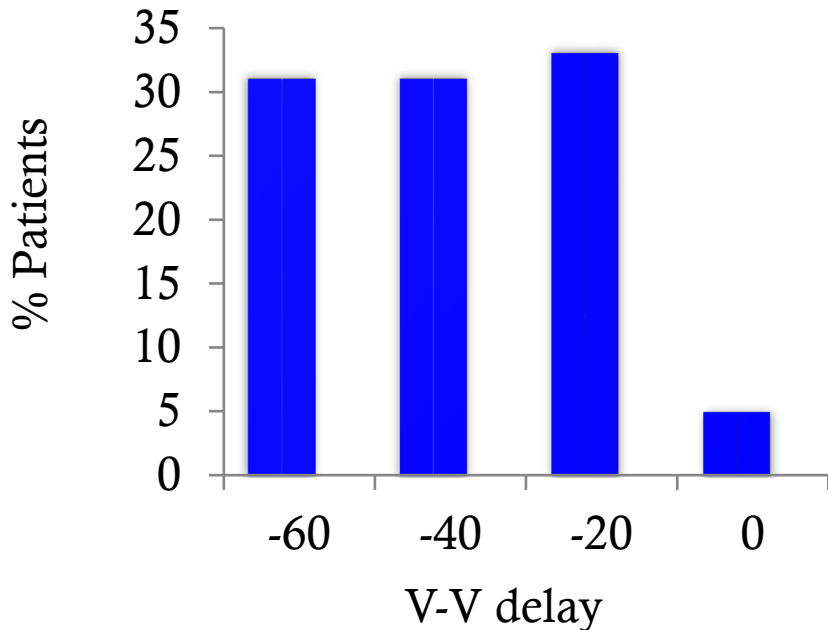




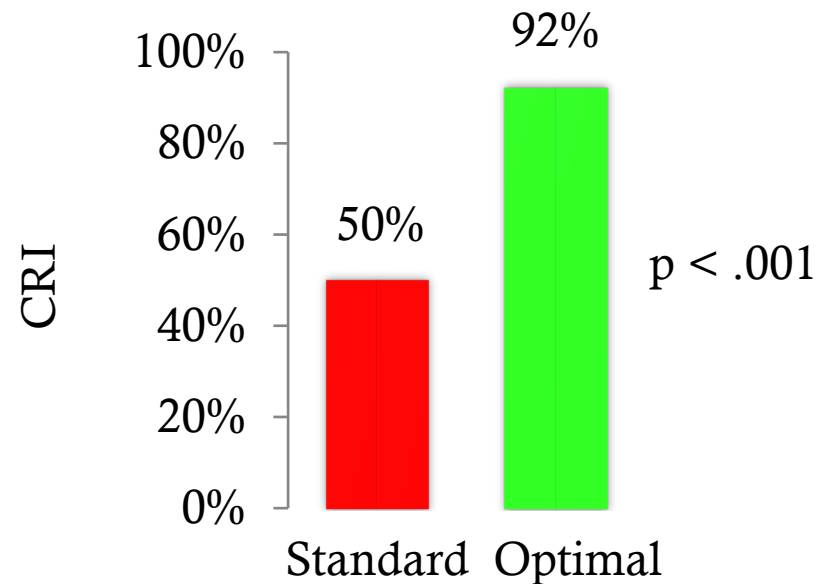
# Fusion of Intrinsic, LVp and RVp Wavefronts: BiV Pacing in Patients with NSR and Intact AV Conduction

- Sequential BiV pacing
  - best CRI 83.9 +/- 13% at LV = - 40.2 +/- 20 ms

### LV Preactivation Needed To Achieve Best CRI



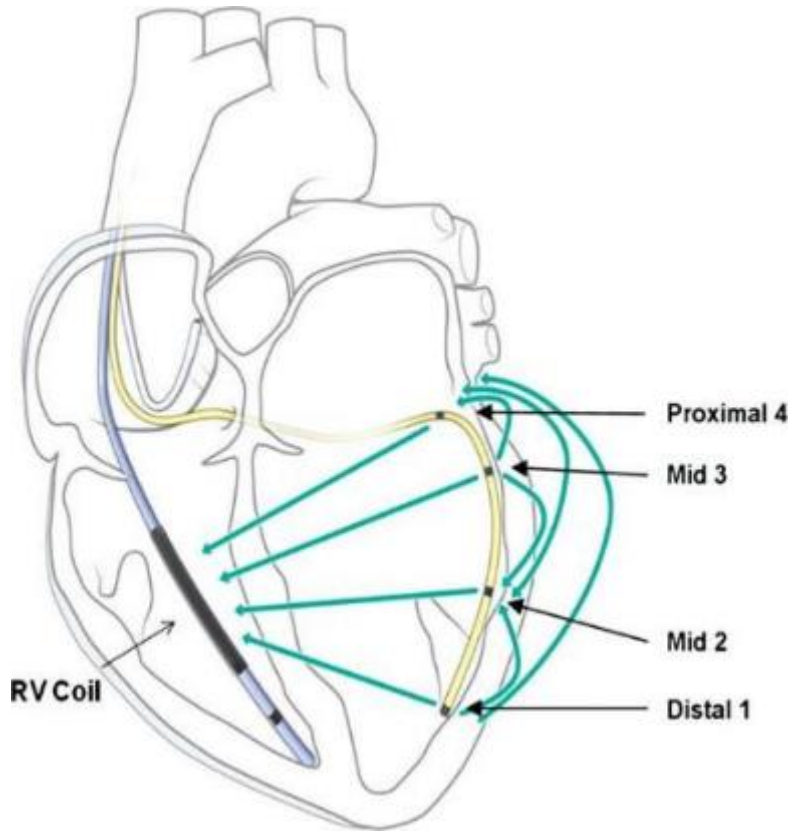
### Effects of CRT Optimization



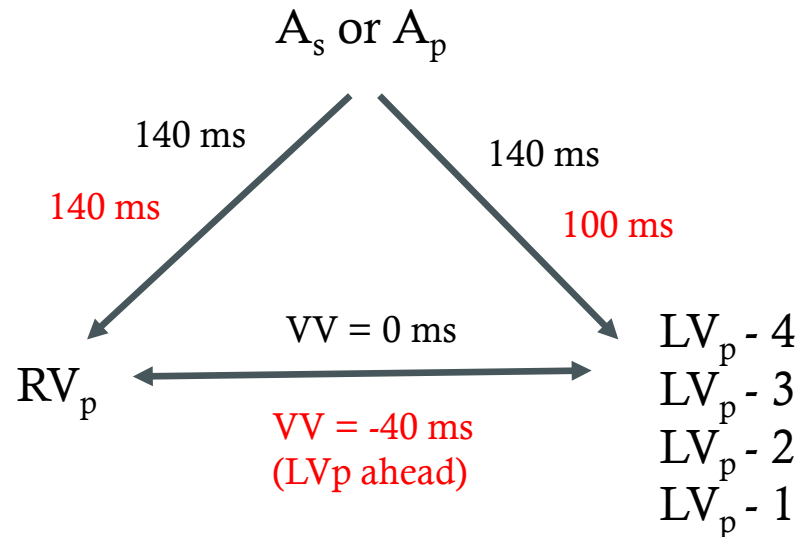
# THE GRAPHICS

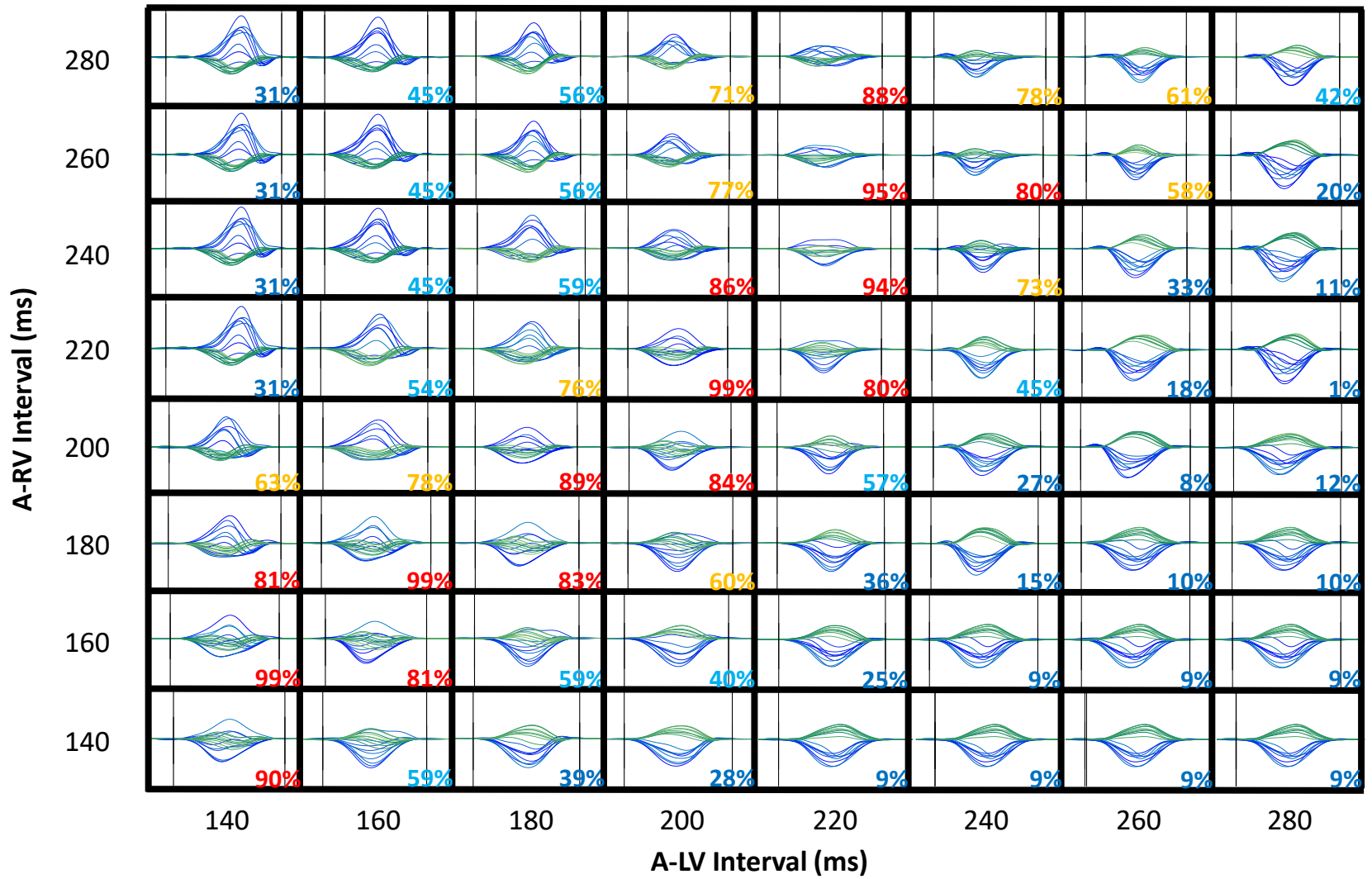
## Electrical Dyssynchrony Mapping (EDM)

# CRT Programming (1000's of options)

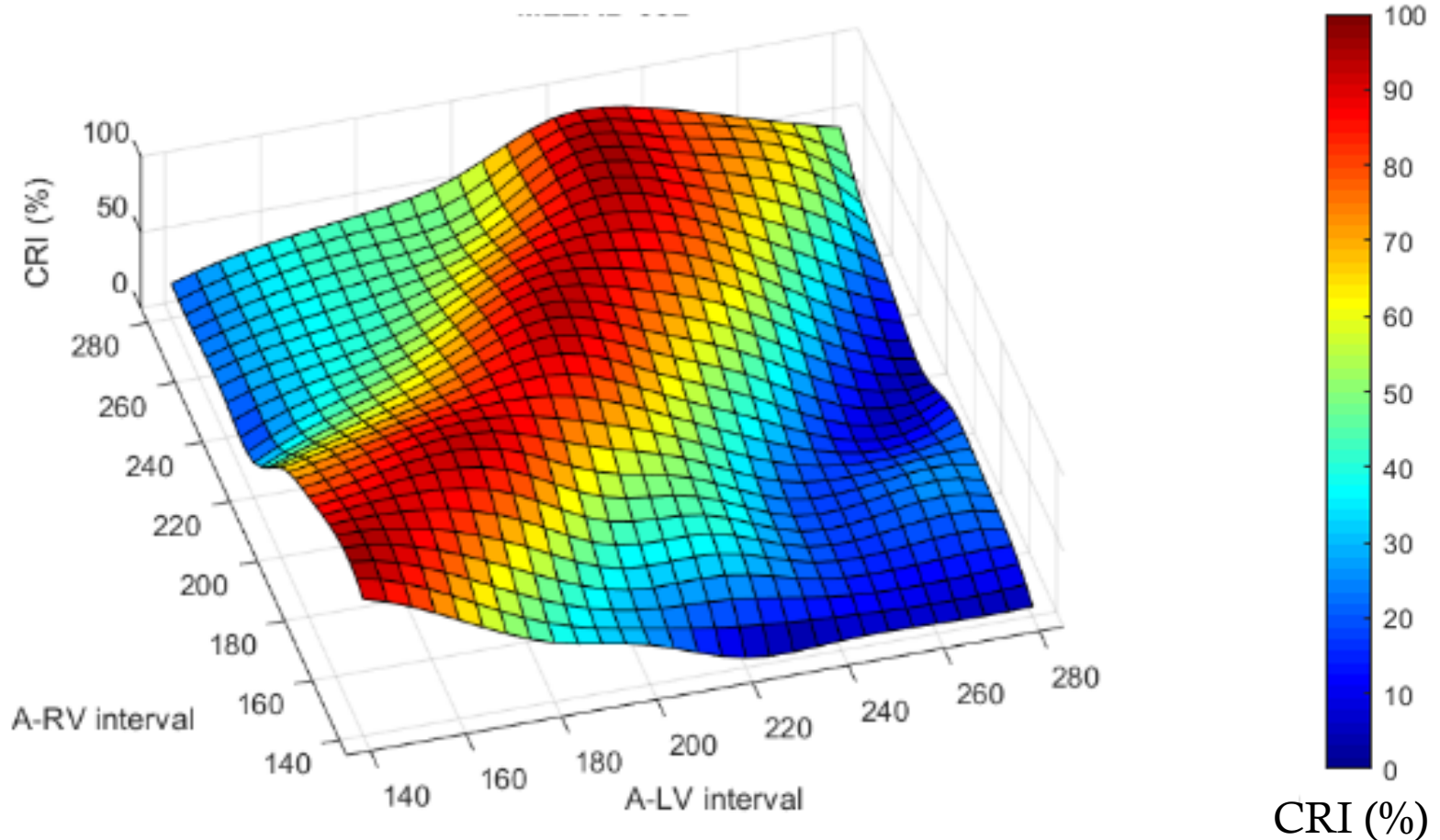


- Atrial-Ventricular Delay (AVD)
- Ventricular-Ventricular Delay (VVD)
- Atrial sensing vs Atrial pacing
- Biventricular vs. LV-only
- Quadripolar Electrode



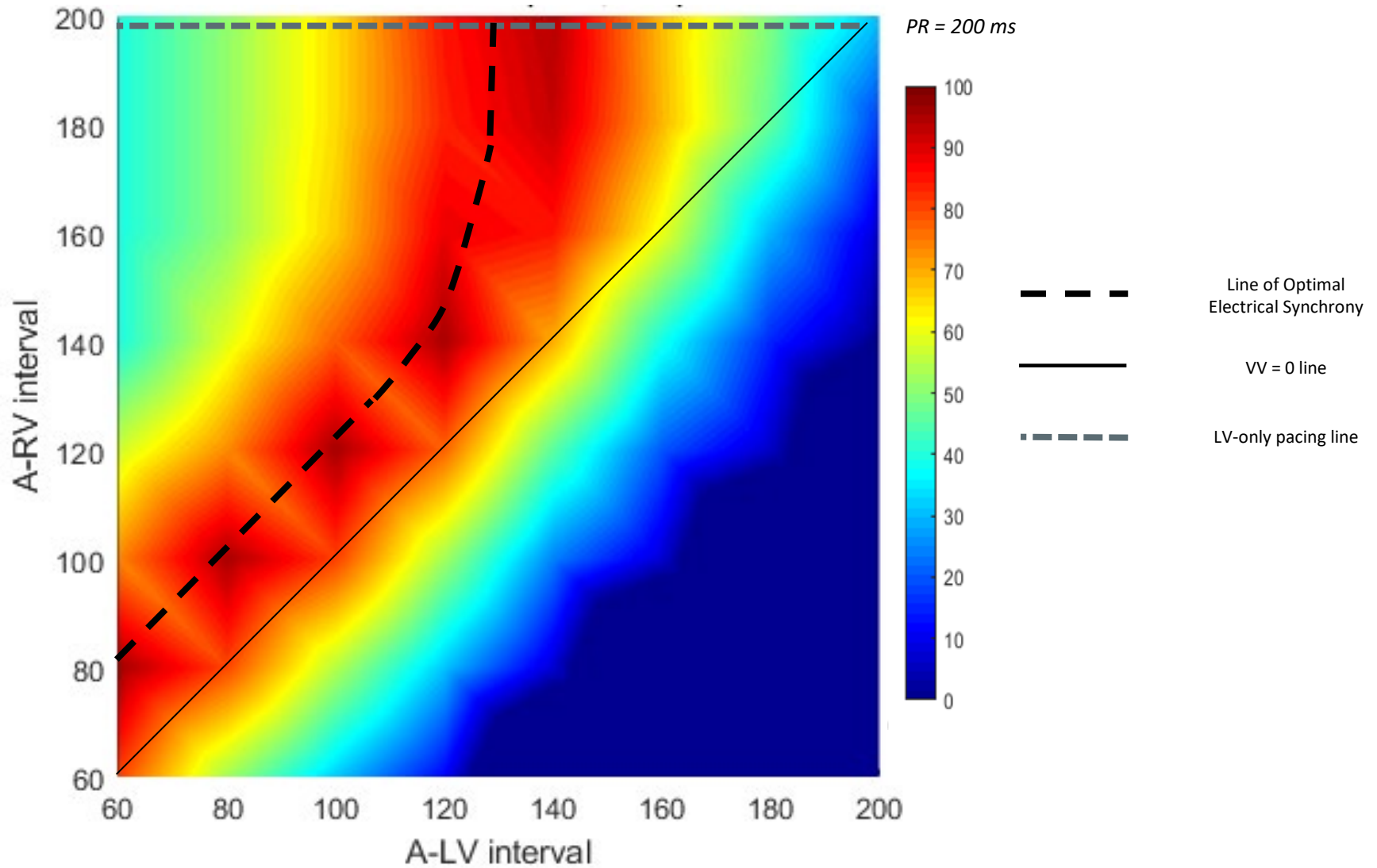


### 3D Graph of CRI in Patient with LBBB and CRT



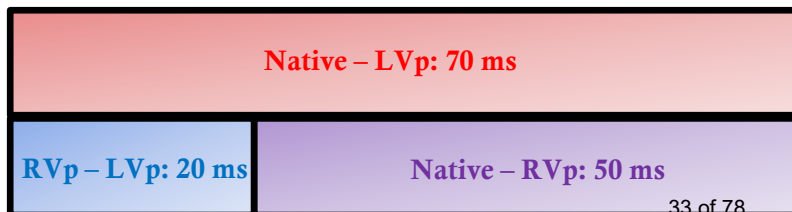
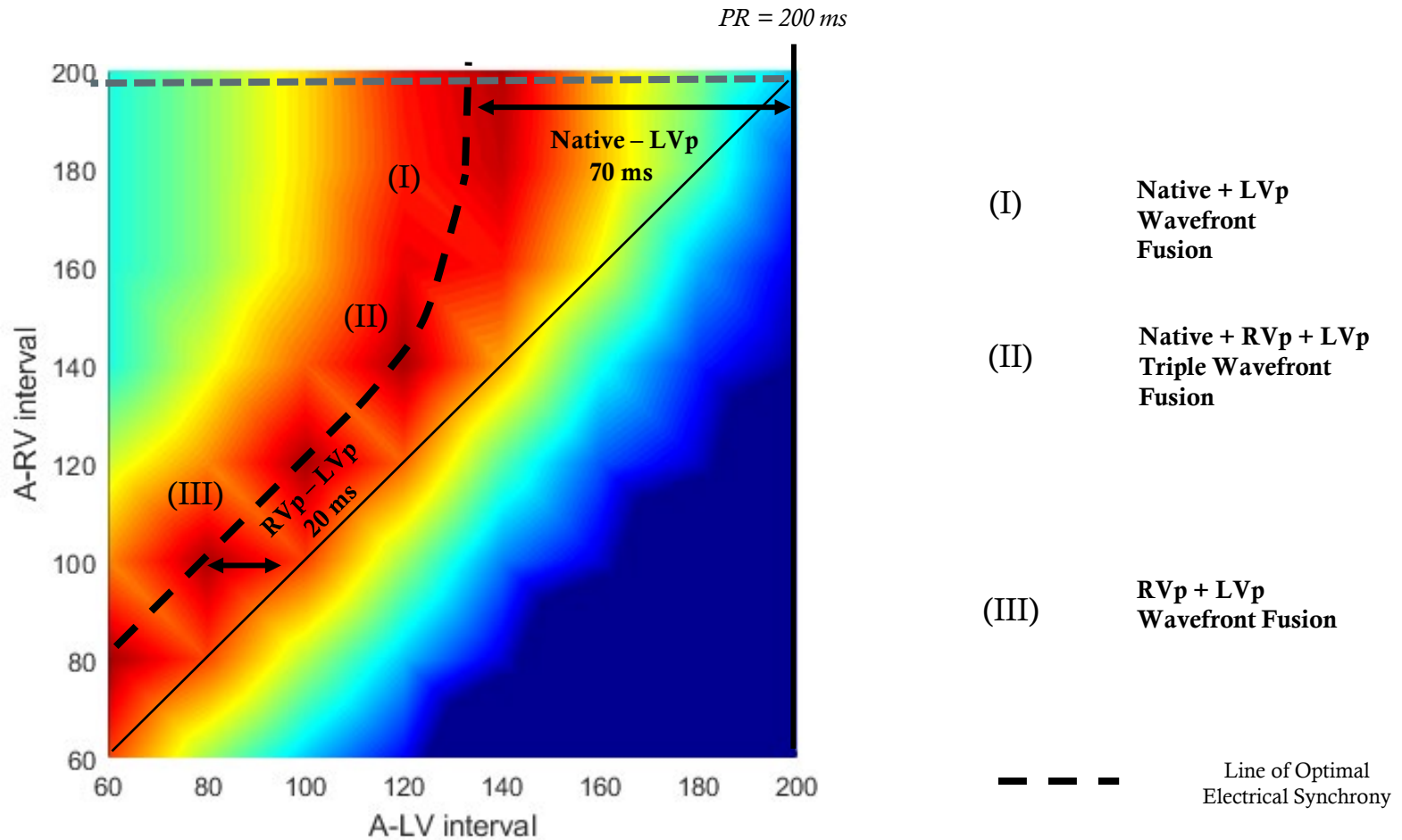
Optimal electrical synchrony occurs in a curvilinear line running through the middle of the red area (peak CRI)

