### Non-Pharmacologic Treatment in Heart Failure

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### Severity of Heart Failure and Mode of Death



MERIT-HF Study Group. Effect of Metoprolol CR/XL in chronic heart failure:

Metoprolol CR/XL randomized intervention trial in congestive heart failure (MERIT-HF). LANCET. 1999;353:2001-07.

## Device-based treatment of heart failure

### **Function of device**

Monitor heart failure condition

Prevent or treat rhythm disturbances

Improve mechanical efficiency of the heart

Cardiac replacement therapy

#### Examples

Implantable hemodynamic monitors, home scales, home monitoring systems

Pacemakers for bradycardia, ICD, LifeWest Wearable AED (LIFECOR, Inc, PA)

Left ventricular or multisite pacing, Biventricular pacing, CorCap (Accorn, MN) Myosplint (Myocor, MN) LVAD, BiVAD, TAH

Adapted from Boehmer, Am J Cardiol, 2003

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### **Devices in heart failure**



#### **Diagnostic capabilities**

- Arrhythmia monitoring
- Heart rate
- Percent pacing
- Physical activity
- Heart rate variability
- Intrathoracic impedance
- RV pressures

### The Chronicle®

#### Implantable continuous hemodynamic monitor (ICHM)



Randomized Controlled Trial of an Implantable Continuous Hemodynamic Monitor in Patients With Advanced Heart Failure The COMPASS-HF Study

Primary Effectiveness end-point - the Chronicle group would have a 30% lower rate of combined HF-related events (hospitalizations, emergency department and urgent clinic visits requiring intravenous therapy) compared with the control group.

### **COMPASS-HF**

#### HF-related Hospitalization Cumulative Events



## Reduction in relative risk of a first heart failure related hospitalization



### Conclusions

In patients with moderate to severe HF, the addition of an ICHM to optimal medical management did not significantly reduce the rate of all HF-related events.

Additional trials will be necessary to establish clinical benefit of ICHM-guided care in this patient population.

### Intrathoracic impedance



#### **Dryer lungs**





**Wetter lungs** 



### Intrathoracic impedance

### **Fluid Accumulation Notification Options**

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- Observations with Trends
- Device audible alert
- SentryCheck<sup>™</sup>



Patient look ind





European Heart Journal (2007) 28, 1835–1840 doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehl506



Clinical research Heart failure/cardiomyopathy

Clinical utility of intrathoracic impedance monitoring to alert patients with an implanted device of deteriorating chronic heart failure

640 pts with heart failure elligible for CRT-D (InSync Sentry®, Medtronic Inc, USA) implantation were enrolled in 42 countries.

Lack of FU reports in 267 pts.

Finally 373 pt files were analyzed.



#### Main Findings

- The device alert detected HF deterioration with an adjusted sensitivity and an adjusted PPV of 60% each.
- Failure of the alert algorithm to detect clinical HF deterioration was in 55% of the cases associated with an increase of the fluid index that was yet below the programmable alert threshold.
- Half of the false-positive alerts were related to other clinical findings or therapeutic interventions.

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Adapted from Boehmer, Am J Cardiol, 2003

### HF Patients: A Need for a New Therapy

40% of patients are not suitable for ACE Inibitors Therapy

60% of Rehospitalizations Noncompliance with medications and diet

Over 65 yrs of age HF is the leading cause of Hospitalization

50% of Mortality within five years for 50% of patients in NYHA Functional Class I throught IV

### CHF STAT Trial QRS Duration and Mortality



### Contraction Depends on Activation



Shrier http://www.mmip.mcgill.ca/unit2/shrier/lect34electrocardiogram.htm



### Normal vs Abnormal Contraction Mechanical Dyssynchrony with IVCD Normal Dilated Cardiomyopathy



### Dysynchrony - Consequences



- Abnormal septal motion<sup>1</sup>
- Reduced dP/dt<sup>3,4</sup>
- Reduced pulse pressure<sup>4</sup>
- Lower ejection fraction<sup>4</sup>
- Reduced diastolic filling 1,2,4

1 Grines CL, Bashore TM, Boudoulas H, et al. *Circulation* 1989;79:845-853. 2 Xiao, HB, Lee CH, Gibson DG. *Br Heart J* 1991;66:443-447.