# Electrical Dyssynchrony Map (EDM) in 62 y/o M with LBBB, QRSd 178 ms



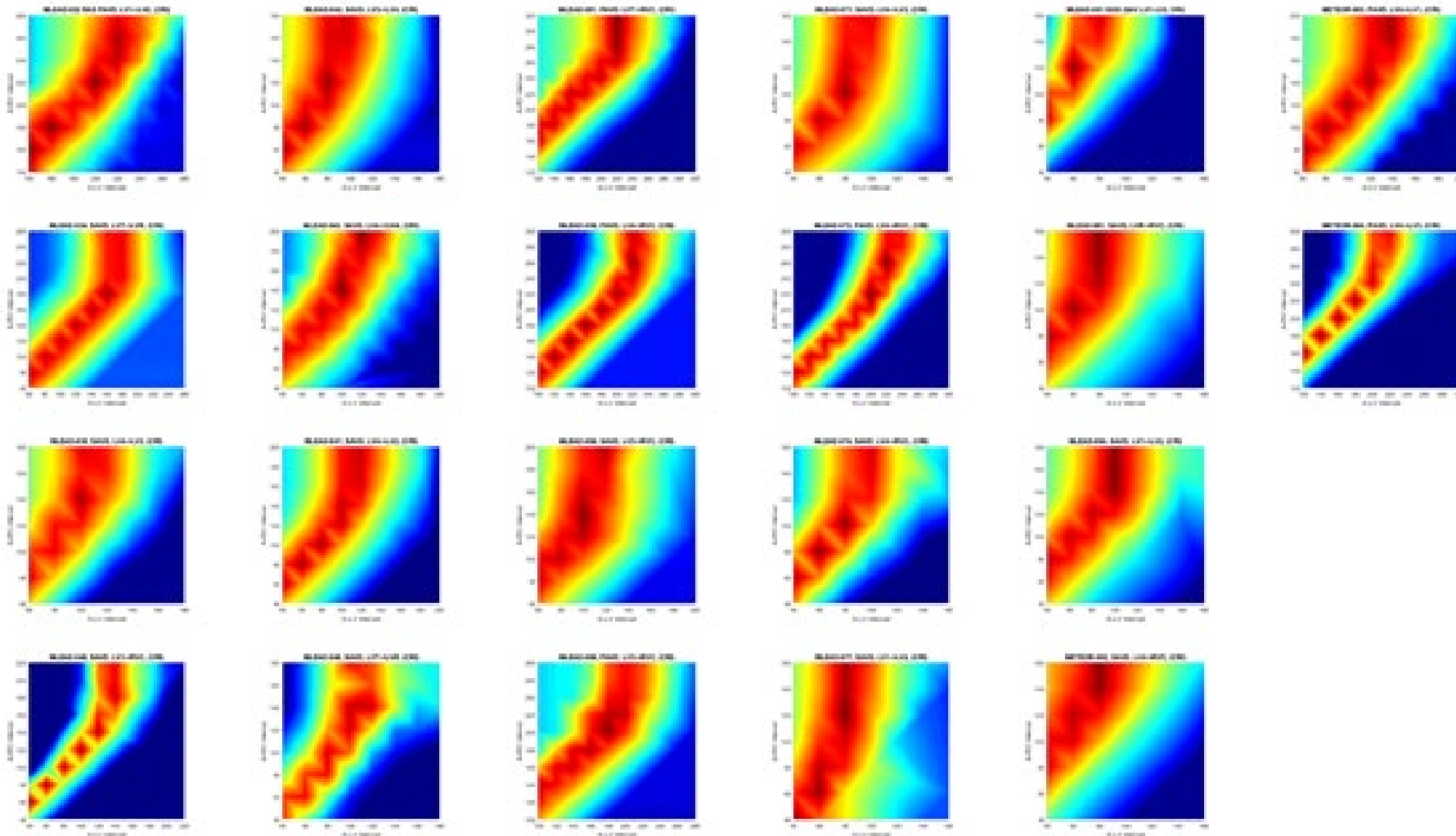


# Electrical Dyssynchrony Map (EDM) in 62 y/o M with LBBB, QRSD 178 ms

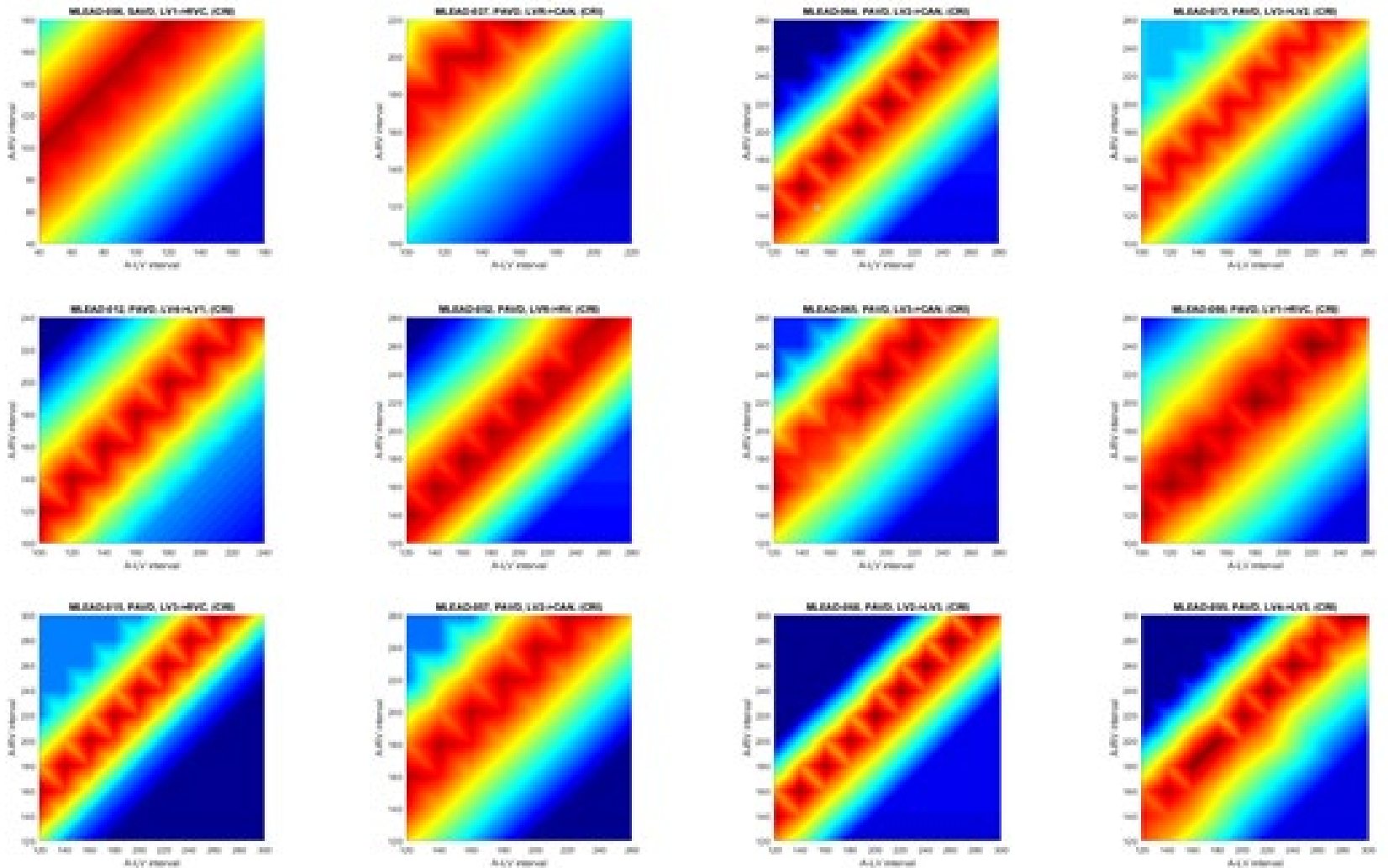


## LBBB Patients with Intact AVN Conduction:

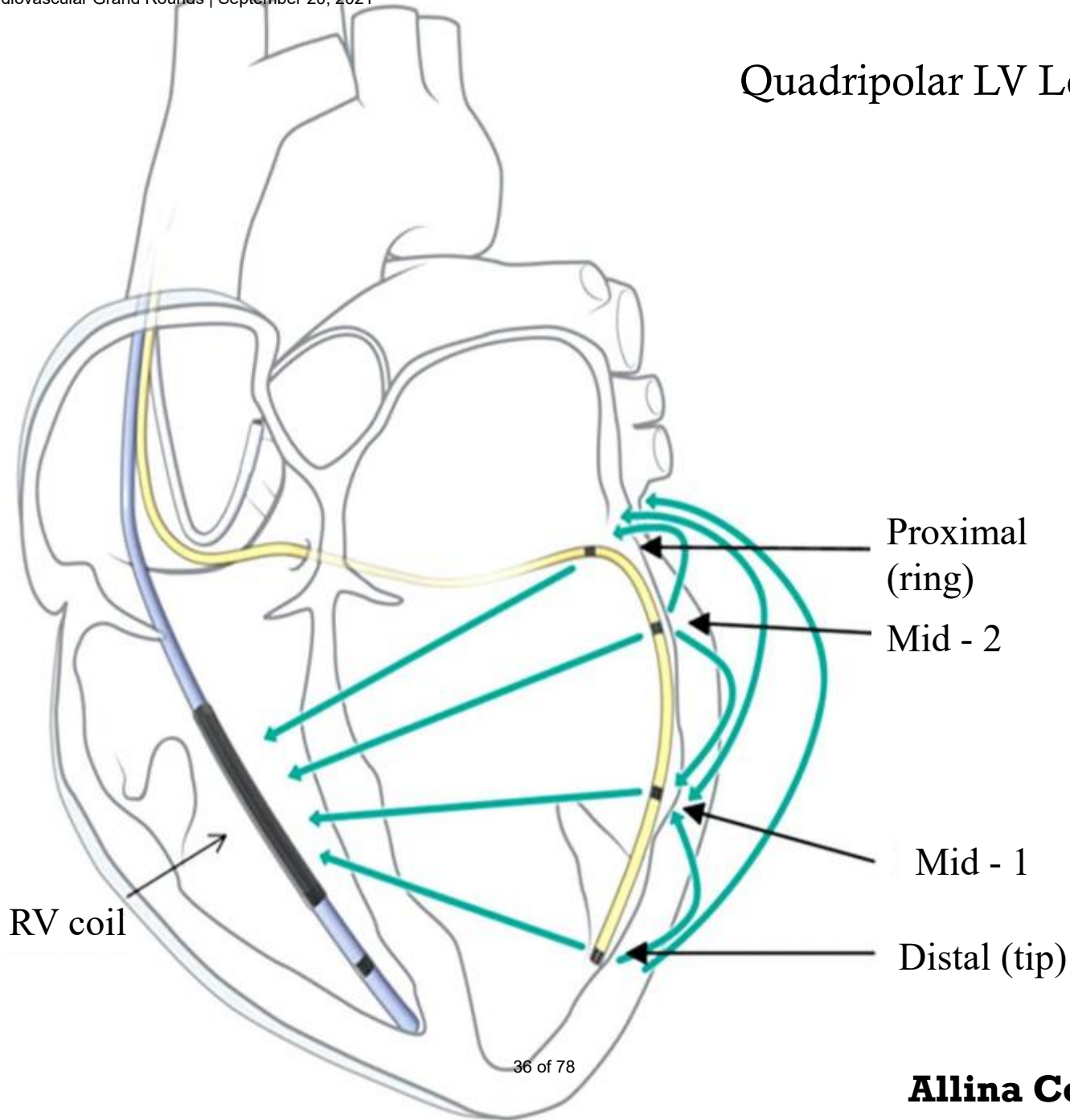
- 1. Short AVD: RVp and LVp wavefronts
  - 2. Intermediate AVD: all 3 wavefronts
  - 3. Long AVD: LVp and native wavefronts
- Fusion



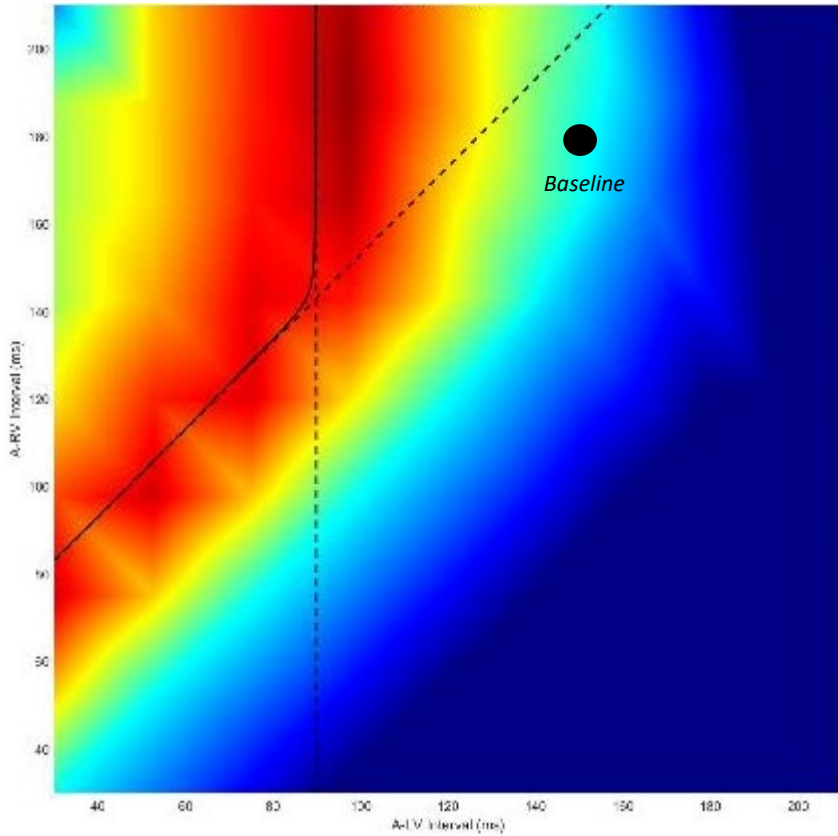
# CHB Patients: fusion of RVp and LVp wavefronts



# Quadripolar LV Leads

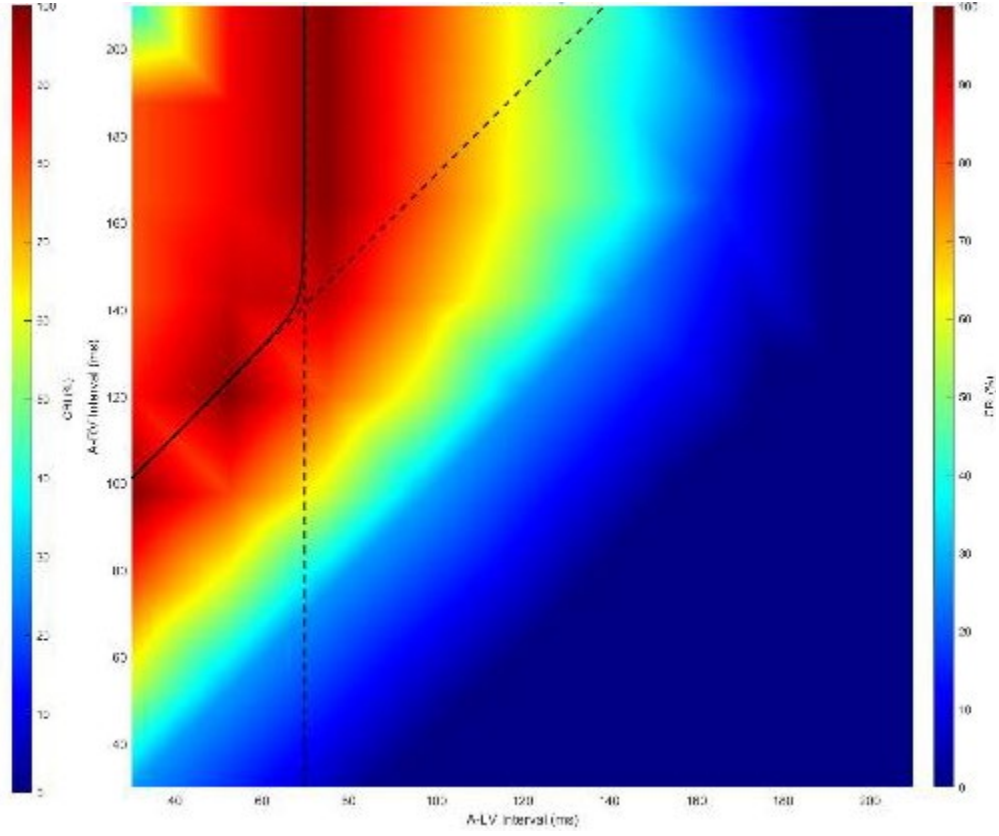


# Changing Pacing Cathode of Quadripolar Lead: RVp and Native Wavefronts identical but LVp wavefront shifted by 20 ms



LV2 -> LV4

50 ms  
110 ms  
60 ms



LV1 -> CAN

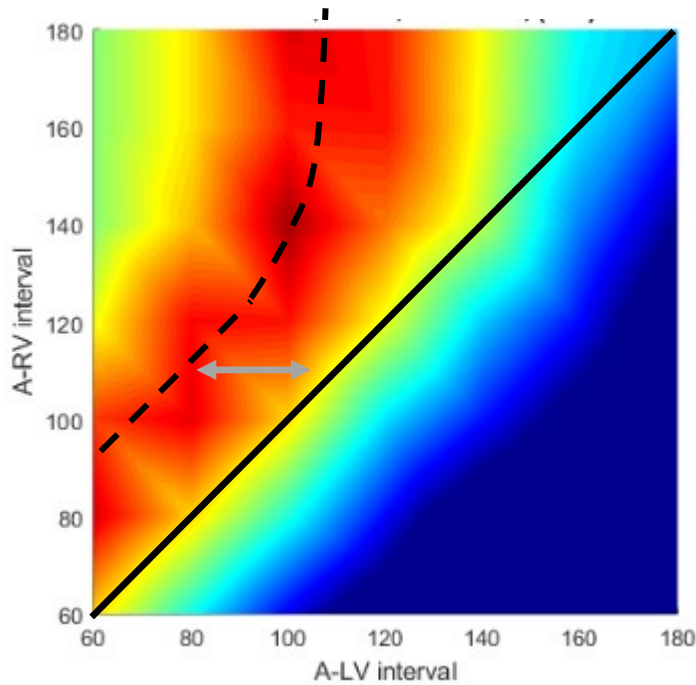
## Wavefront timing:

RVp to LVp  
Native to LVp  
Native to RVp

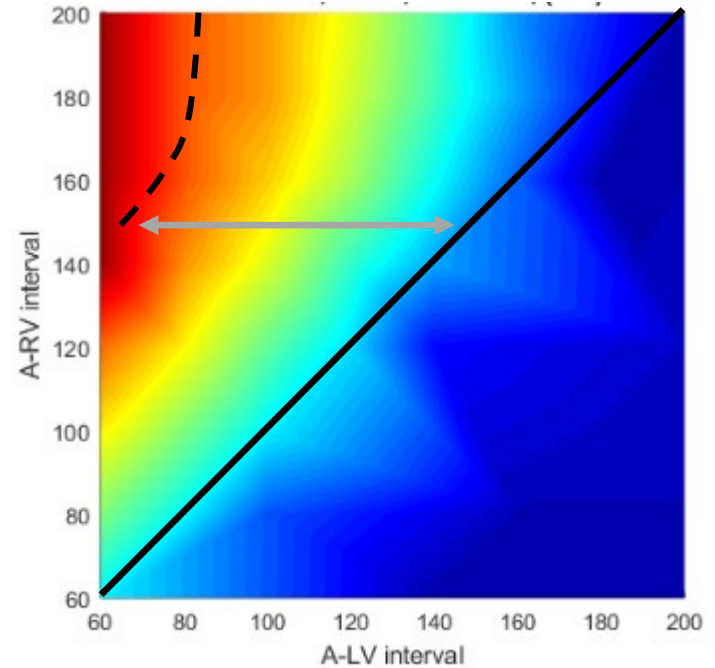
70 ms  
130 ms  
60 ms

# Quadripolar Lead: Electrical Synchrony at Different Vectors

- LV4 --- need 30 ms LV preactivation
- LV1 --- need 80 ms LV preactivation

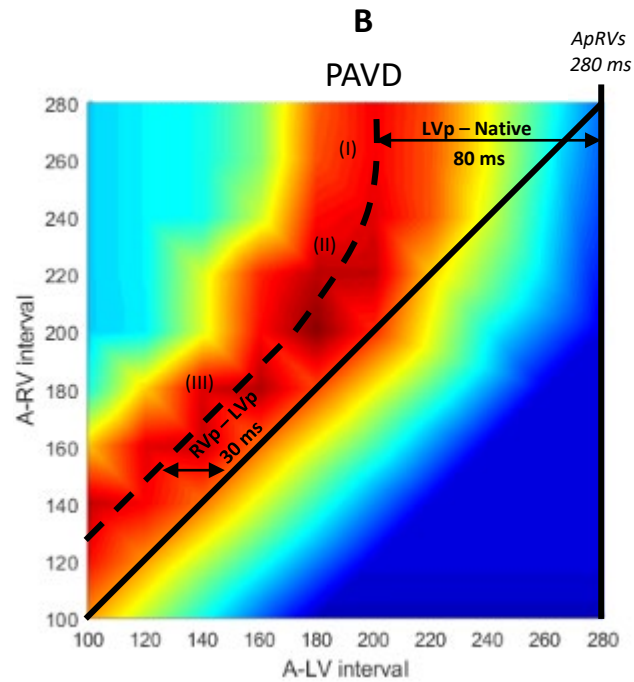
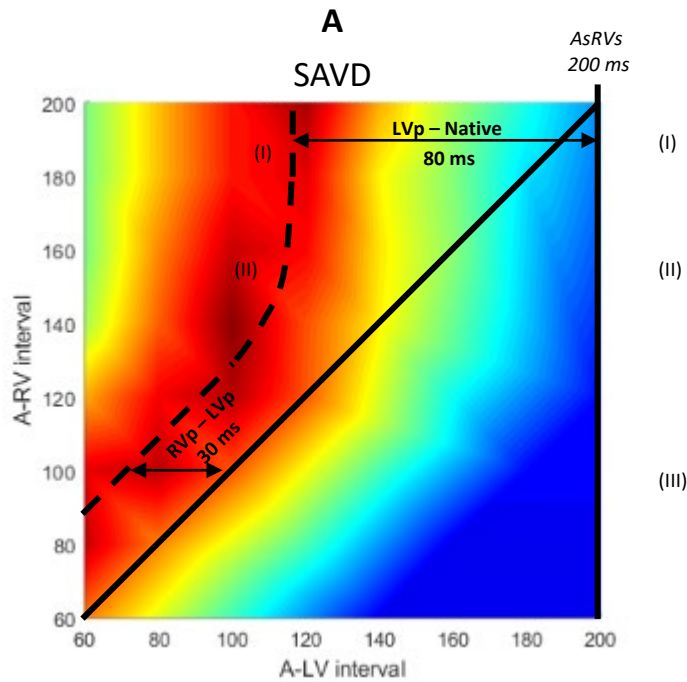


Pacing vector:  
LV4 to LV3



Pacing vector:  
LV1 to LV4

# Atrial Sensing vs. Atrial Pacing: Changing Native Wavefront Only

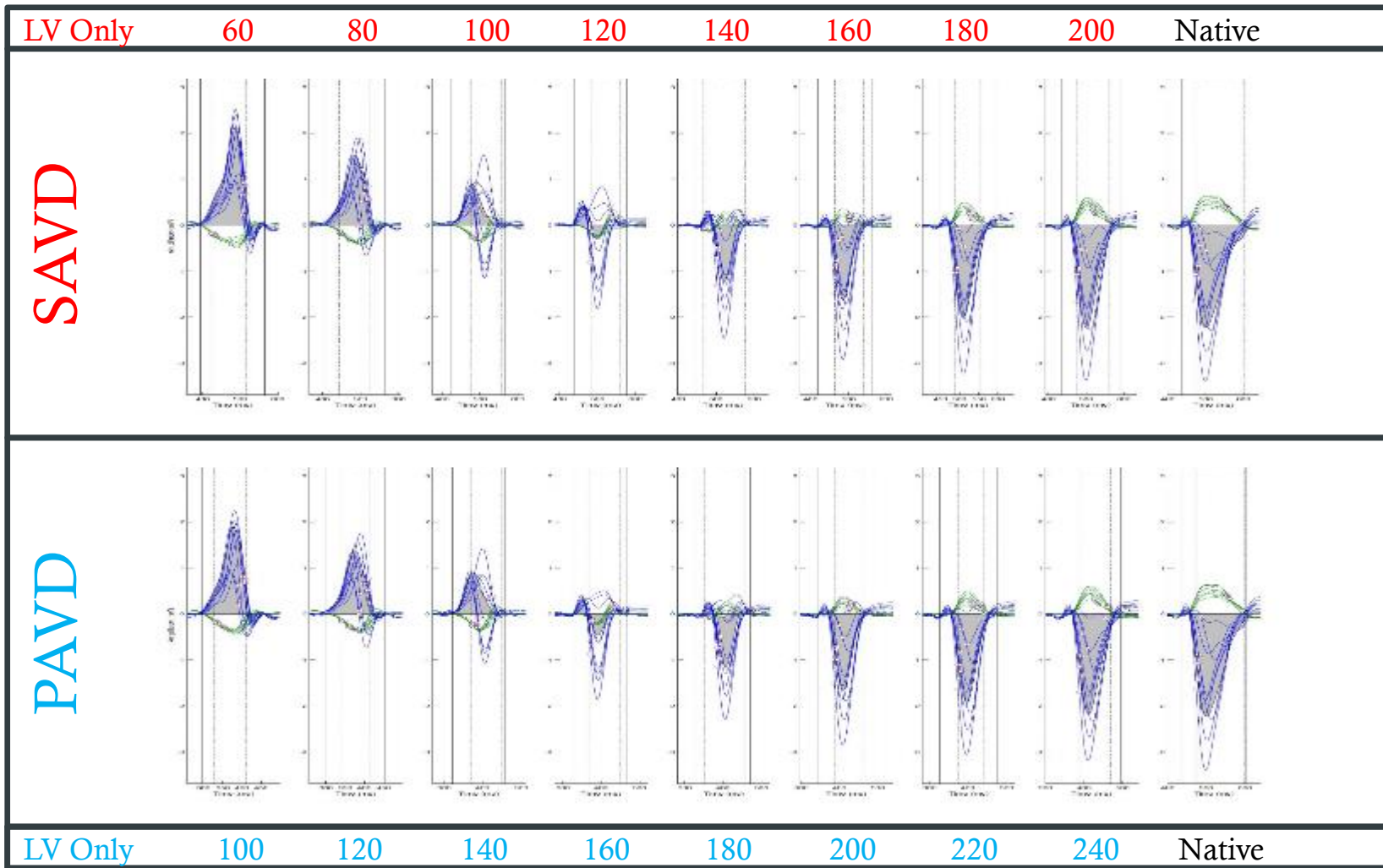


## Fusion

- (I) LVp - Native
- (II) Triple (LVp, Native, RVp)
- (III) RVp - LVp



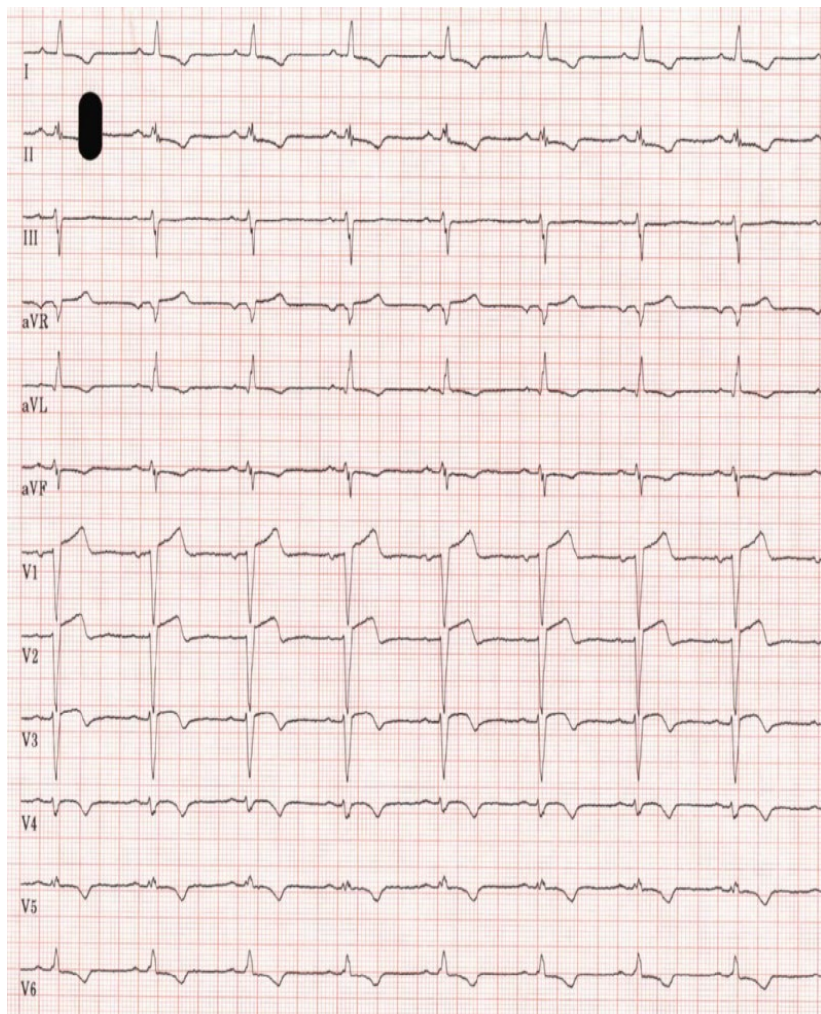
# MLEAD-056-R



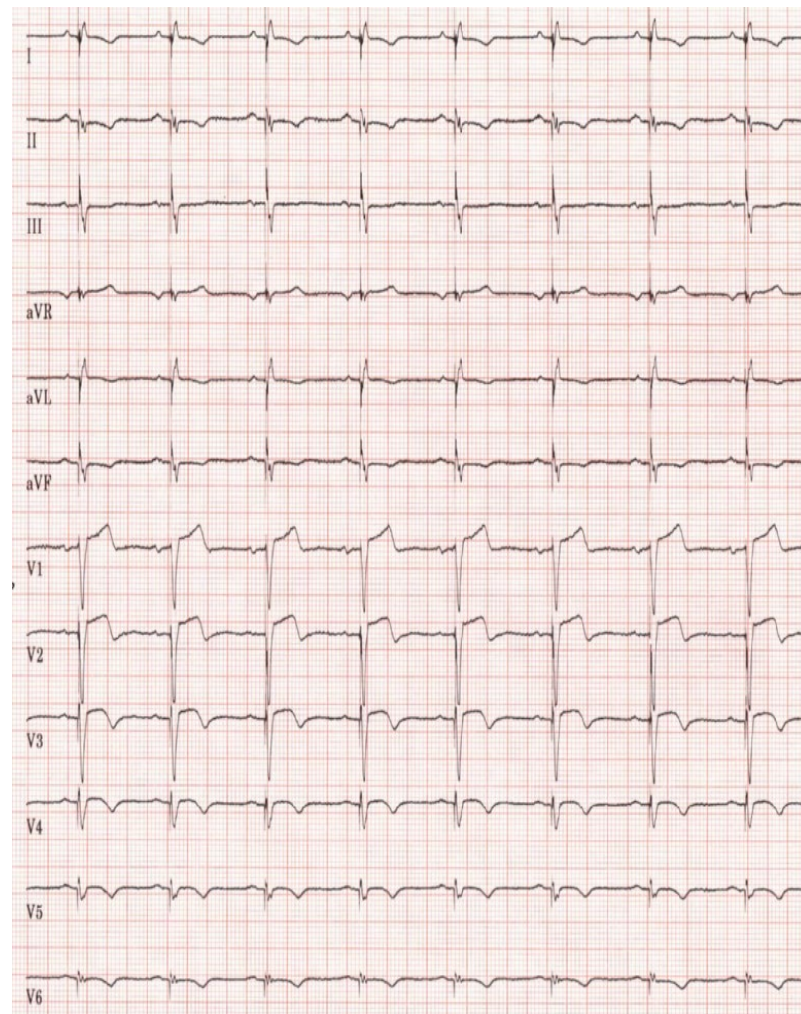


# Narrow QRS and Electrical Dyssynchrony

# CRT Optimization in a Patient with EF 15% and Narrow QRS (110 ms)

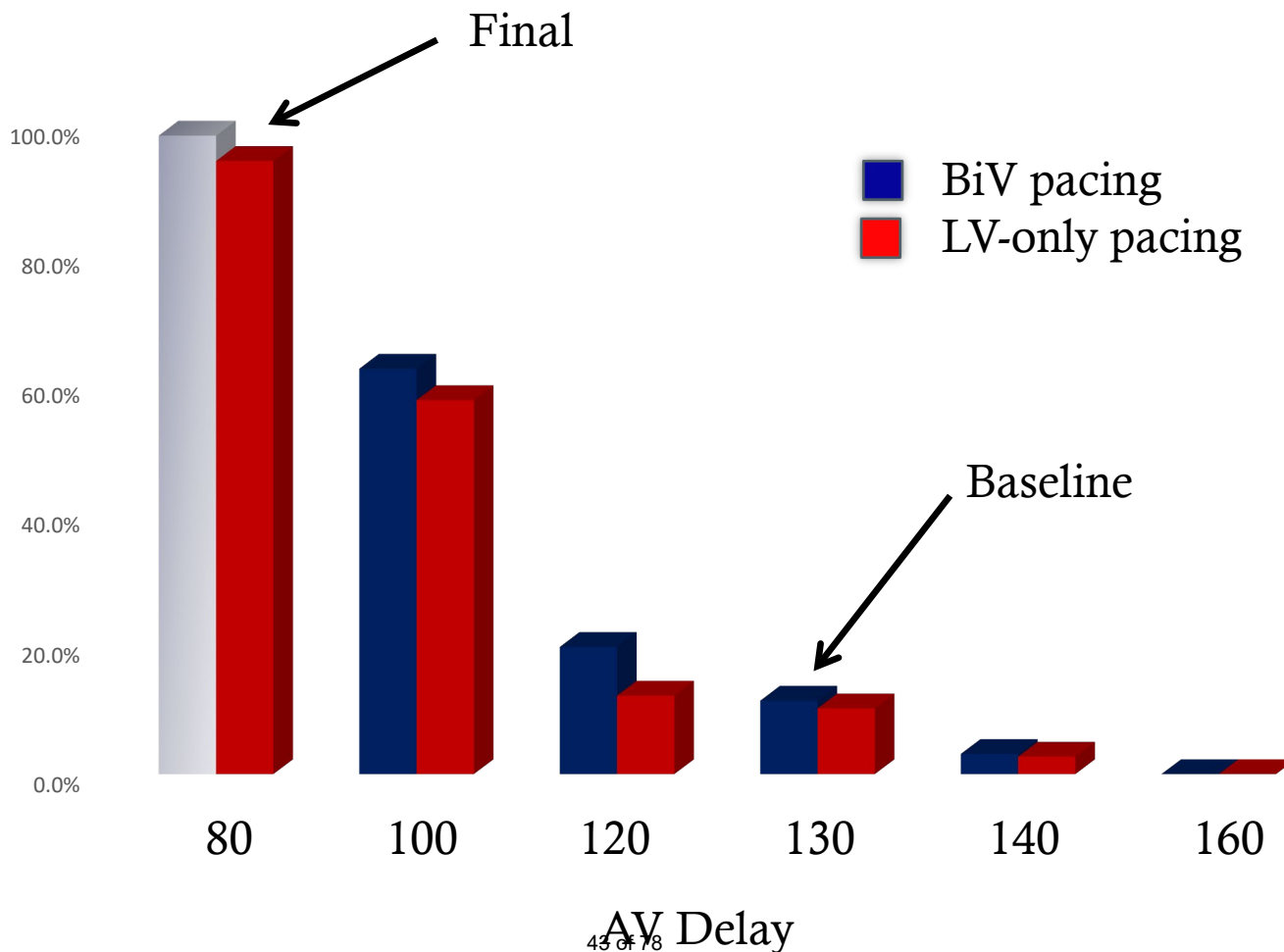


Native



Baseline: AVD 130 ms, VV = 0

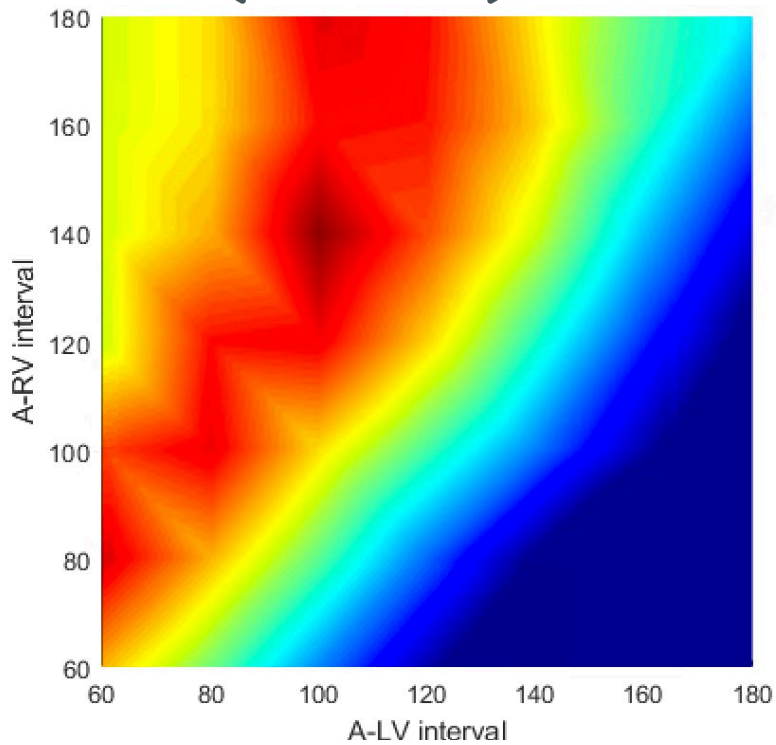
# CRT Optimization in a Patient with EF 15% and Narrow QRS (110 ms)



# Resynchronization Window

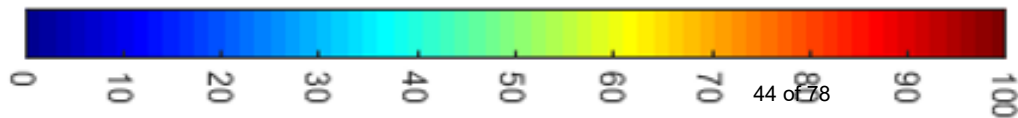
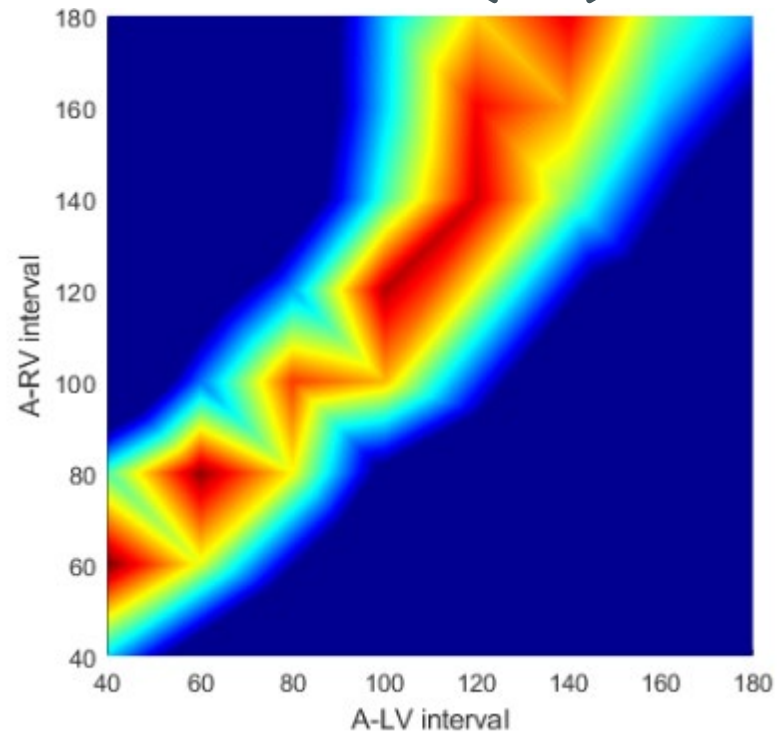
LBBB  
QRS 160 ms

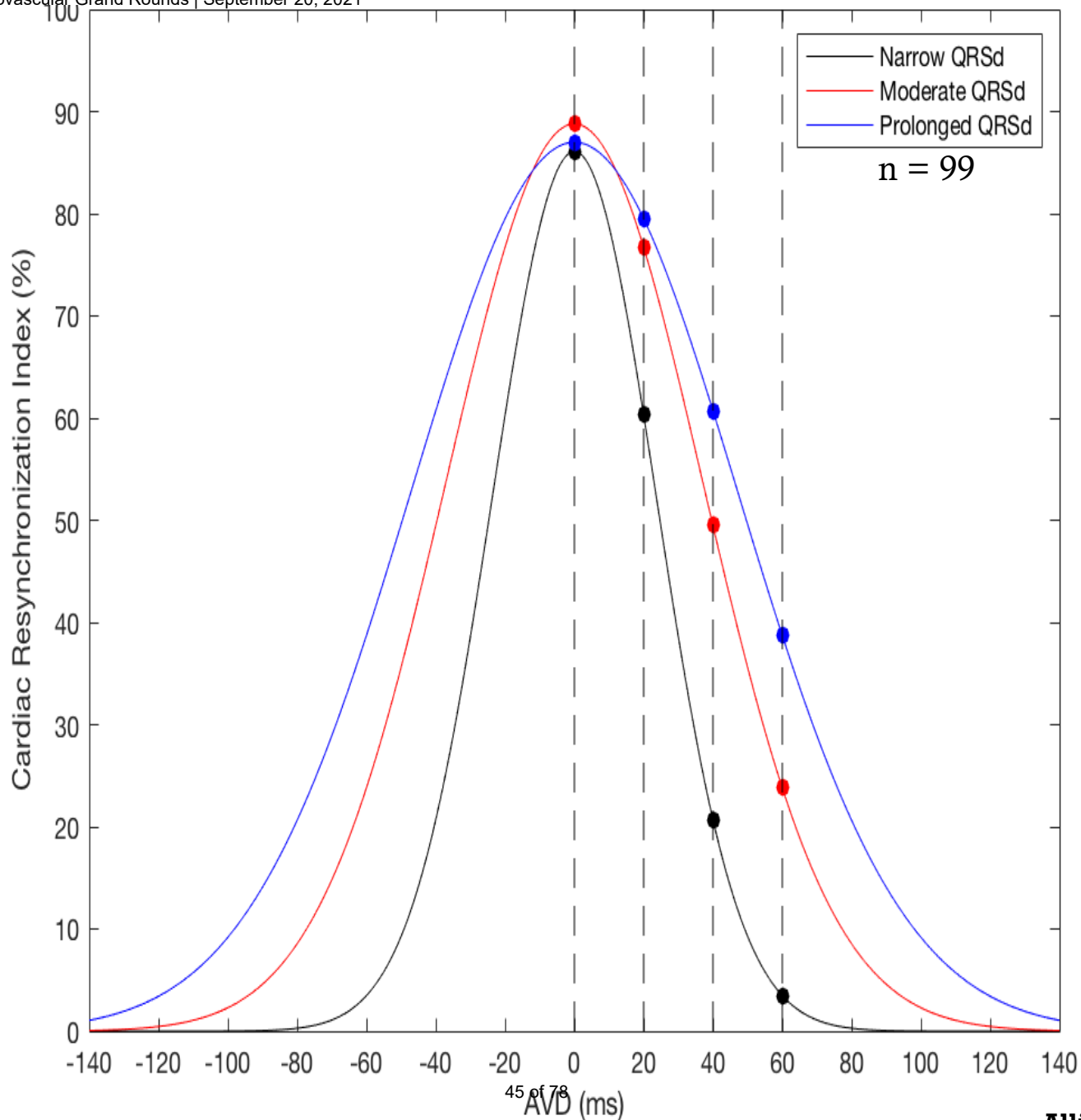
55 ms



IVCD (LBBB-like)  
QRS 116 ms

30 ms

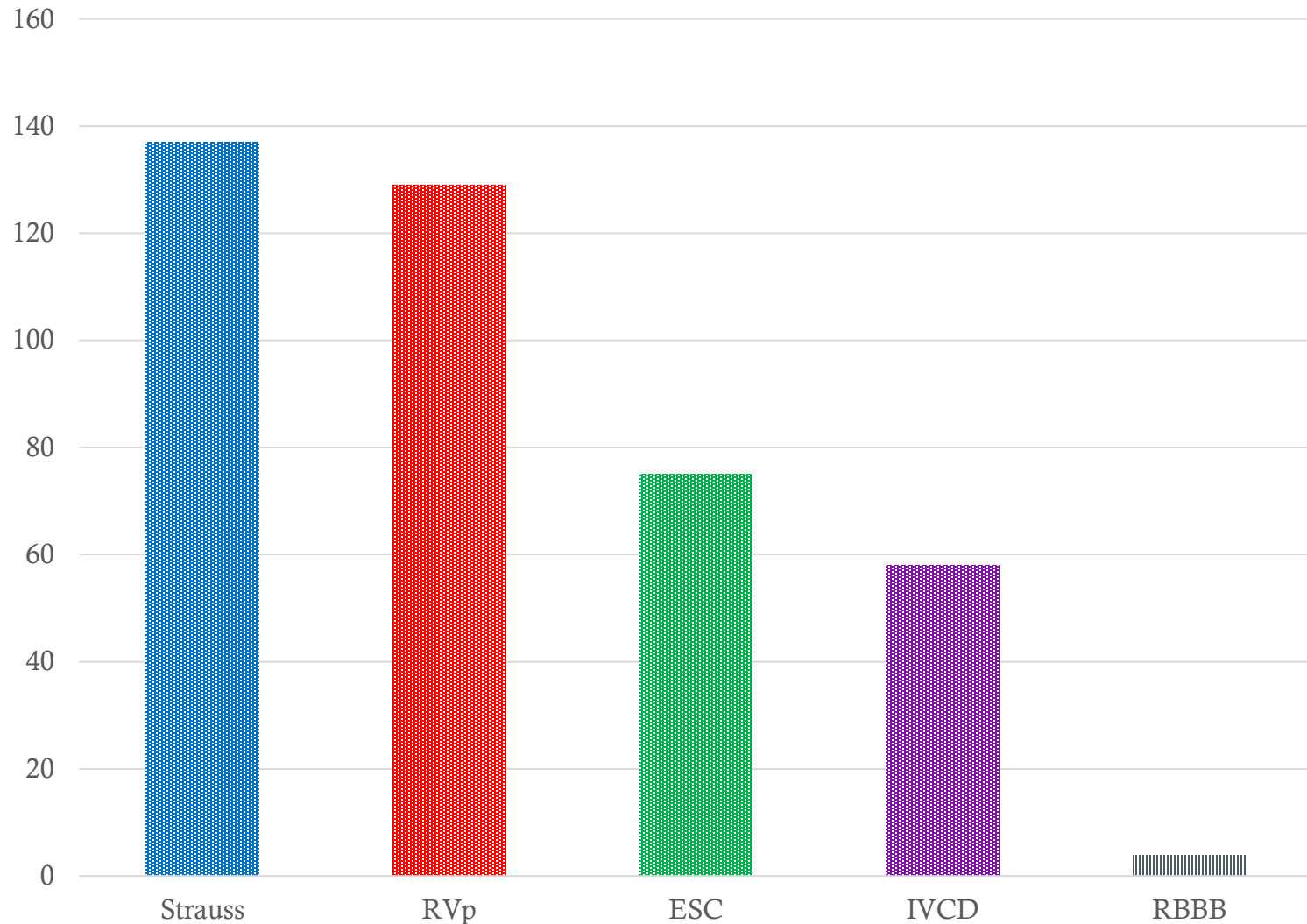




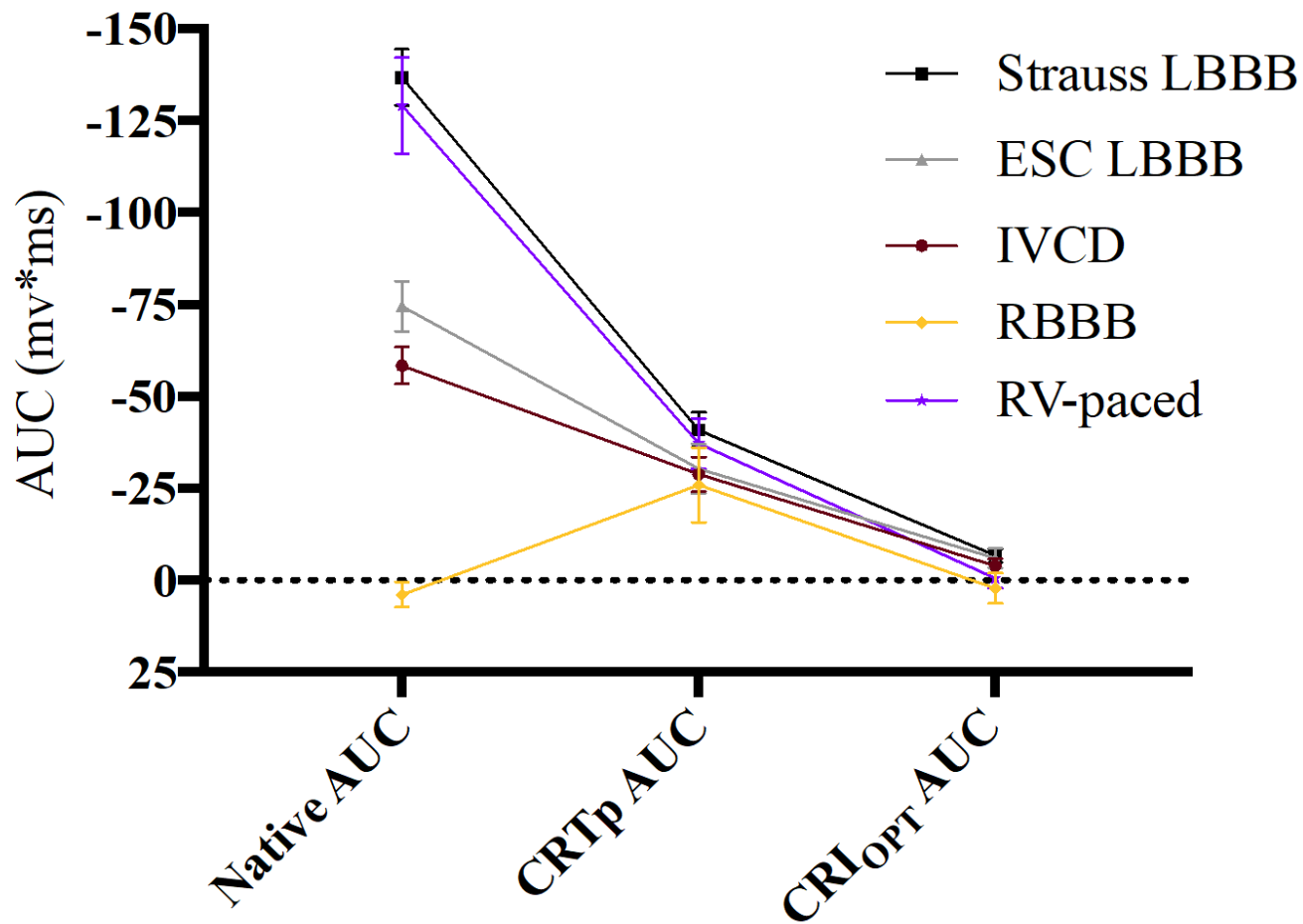
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# Selection of Patients for CRT

# Native AUC for Different QRS Morphologies



# Change in AUC with CRT (Baseline and Optimal)

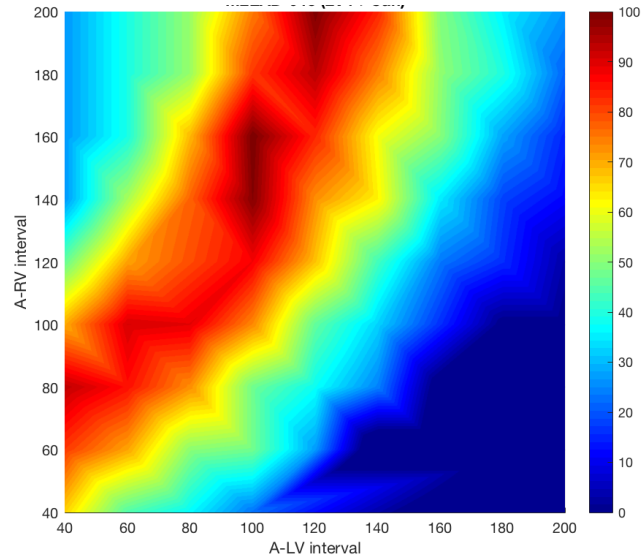
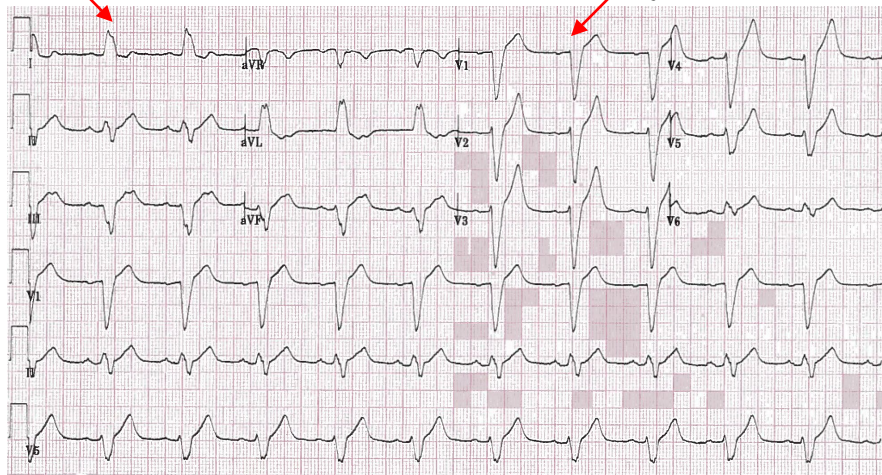




Mid-QRS notching

### Strauss LBBB QRS morphology

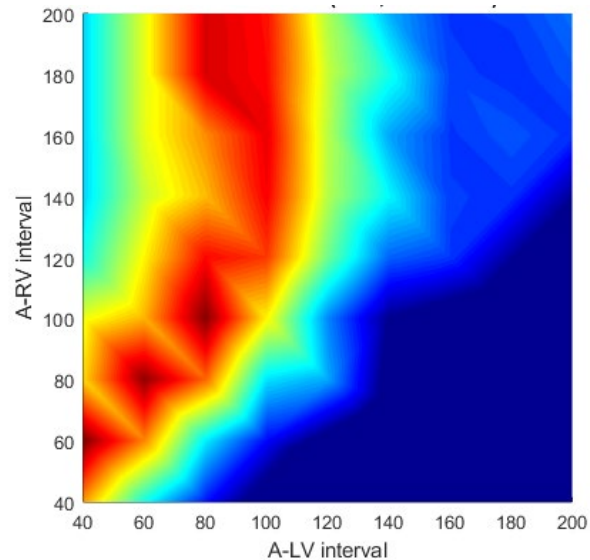
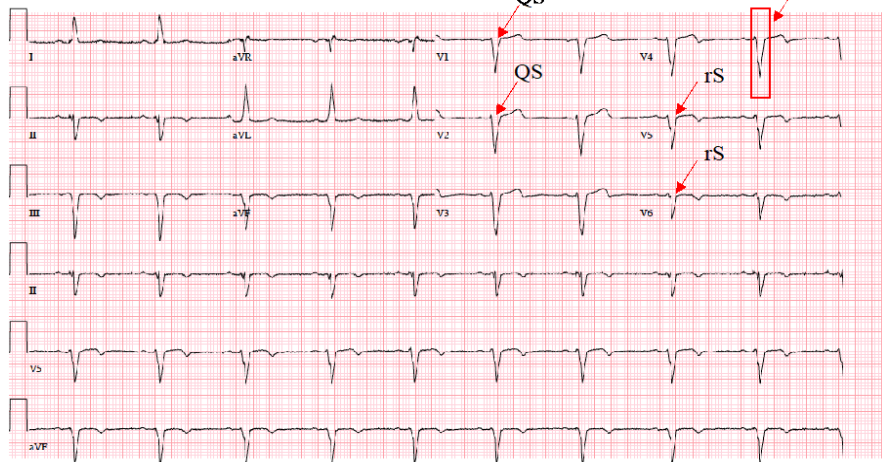
QRS<sub>d</sub> 150



JRH

### IVCD QRS morphology

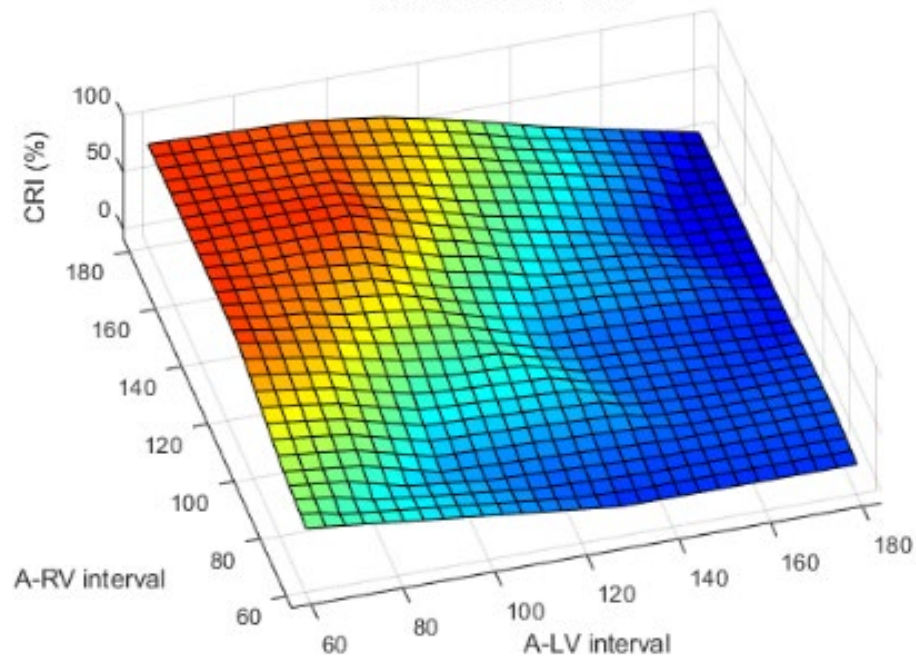
QRS<sub>d</sub> 120



KAH

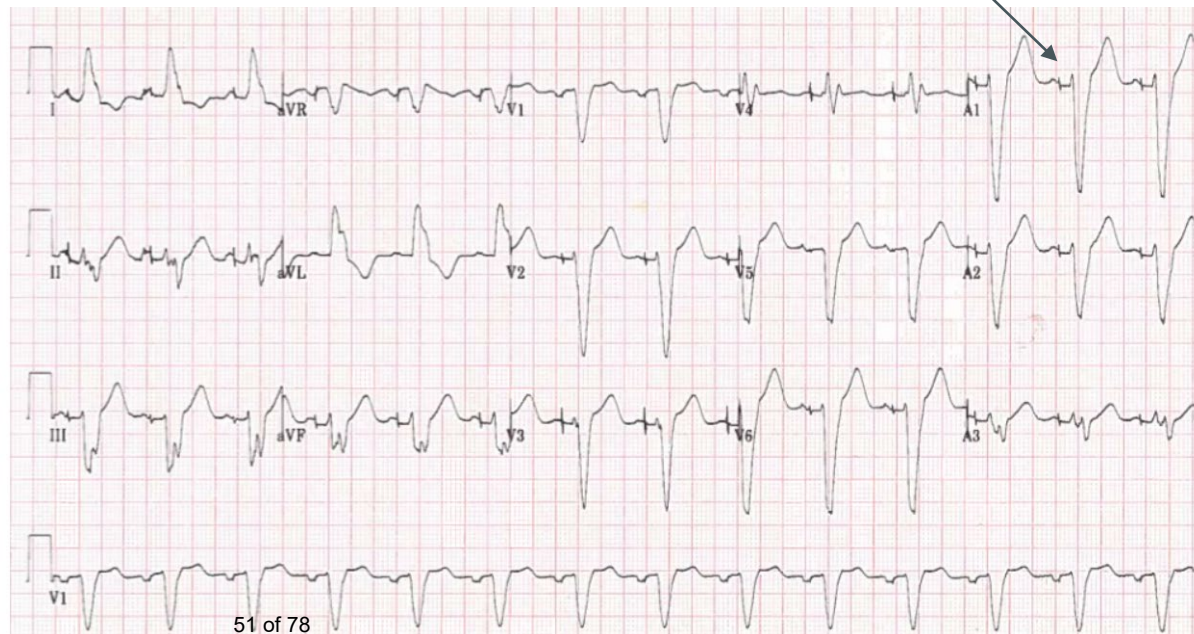
# Assessment of LV Lead Location from EDM's