3 Xiao HB, Brecker SJD, Gibson DG, Br Heart J 1992;68:403-407.

### Dysynchrony Has Many Levels



III Level (Intra-Ventricular Delay)





IV Level (Intra-mural Delay)



### **Biventricular pacemaker leads**



Current Controlled Trials in Cardiovascular Medicine



### **CRT Background**

- CRT has been shown to be consistently associated with:
  - Reductions in LV size and volume
  - Increased Stroke Volume
  - Increased Ejection Fraction
  - Reduced Mitral Regurgitation
  - Improved exercise capacity
  - Improved QOL and functional capacity
- Effects of CRT on hospitalisation and mortality remain uncertain

### Quality of Life and CRT



### CHF Hospitalizations with CRT



McAlister FA. Ann Intern Med 2004;141:381-390

### **Does CRT Prevent Death?**

### All Cause Mortality and CRT

	All-Cause Mortality			0.05	0.14	0.37	1.00	2.72	7.39	20.09
Study, Year (Reference)	CRT Group, n/n	Control Group, n/n	RR (95% CI)						1	
PATH-CHF, 2002 (19)	2/24	0/17	3.6 (0.18–70.54)		+			•		<b></b>
Garrigue et al., 2002 (20)	0/6	0/7	Excluded							
MUSTIC-SR, 2001 (12)	1/29	0/29	3 (0.13–70.74)		ŀ			•		
MUSTIC-AF, 2002 (18)	1/25	0/18	2.19 (0.09–50.93	)	H			•		
RD-CHF, 2003 (22)	2/22	4/22	0.5 (0.1–2.45)		H	•				
CONTAK-CD, 2003 (15)	11/245	16/245	0.69 (0.33–1.45)			I	•			
MIRACLE, 2002 (13)	12/228	16/225	0.74 (0.36–1.53)			<b> </b>	•   -			
MIRACLE-ICD, 2003 (14)	24/272	27/282	0.92 (0.55–1.56)			F	-			
COMPANION, 2004 (21)	131/617	39/154	0.84 (0.61–1.14)			H				
COMPANION-CD, 2004 (21)	105/595	38/154	0.72 (0.52–0.99)			H	•			
Overall			0.79 (0.66–0.96)				I♦I			
				0.05	0.14	0.37	1.00	2.72	7,39	20.09
				Favors CRT				Favors no CRT		

McAlister FA. Ann Intern Med 2004;141:381-39

### The COMPANION Trial

- 1520 patients\* enrolled at 30 centers
- NYHA FC III/IV, LVEF ≤0.35, QRS ≥120 ms
- Optimal medical therapy vs. CRTp vs. CRTd with optimal medical therapy

\*stopped early by DSMB; 2200 plann

### **COMPANION:** 1<sup>o</sup> Endpoint Death, Hospitalization or Outpatient Medication



### CARE – HF Study Maybe CRTp is all that is needed

36% reduction in all-cause mortality, 10% absolute risk reduction



Cleland JGF N Engl J Med 2005;352:1539-1549

### Current Status of ICD and CRT Therapy in Heart Failure

- 2 major CRT trials showed mortality reduction and reduction in hospitalizations:
  - CARE- HF: CRT without defibrillator (CRT-P)
  - COMPANION: CRT alone and CRT-D

### Class I recommendation for CRT

• The main challenge is to identify appropriate pts and implement appropriate therapy

### Current Status of ICD and CRT Therapy in Heart Failure

• ICD and CRT for selected pts now is standard of care

added to optimal medical therapy (OMT).

- ICD trials:
  - MADIT-II: post MI/LV dx (EF <30%) reduction in all-cause mortality.</li>
  - SCD-HEFT: Ischemic and non-ischemic class II/III HF, EF

≤35% despite OMT – reduction in all-cause mortality.

#### **CLASS I RECOMMENDATION FOR THESE PTS IN**

### SCD-HeFT Mortality Rate Overall Results



Bardy GH. N Engl J Med. 2005;352:225-237.

### MADIT II: Multicenter Automatic Defibrillator Implantation Trial II



STATE OF BRIDE

Moss AJ. N Engl J Med. 2002;346:877-883

#### Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy\* in Patients With Severe Systolic Heart Failure



For patients who have left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) less than or equal to 35%, a QRS duration greater than or equal to 0.12 seconds, and sinus rhythm, cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT) with or without an ICD is indicated for the treatment of New York Heart Association (NYHA) functional Class III or ambulatory Class IV heart

failure symptoms on optimal recommended medical therapy.



For patients who have LVEF less than or equal to 35%, a QRS duration greater than or equal to 0.12 seconds, and AF, CRT with or without an ICD is reasonable for the treatment of NYHA functional Class III or ambulatory Class IV heart

failure symptoms on optimal recommended medical therapy.

#### I llallblll



For patients with LVEF less than or equal to 35% with NYHA functional Class III or ambulatory Class IV symptoms who are receiving optimal recommended medical therapy and who have frequent dependence on ventricular pacing, CRT

\*All primary SCD prevention ICD recommendations apply only to patients who are receiving optimal medical therapy and have reasonable expectation of IS reasonable. survival with good functional capacity for more than 1 year.

#### Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy\* in Patients With Severe Systolic Heart Failure



For patients with LVEF less than or equal to 35% with NYHA functional Class I or II symptoms who are receiving optimal recommended medical therapy and who are undergoing implantation of a permanent pacemaker and/ or ICD with anticipated frequent ventricular pacing, CRT

may be considered.



CRT is not indicated for asymptomatic patients with reduced LVEF in the absence of other indications for

### I IIa IIb III C

pacing.