# LV Lead Latency and EDM

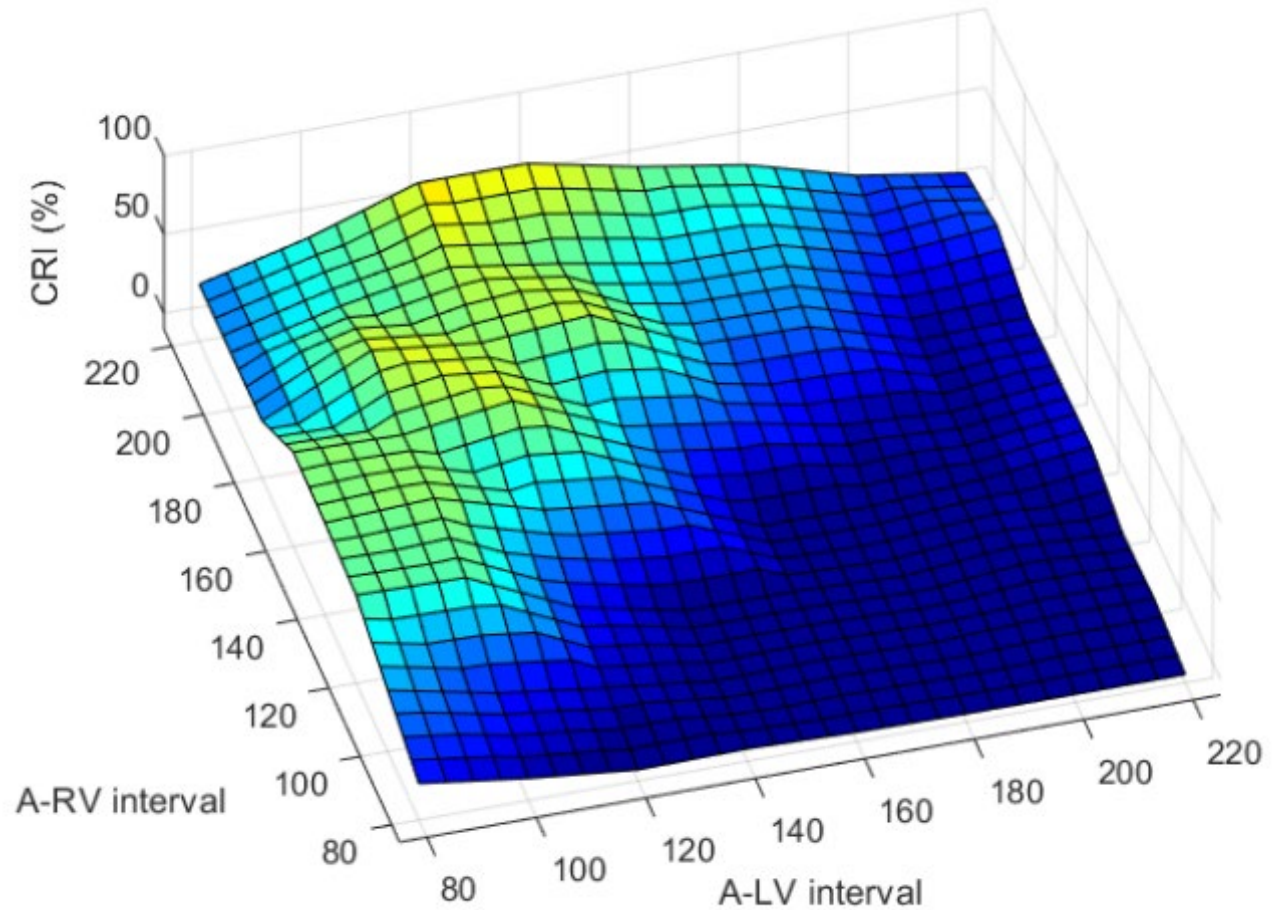
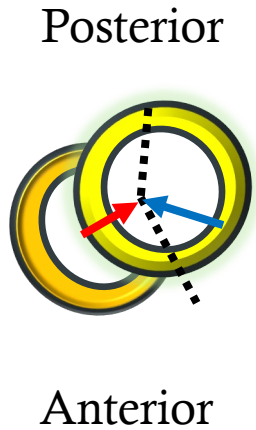


LV lead latency 80 ms

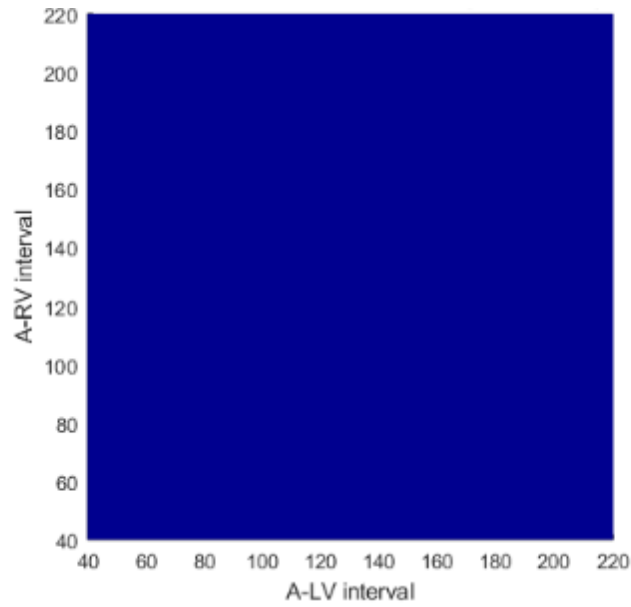
LV1 to LV4



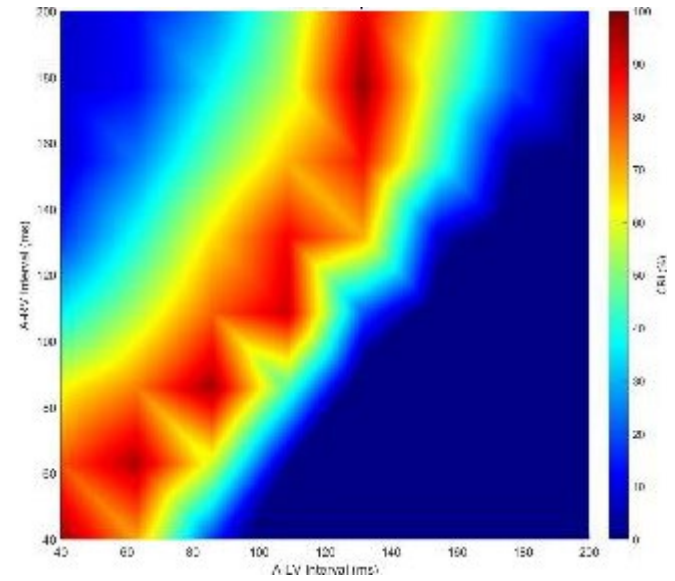
# Assessment of LV lead location



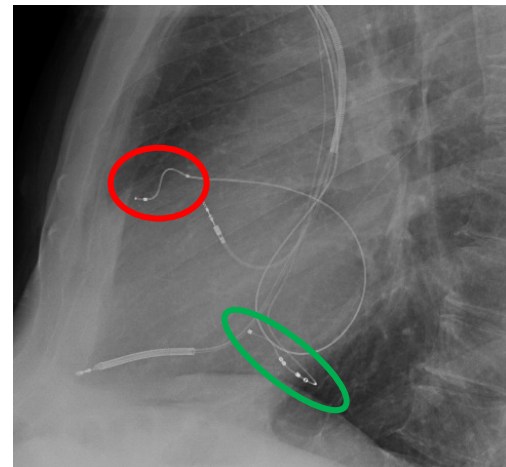
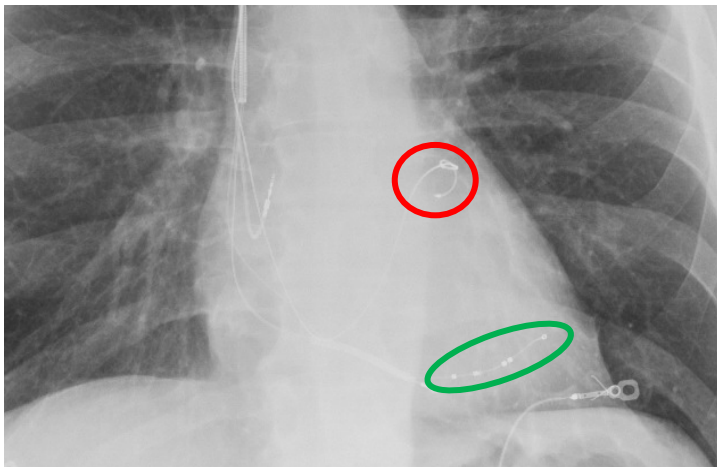
Maximum CRI is ~ 50-60% (yellow on map) due to anterior LV lead position and inability to get good wavefront fusion at any device setting



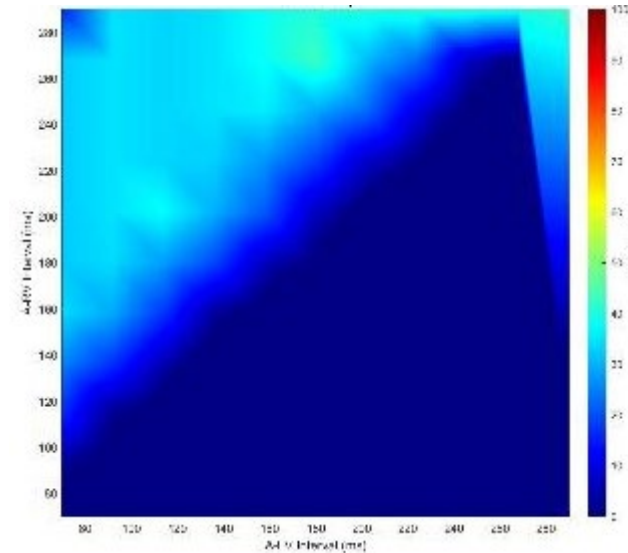
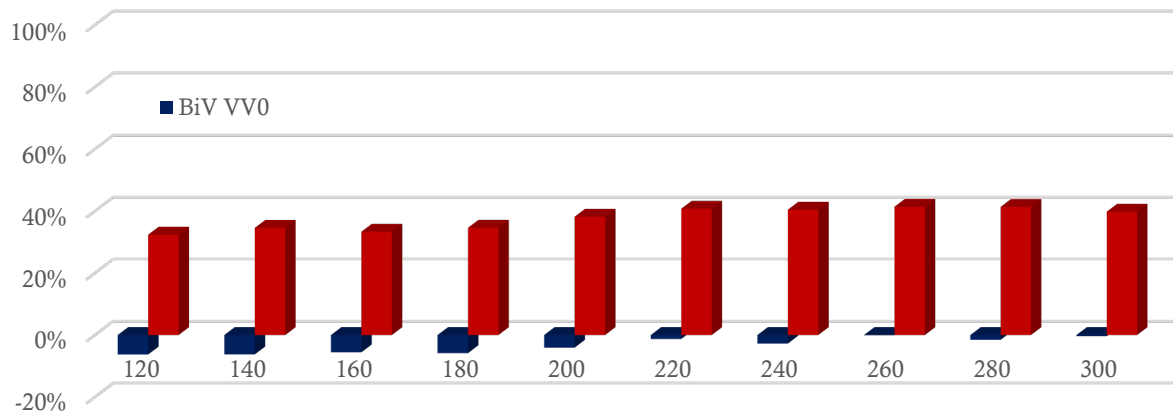
**Pre - LV lead revision**



**Post - LV lead revision**

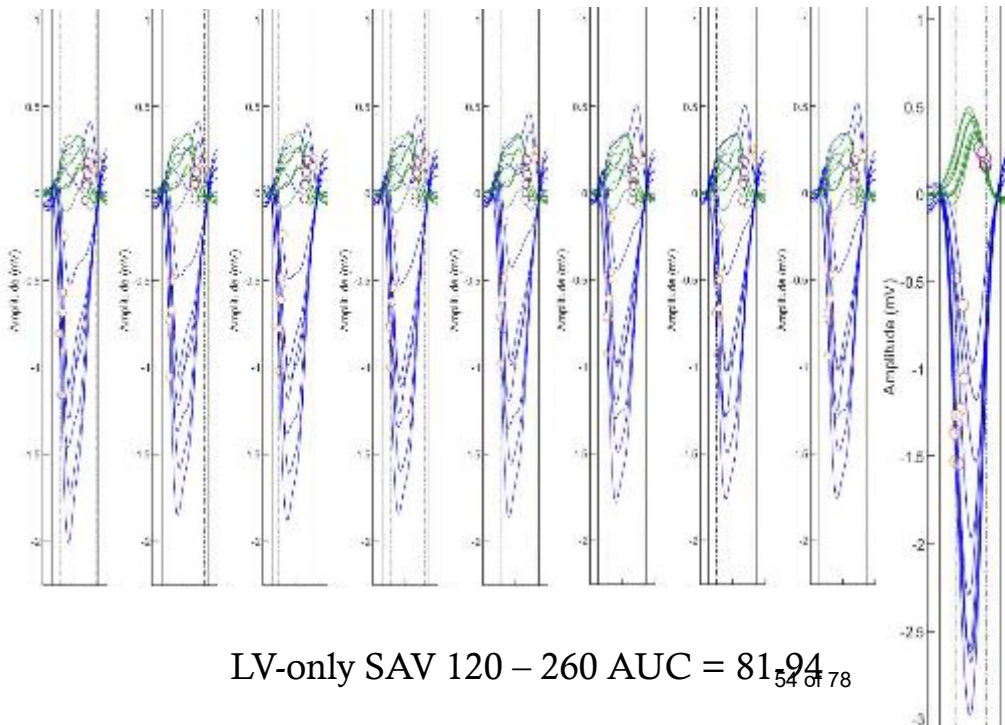


# 71 y/o M with EF 40%, CHB, increased HF symptoms



RV-only AUC = 156

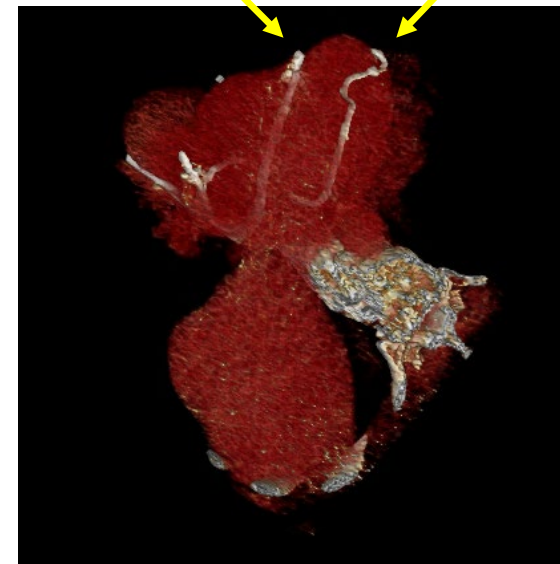
LV-only pacing



LV-only SAV 120 – 260 AUC = 81.94

54 of 78

RV lead      LV lead

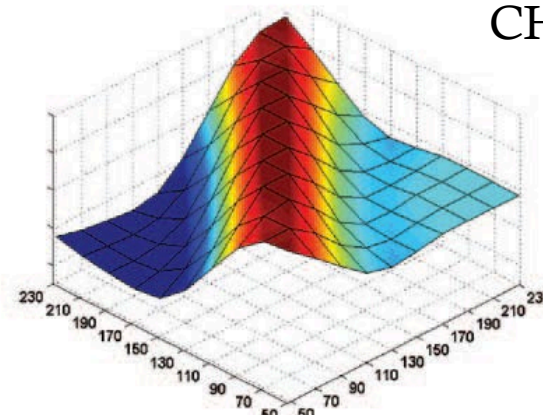
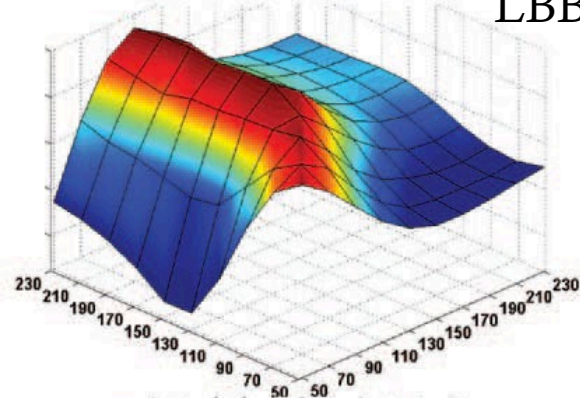


# THE OUTCOMES

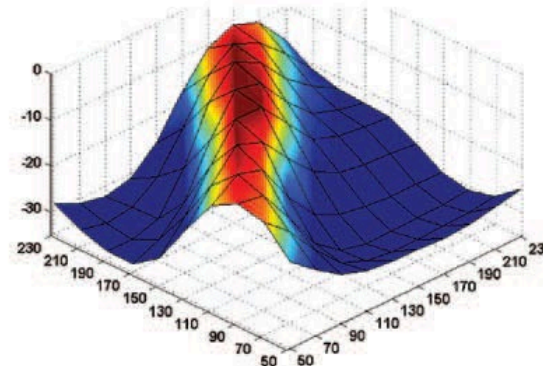
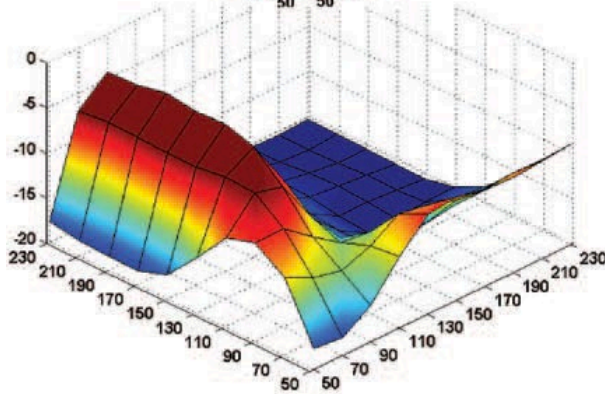
LBBB

CHB

% electrical  
resynchronization  
(TAT)



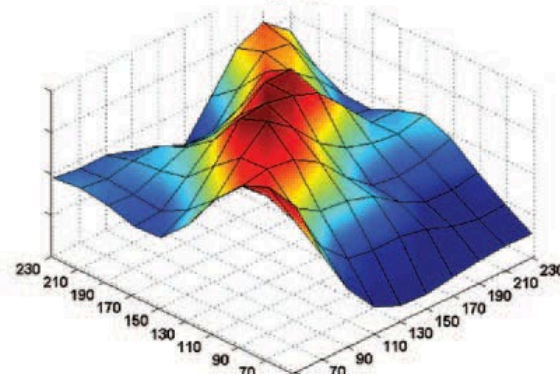
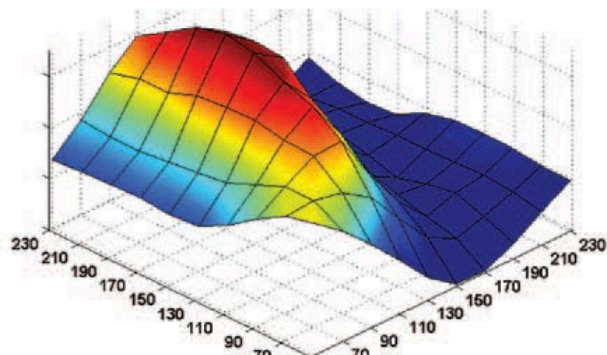
Mechanical  
Interventricular  
dyssynchrony (ms)



LV dP/dt max  
% change

A-RV (ms)

A-LV (ms)

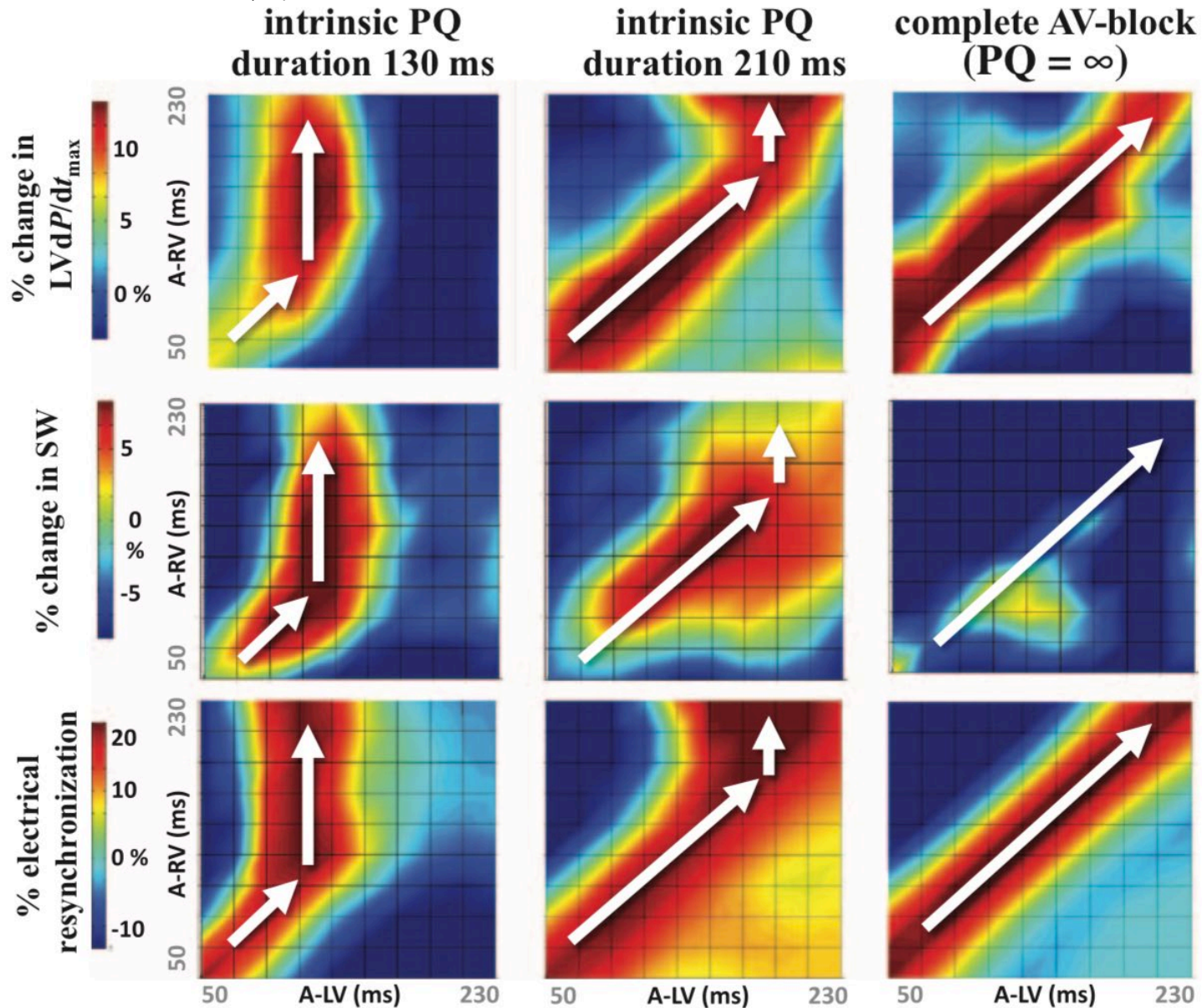


A-RV (ms)

A-LV (ms)

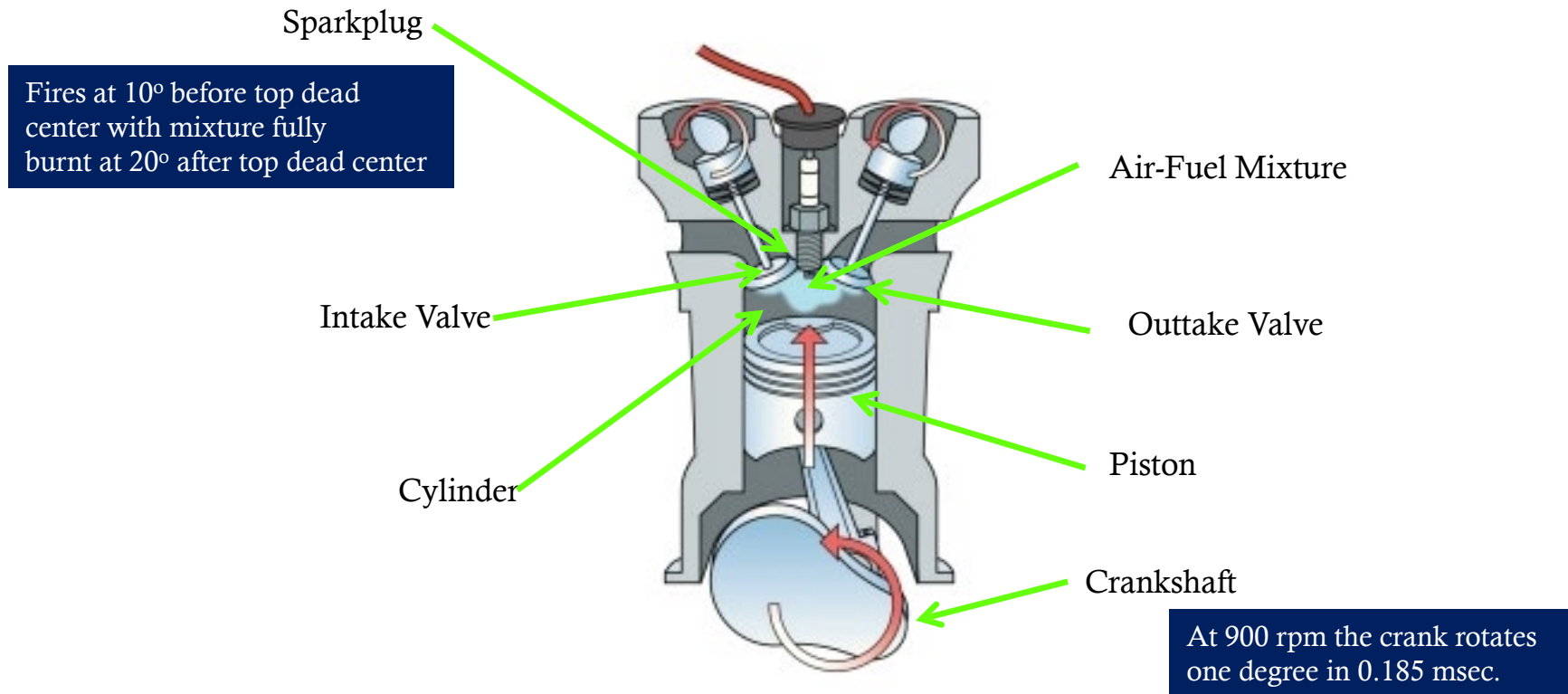






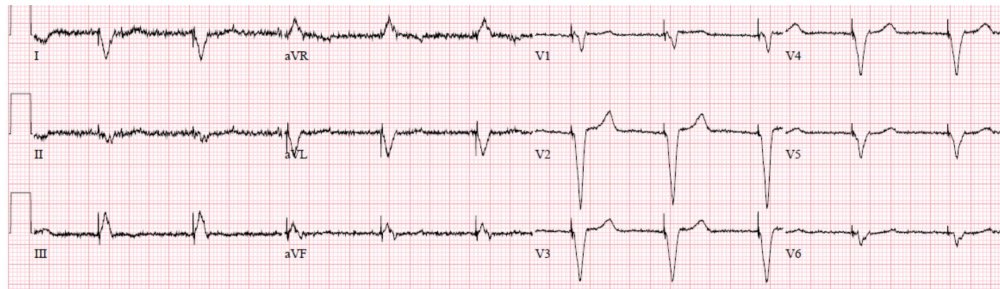
Strik M, et al. Interplay of Electrical Wavefronts as Determinants of the Response to CRT in Dyssynchronous Canine Hearts. *Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol* 2013;6:924-31.

## Sparkplug Timing and Engine Efficiency/Power

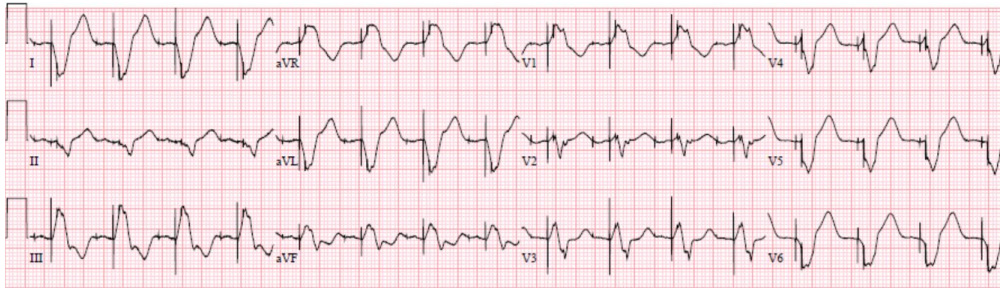


By advancing the timing 4 degrees, you start ignition 0.74 msec sooner.

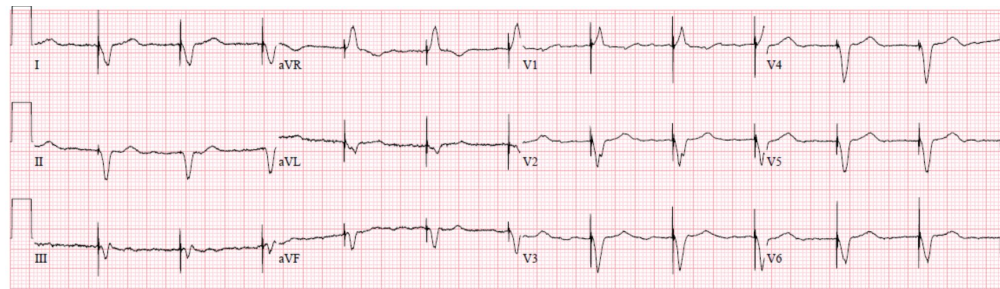
# Electrical/Mechanical Dyssynchrony: Practical Clinical Tips to Identify Patients Needing Optimization



DMP



JGB



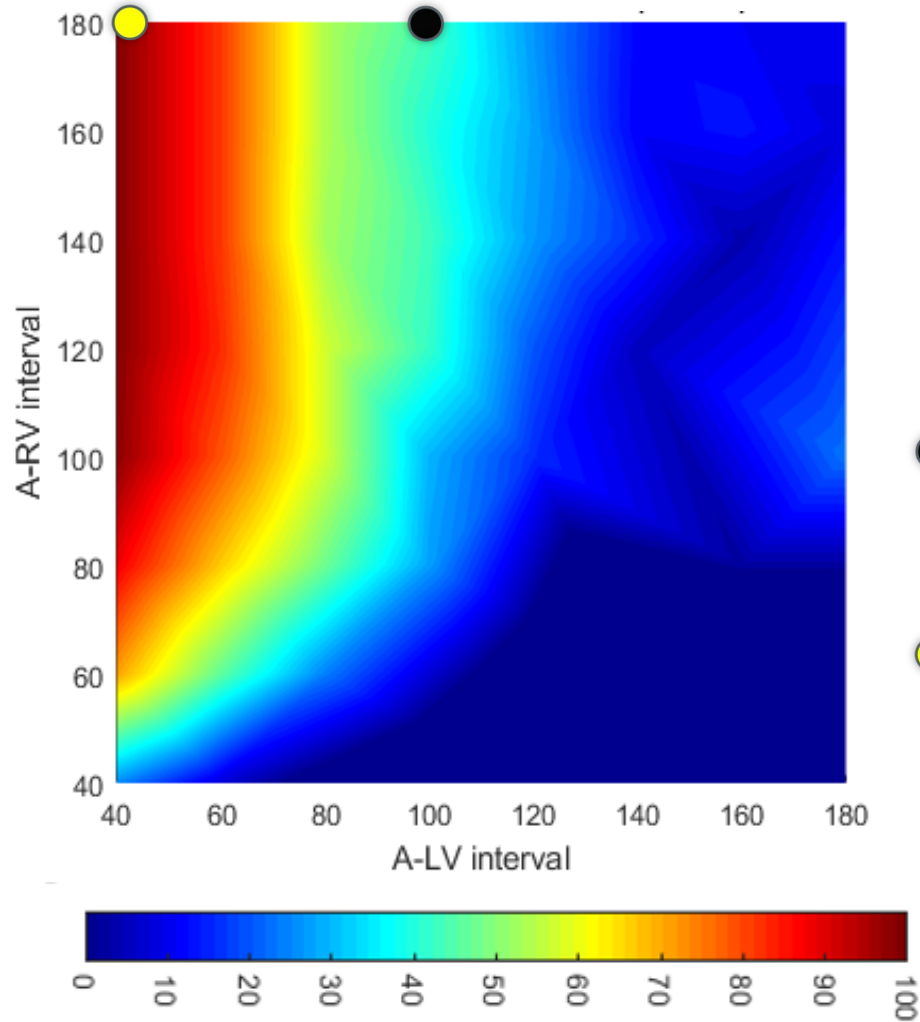
TJD



SLD

1. Order/review 12-lead ECGs on all patients post-CRT
2. Is QRS really wide? Is QRS amplitude high?
3. Are there deep Q waves in multiple chest leads?
4. Is net AUC V1-6 markedly negative or positive?
5. Is EF low?
6. Is there evidence of mechanical dyssynchrony on echo?
  - Dyssynchronous septum/anteroseptum/ inferior wall
  - “Shudder of septum/anteroseptum
  - Apical rocking
  - “Hula hoop” motion of LV

# Treatment of Non-Responder

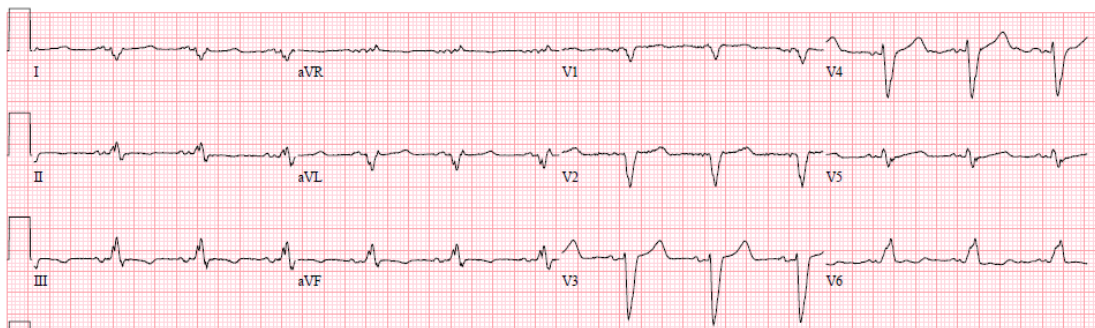


72 y/o F with NICM

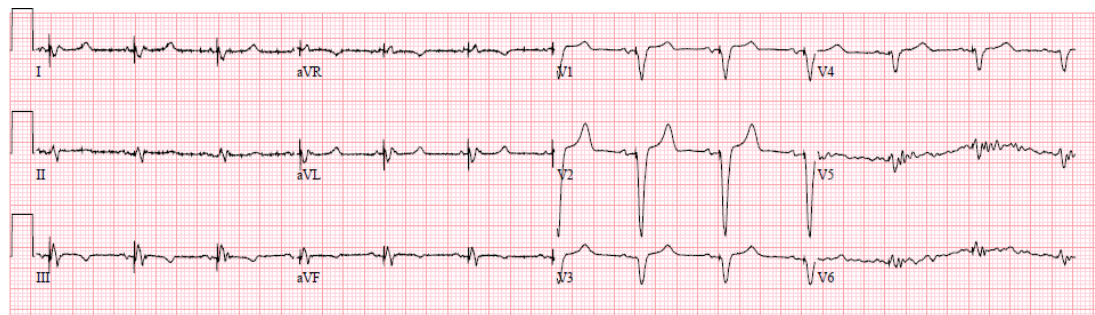
- Baseline: aCRT LV-only SAV 100  
EF 15-20%
- Final: LV-only SAV 40  
EF 35-40%

# 72 y/o F with Class III HF, IDCM, EF 15-20%

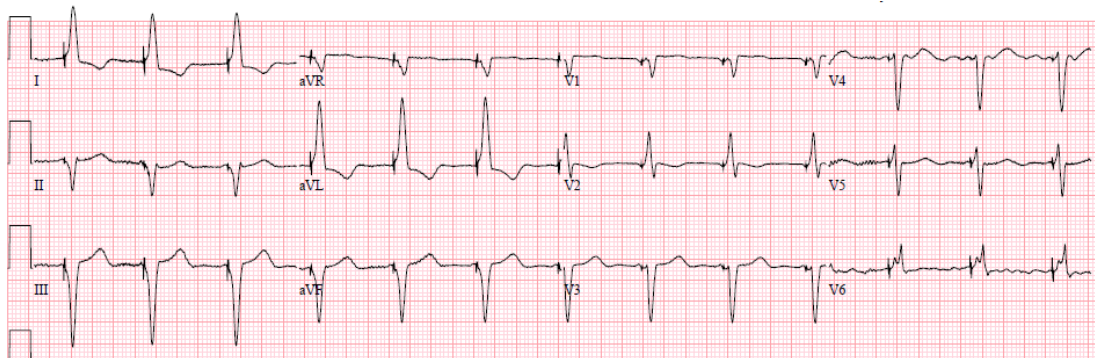
Pre-CRT  
(LBBB: QRS 130)



~ 3 months Post-CRT  
(non-response)



Post-Optimization



# 72 y/o F with Class III HF, IDCM, EF 15-20%



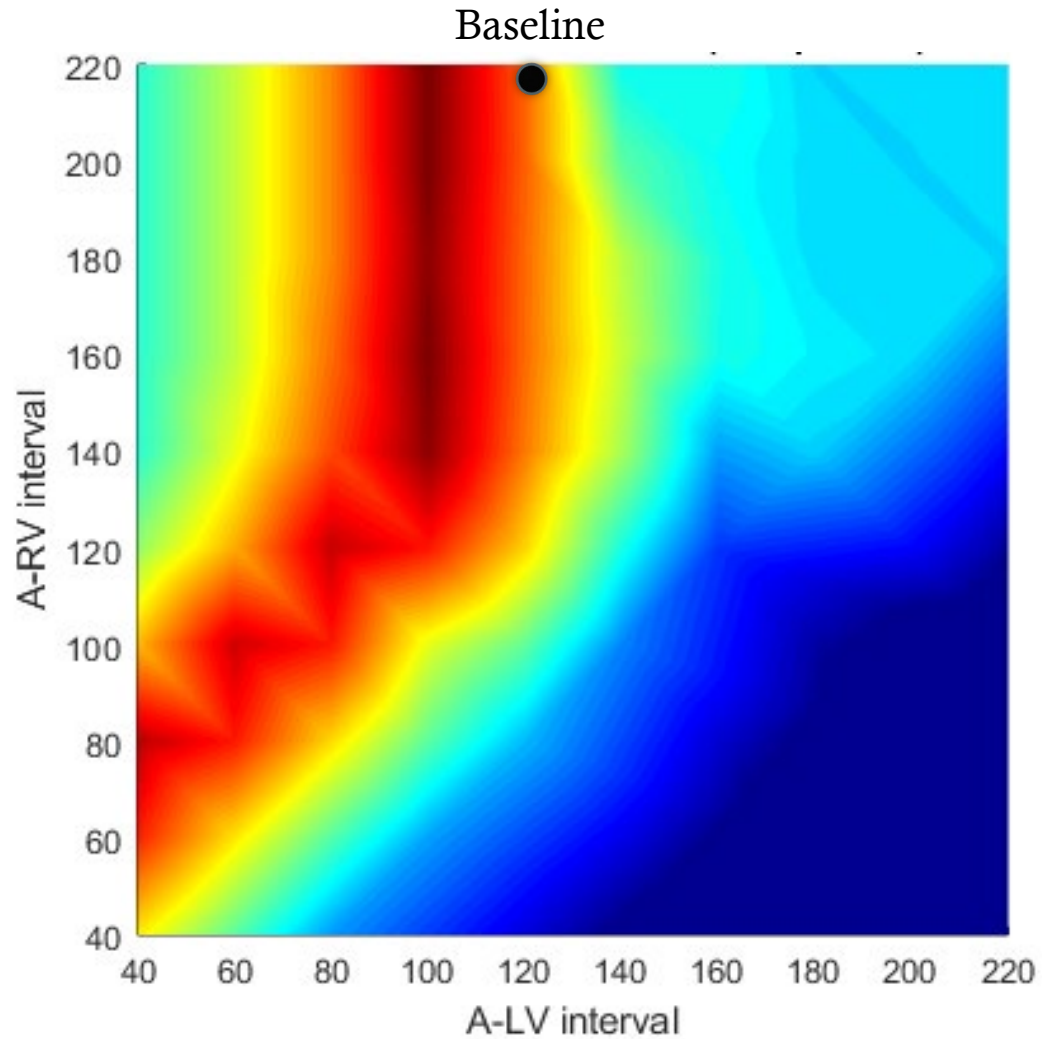
Pre-Optimization



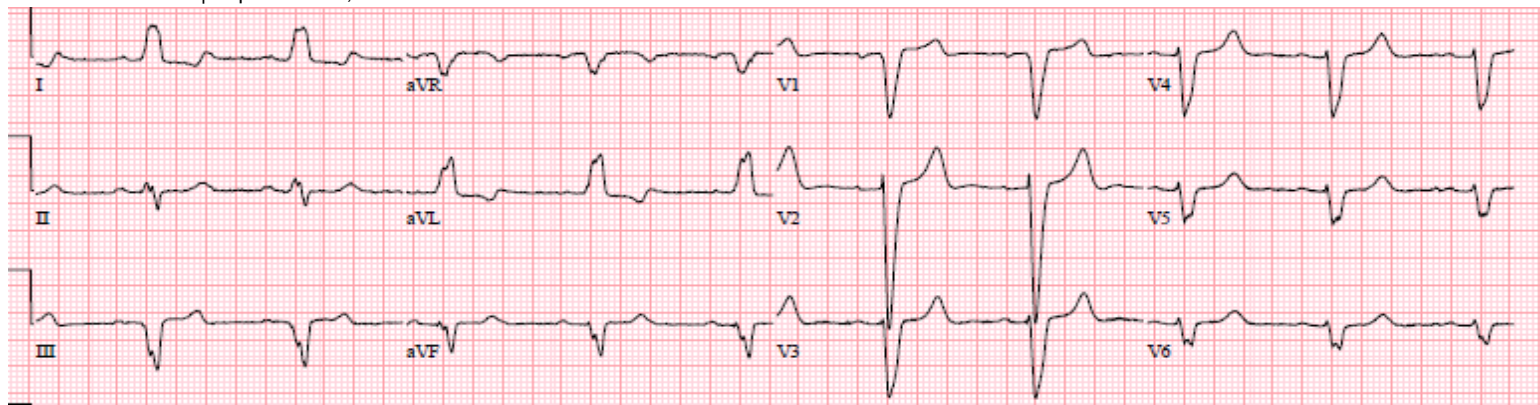
Post-Optimization

# 71 y/o F with NICM and non-response to CRT

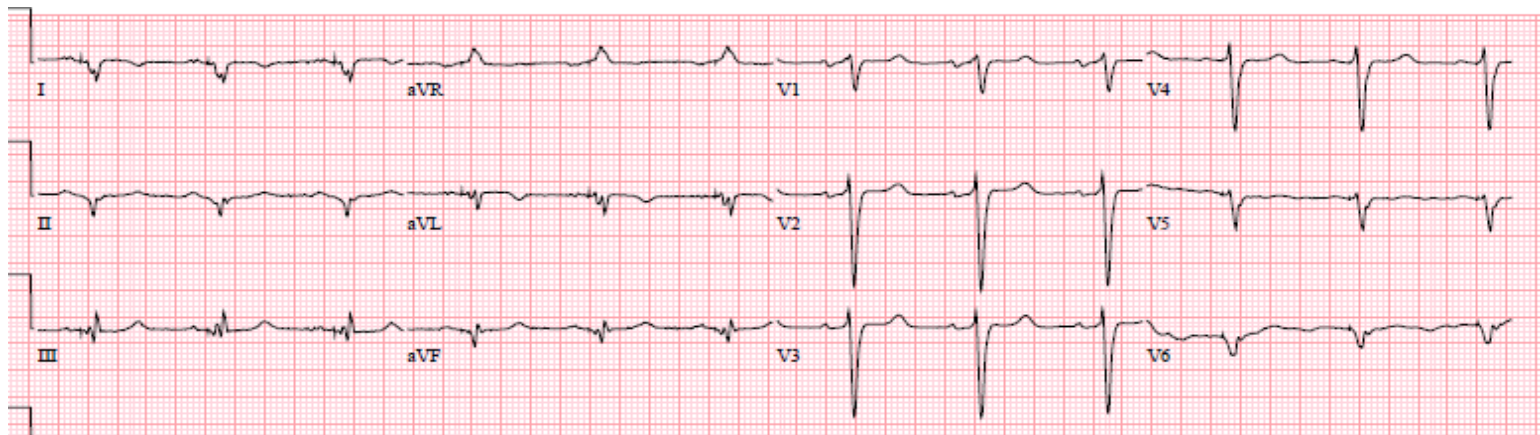
- LBBB with PR 180, QRS 160
- EF 20-25% pre- and post-CRT



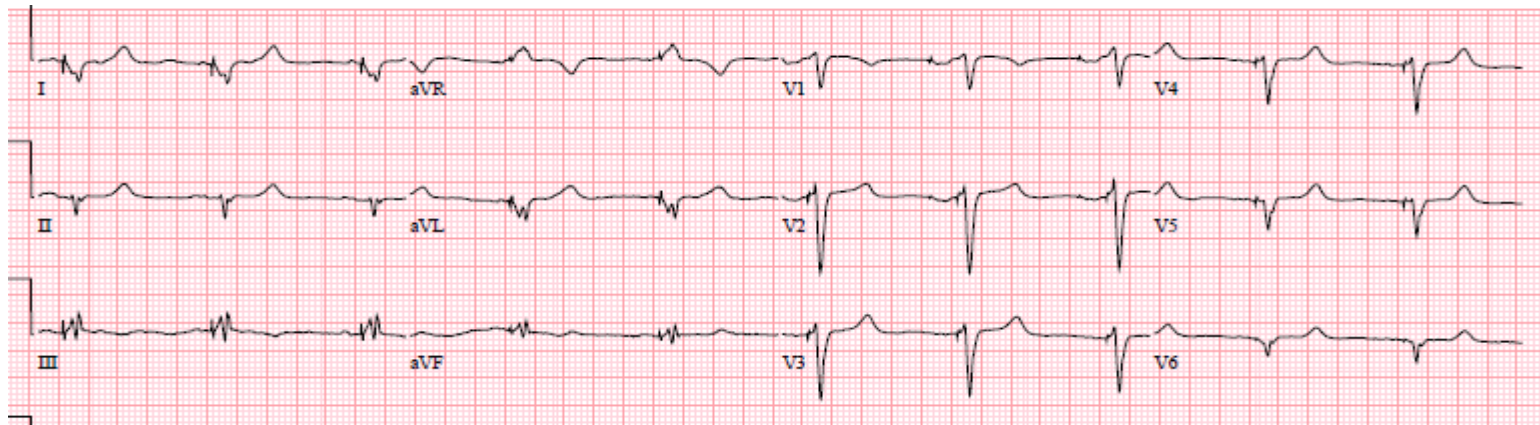
Pre-CRT



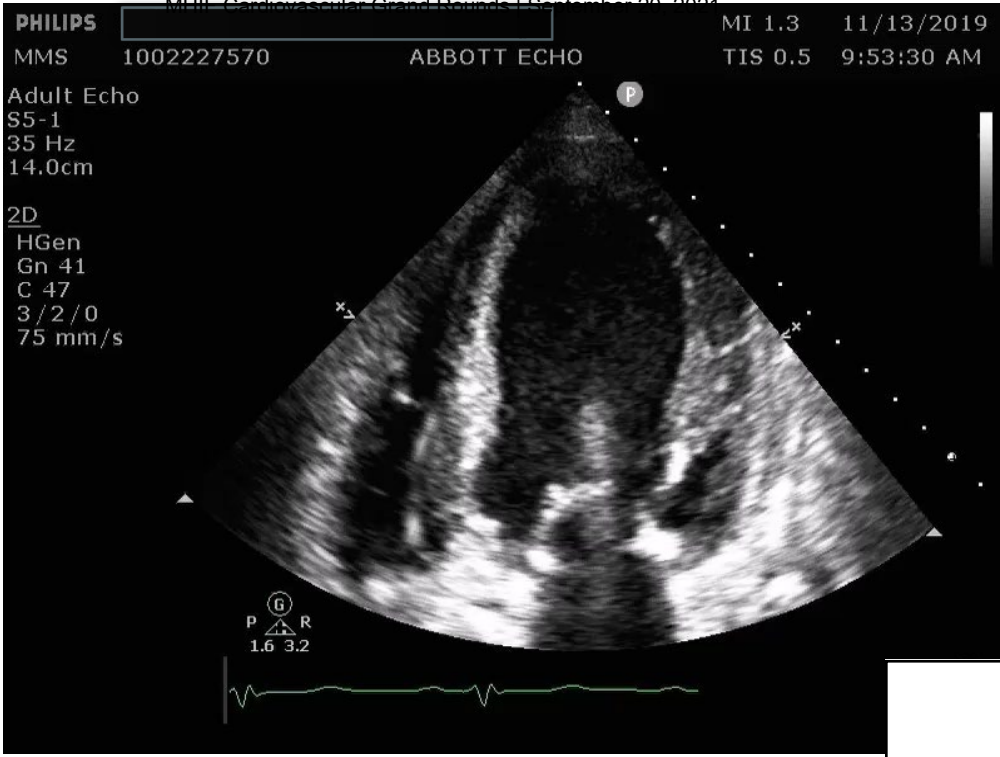
Post-CRT



Post-optimization





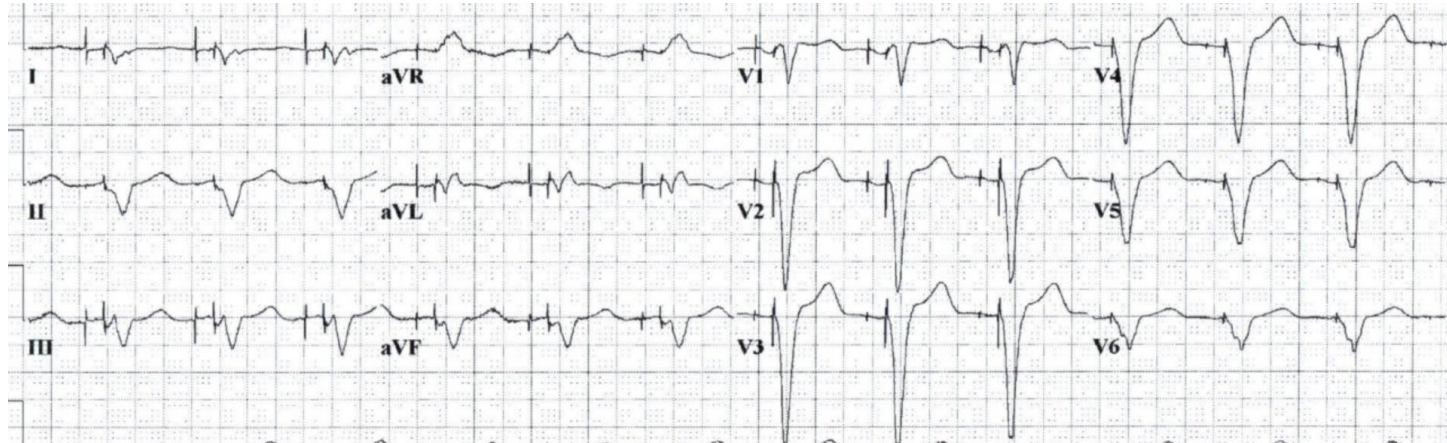


Pre-optimization  
(LV-only, SAV 120 ms)



Post-optimization  
(LV-only, SAV 100 ms)

# 77 y/o M with Systolic HF and CRT Referred for CRT Optimization

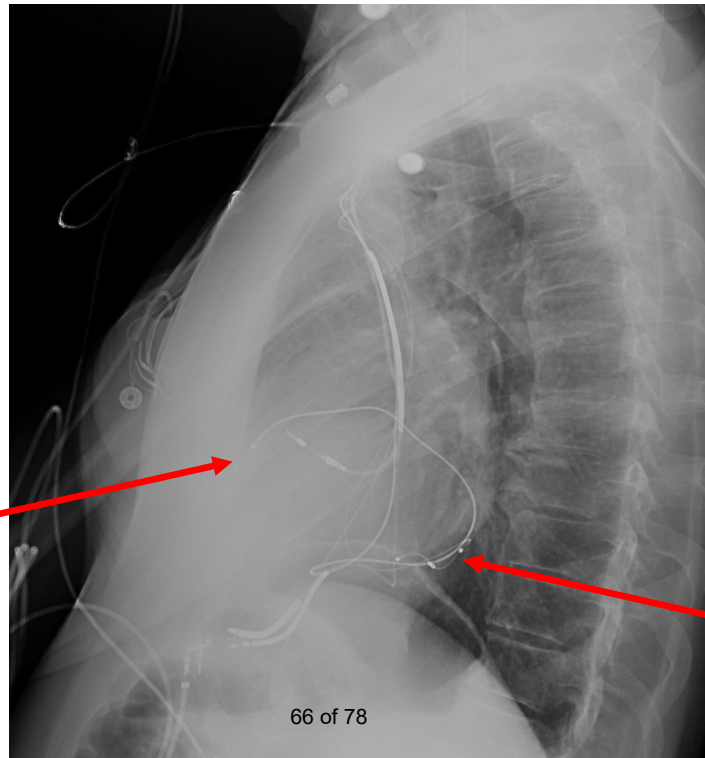


Chest

Back

LV lead: old (2005)

LV lead: new (7/16)



11 years post-CRT: poor LV lead position  
EF 20%



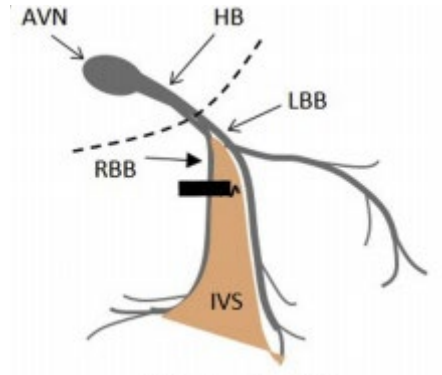
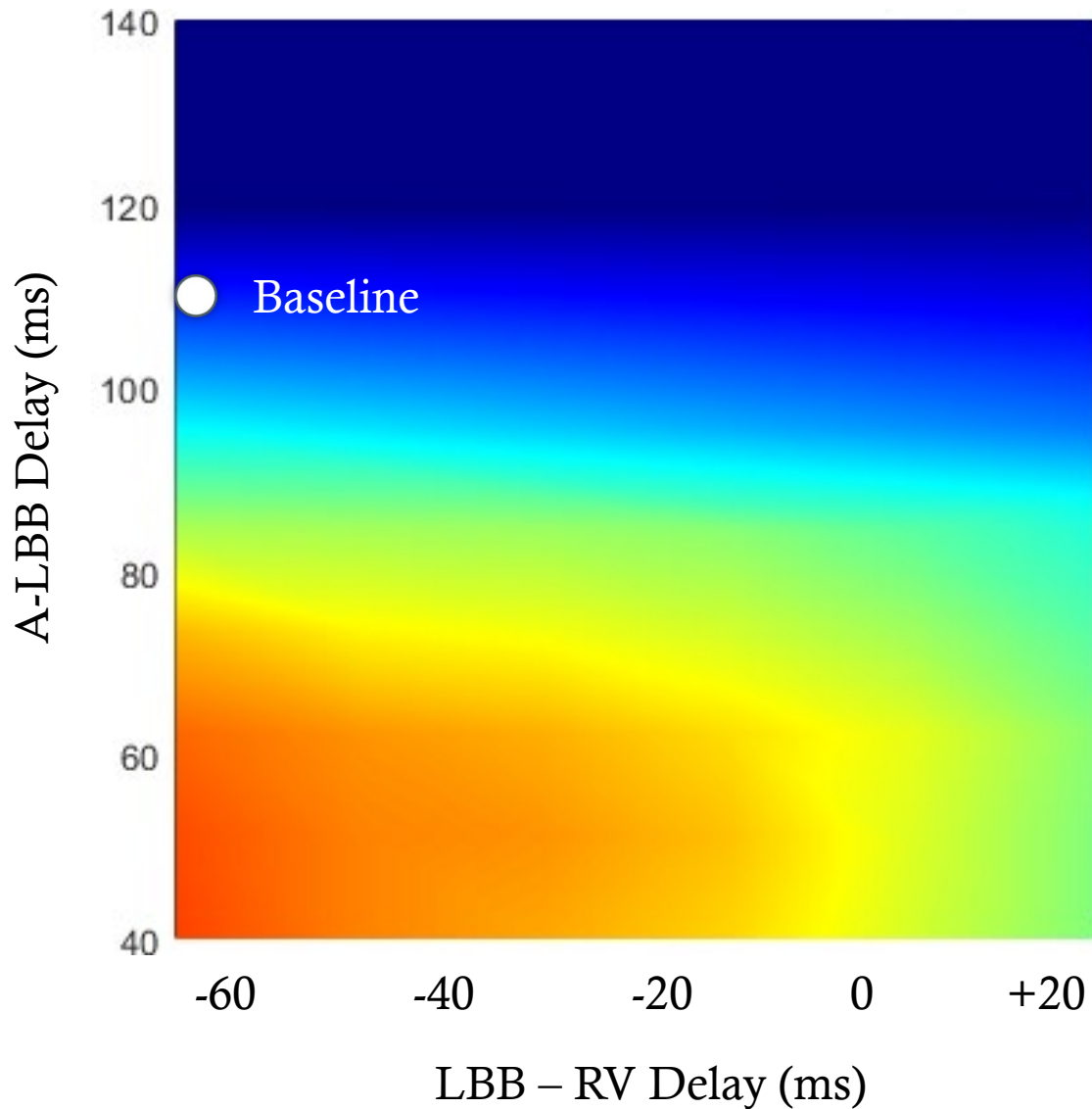
Post LV lead revision: VV = 0  
EF 30%



Post CRT Optimization: LV-only pacing  
EF 38% 67 of 78



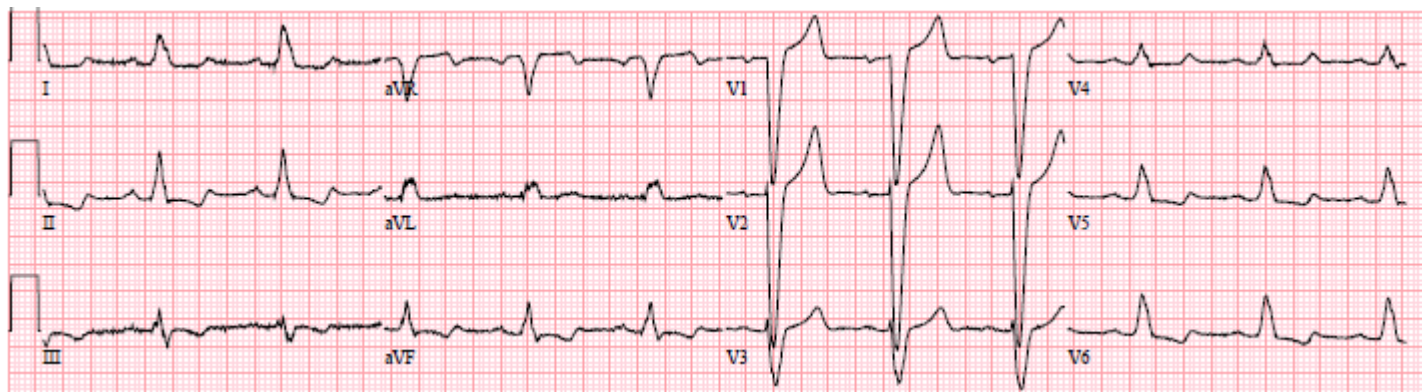
## Patient with Underlying LBBB; LBB area and RV Pacing Leads



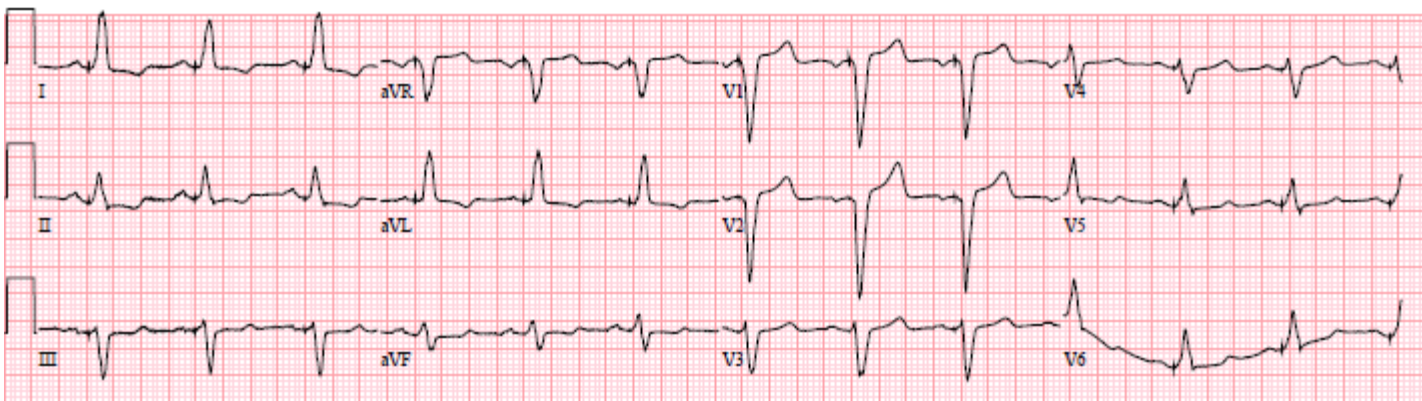
Best setting is with:

1. Very short AVD (no native wavefront)
2. LBB way ahead of RV (no RVp wavefront)

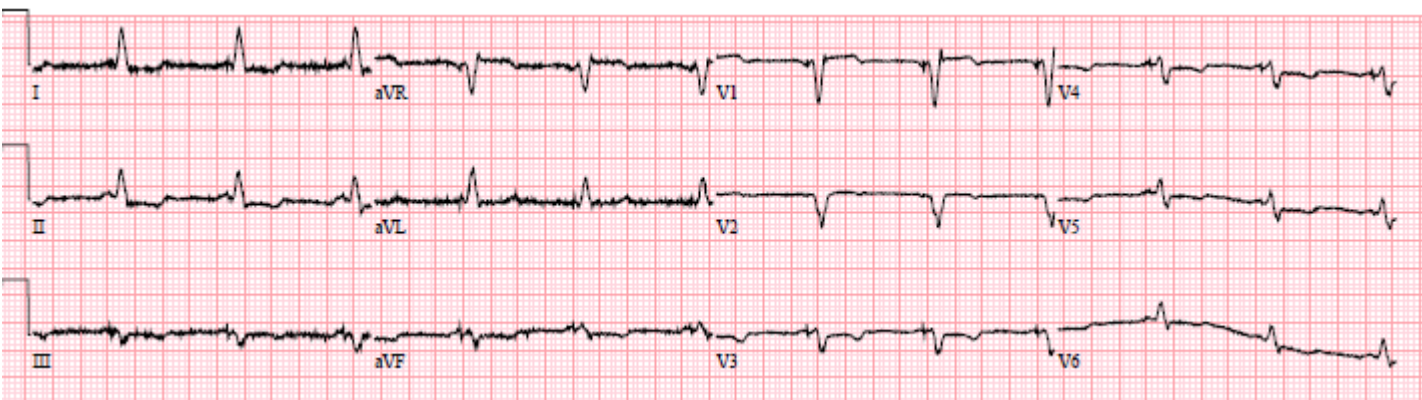
Pre-CRT

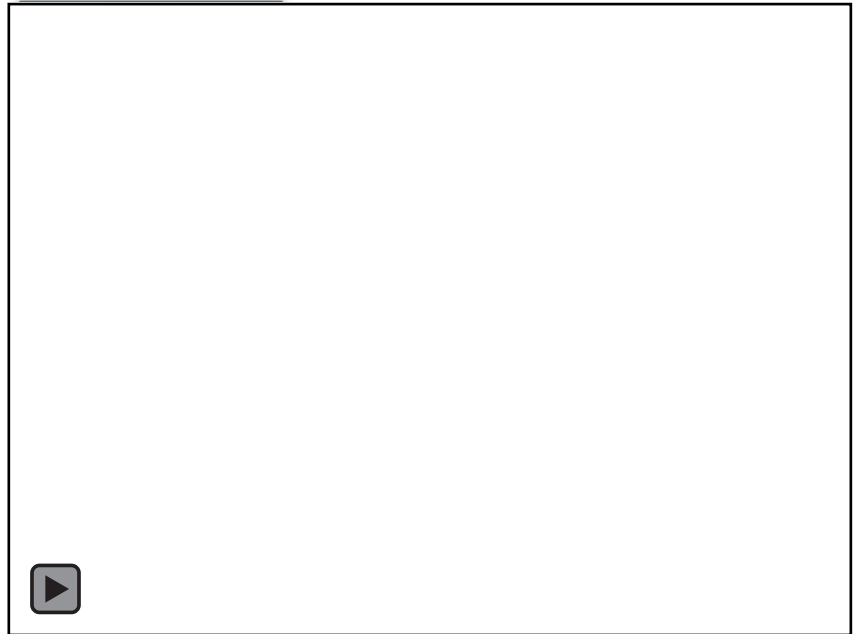
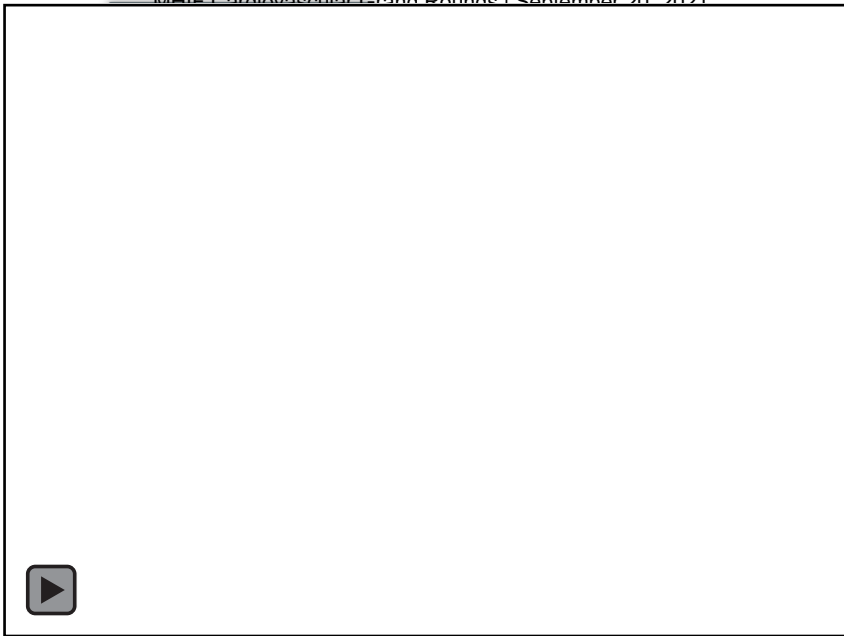


Post-CRT  
LBBp, AVD120



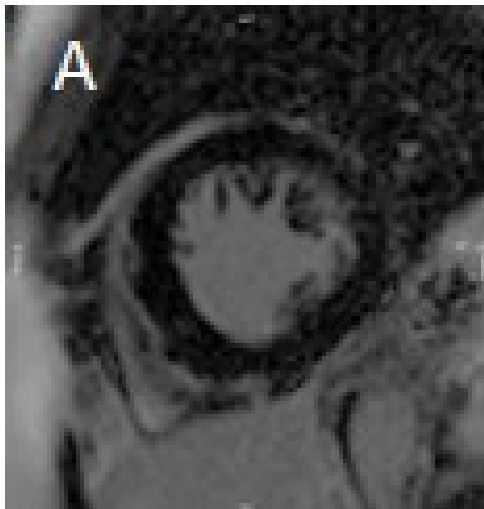
Post-optimiz.  
LBBp, AVD 40



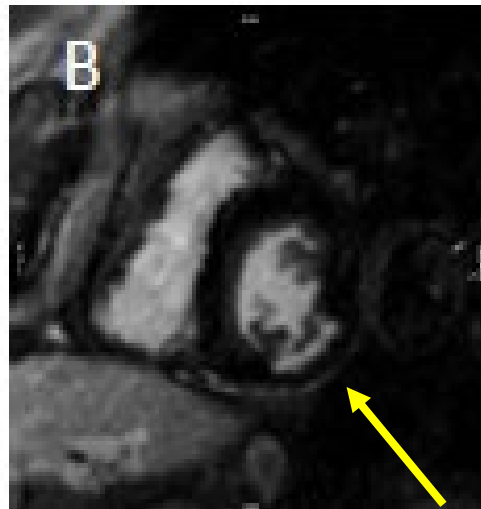


# Effects of 12-lead ECG Optimization of CRT on Patients with and without Delayed Enhancement on Cardiac MRI

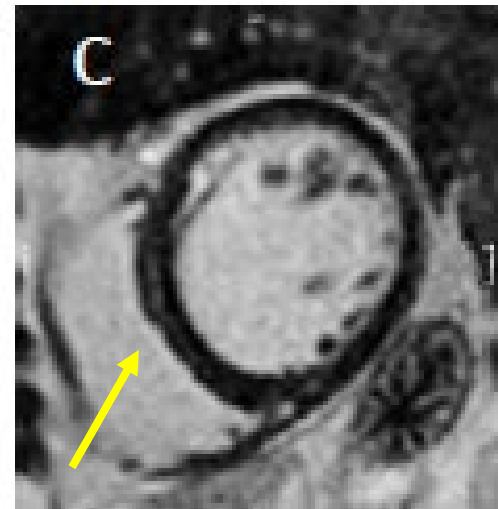
- Retrospective study of 130 patients with CRT
- 2007-13: not optimized (standard CRT programming)
- 2014-17: 12-lead ECG optimized (often LV-only or LV preactivation)



No DE  
n = 44

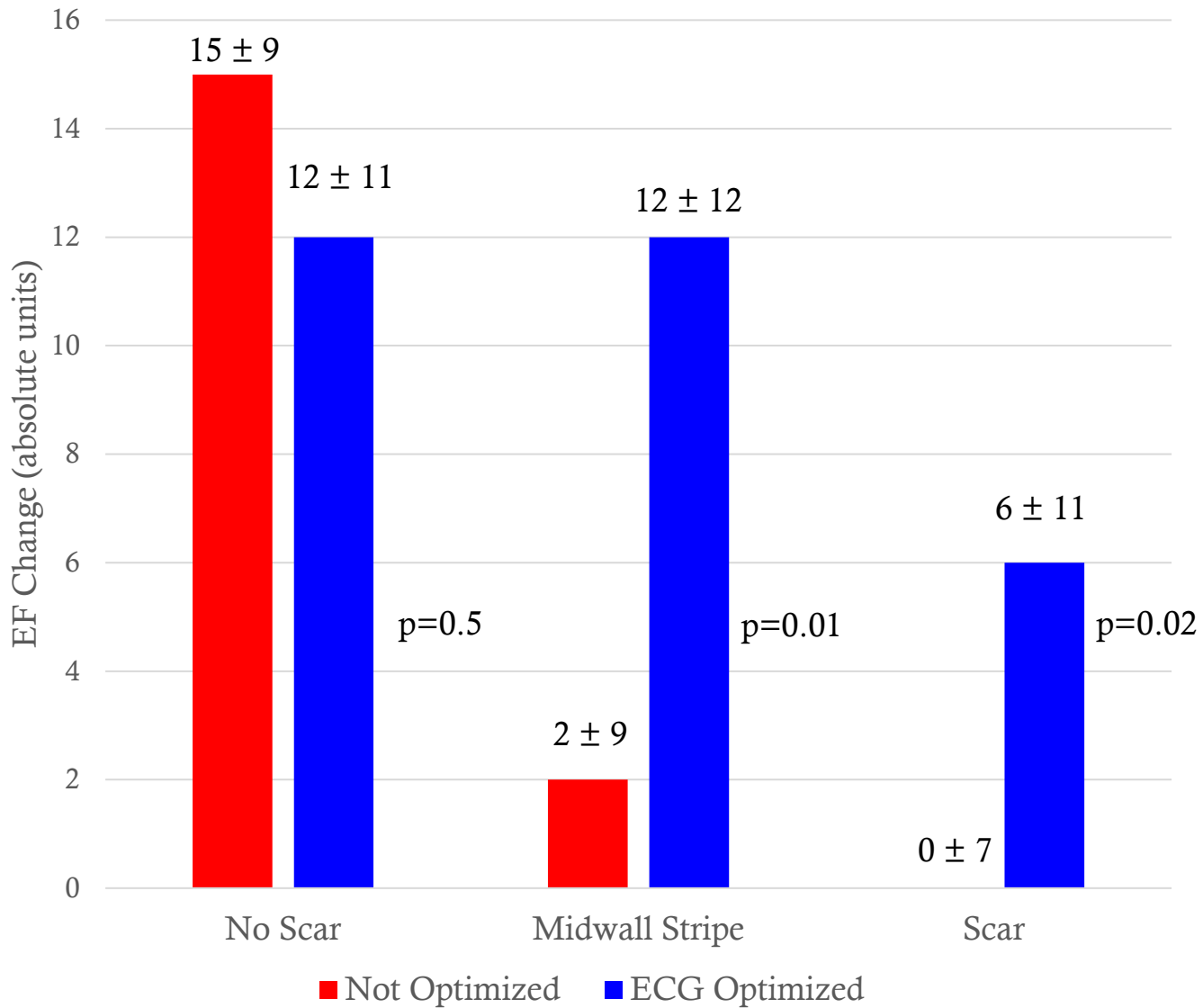


Scar  
n = 56



Midwall fibrosis  
n = 30

# EF response 1 year post-CRT





## CRT Research Studies Using EDM's

### Multi-lead ECG (M-LEAD) Research Study

- Focus on non-responders to CRT (but can enroll any patient with CRT device)
- Generate EDM, program all patients to best setting, compare pre- and 6 month post-optimization echos
- Enrolled > 140 patients

### **M**ulti**L**ead **E**CG **T**o **E**ffectively **O**ptimize **R**esynchronization in New **C**RT Recipients: METEOR-CRT

- Randomized double-blind trial of programming to best device setting based on EDM vs. standard setting for 6 months and then all patients programmed to best setting after 6 months
- Echo, NYHA class, Questionnaire pre-CRT and at 6 and 12 months
- Enrolled 25 patients with 120 planned
- Anticipate having 5-6 sites across the country

### Cardiac MR in Non-responders to CRT

- Patients with EF < 40% post-CRT randomized to best device setting based on EDM vs. standard setting
- MRI at baseline and at 6 months post-randomization
- MRI at 3 settings: Native (CRT OFF), current setting, best setting
- Just starting enrollment

# THE FUTURE

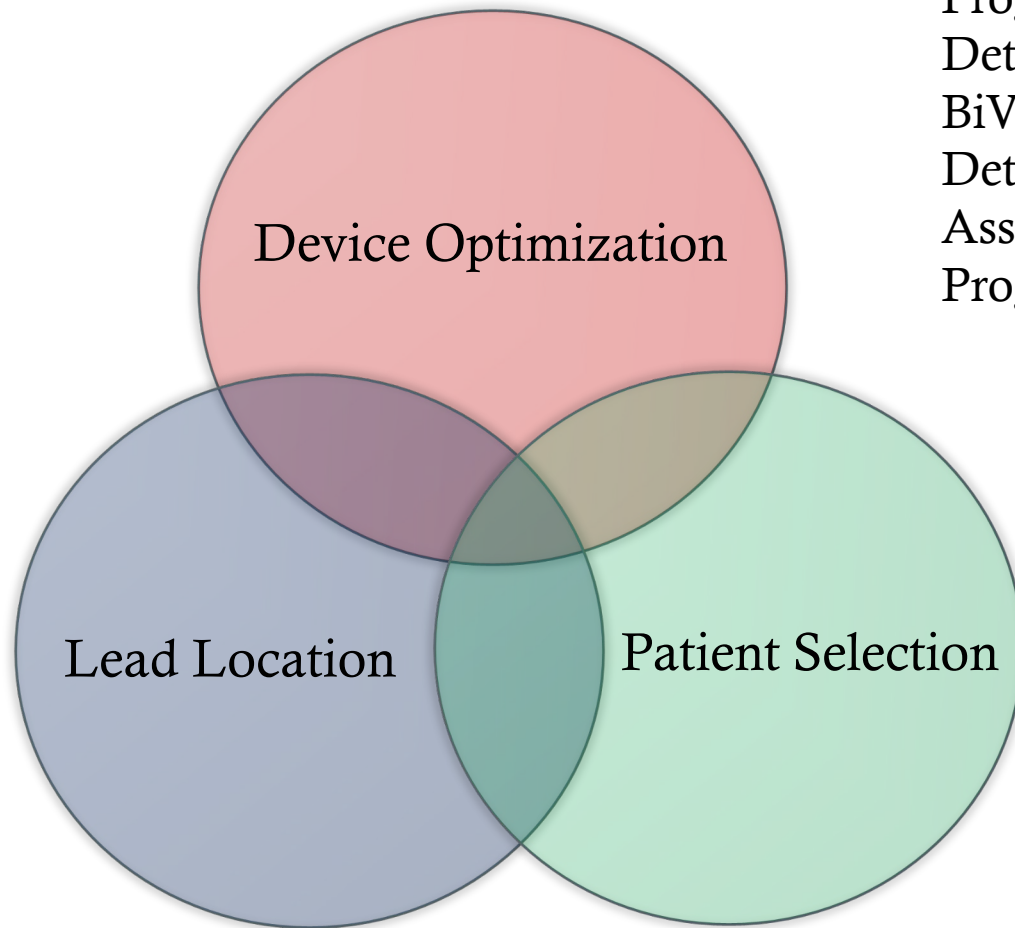
# Clinical Use of EDM Technology in Future

- Incorporate EDM technology into programmers
- Automatically run through individualized settings and generate EDM (like Vector-Express)

## Advantages of EDM for Clinical Use in CRT

- Cost-effective: no disposable supplies, equipment not expensive
- Automated: no observer bias
- Time efficient: generate EDM in ~ 40 minutes
- Non-invasive: no imaging study or dye needed
- Reproducible: highly
- Physiologic: consistent with wavefront fusion
- Physician-independent: no MD supervision needed during acquisition of data

# EDM Impact on CRT



Program optimal AVD/VVD  
Determine As and Ap AVDs  
BiV vs. LV-only programming  
Determine optimal quad electrode  
Assess need for new lead  
Program LBB area pacing

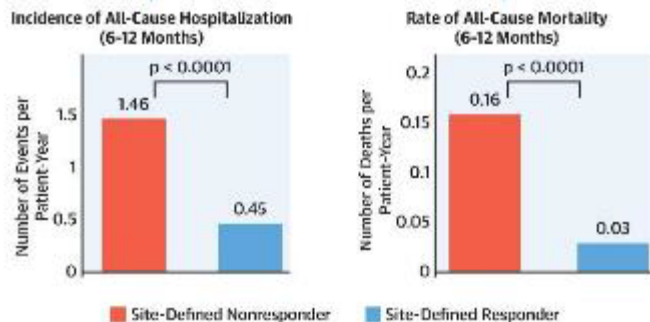
Broaden CRT criteria  
(narrow QRS, L-IVCD)  
Assess native dyssynchrony

Assist lead location at implant  
Determine if lead location is cause of non-response

# What is the Value of our New Technology?

## Patients

Clinical Outcomes:  
responders vs non-responders



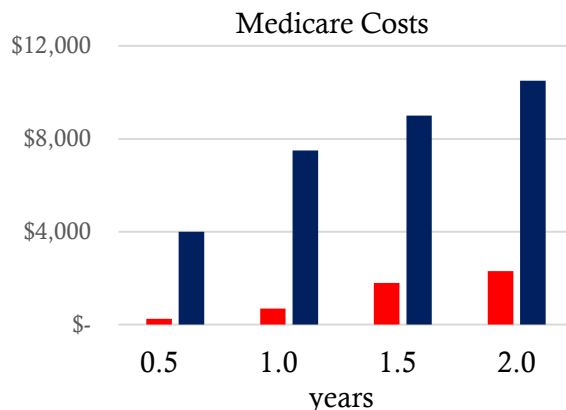
10% ↓ in non-responder rate

3500 less hospitalizations/yr  
543 less deaths/yr

## Health Care System

Cumulative cost of care: responders  
vs. non-responders (Medicare and  
Private Insurance)

Varma, N. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2019;74(21):2588-603.



10% ↓ in non-responder rate

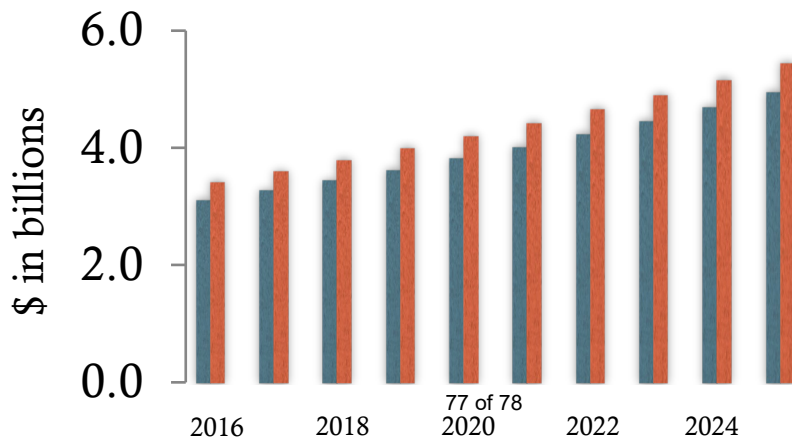
~\$62 million ↓ in annual cost of care

## Device Companies

Increase in indicated patients  
Expansion of indications

Assumptions:

- 100,000 implants/yr
- 35% NR rate



10% ↑ in projected market growth

\$3.95 billion ↑ revenue over 10 years

# CRT Program: Vision