CRT is not indicated for patients whose functional status and life expectancy are limited predominantly by chronic

\*All primary SCD prevention ICD recommendations apply only to patients who are receiving optimal medical therapy and have reasonable expectation of survival with good functional capacit **Noncardiac** conditions.

#### 3. Cardiac Resynchronisation Therapy (CRT) in Patients with Heart Failure

Recommendations for the use of cardiac resynchronization therapy by biventricular pacemaker (CRT-P) or biventricular pacemaker combined with an ICD (CRT-D) in HF patients.

Heart failure patients who remain symptomatic in NYHA Class IIHV despite optimal pharmacological treatment, with low ejection fraction (LVEF  $\leq$  35%), left ventricular dilatation\*, normal sinus rhythm and wide QRS complex ( $\geq$  120 ms)

- Class I Level of evidence A for CRT-P to reduce morbidity and mortality.
- CRT-D is an acceptable option for patients who have expectancy of survival with a good functional status for more than 1 year, Class I - Level of evidence B.

\* Left ventricular dilatation/Different criteria have been used to define LV dilatation in controlled studies on CRT: LV end diastolic diameter > 55 mm; LV end diastolic diameter > 30 mm/m<sup>2</sup>, LV end diastolic diameter > 30 mm/m (height).



Cardiac Pacing and CRT Guidelines Slide-set © European Society of Cardiology <sup>25</sup>

### 3. Cardiac Resynchronisation Therapy (CRT) in Patients with Heart Failure

Recommendations for the use of biventricular pacing in HF patients with a concomitant indication for permanent pacing.

Heart failure patients with NYHA Class III-IV symptoms, low ejection fraction (LVEF  $\leq$  35%), left ventricular dilatation\* and a concomitant indication for permanent pacing (first implant or upgrading of conventional pacemaker).

Class IIa - Level of evidence C

Recommendations for the use of an ICD combined with biventricular pacemaker (CRT-D) in HF patients with an indication for an ICD.

Heart failure patients with a Class I indication for an ICD (first implant or upgrading at device change) who are symptomatic in NYHA Class III-IV despite optimal pharmacological treatment, with low ejection fraction (LVEF  $\leq$  35%), left ventricular dilatation\*, wide QRS complex ( $\geq$  120ms).

Class I - Level of evidence B.

\* Left ventricular dilatation/Different criteria have been used to define LV dilatation in controlled studies on CRT: LV end diastolic diameter > 55 mm; LV end diastolic diameter > 30 mm/m<sup>2</sup>, LV end diastolic diameter > 30 mm/m (height).



### 3. Cardiac Resynchronisation Therapy (CRT) in Patients with Heart Failure

Recommendations for the use of biventricular pacing in HF patients with permanent atrial fibrillation.

Heart failure patients who remain symptomatic in NYHA Class III-IV despite optimal pharmacological treatment, with low ejection fraction (LVEF  $\leq$  35%), LV dilatation\*, permanent atrial fibrillation and indication for AV junction ablation.

Class IIa - Level of evidence C.

\* Left ventricular dilatation/Different criteria have been used to define LV dilatation in controlled studies on CRT: LV end diastolic diameter > 55 mm; LV end diastolic diameter > 30 mm/m<sup>2</sup>, LV end diastolic diameter > 30 mm<sup>2</sup>, LV end diastoli



Cardiac Pacing and CRT Guidelines Slide-set © European Society of Cardiology 27

### Possible Risks for Implantable Devices

- Vascular complications
- Long-term risk of infections
- Leads may break/fracture
- Recalls

### BUT:

Significant benefits –evaluate patients carefully Devices are very reliable and improving constantly

### The Importance of Patient Selection

- Maintain relationship with EP/patient and family
- Need to understand:
  - Why treatment is indicated
  - What are the downsides
  - Will continue with medical therapy
  - Possibility of inappropriate shocks

#### IMPROVE HF: Registry to Improve the Use of Evidence-Based Heart Failure Therapies in the Outpatient Setting

- 167 outpatient cardiology practices surveyed in the USA
- 15 381 pts with HF, previous MI/LV Dx
- Results for utilization of device therapy in eligible patients:
  - ICD/CRT-D 51%
  - CRT 39%
- Median 27% of pts received all HF therapies for which they were potentially eligible on the basis of chart documentation.
- Use of guideline-recommended therapies by practices varied widely
- Need to translate outcomes of RC clinical practice

#### **REVERSE** (SPONSORED BY MEDTRONIC)

**Trial design:** Patients with LV dysfunction (NYHA class I-II) and wide QRS were randomized to cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT) (n = 419) or optimal medical therapy (n = 191).



#### **Results**

- Patients worsened: 16% with CRT vs. 21% with optimal medical therapy (p = 0.1)
- LV end-systolic volume index: decreased 18.4 ml/m<sup>2</sup> vs. 1.3 ml/m<sup>2</sup> (p < 0.0001), respectively
- Risk of heart failure hospitalization reduced with CRT (p = 0.03)

#### Conclusions

- CRT for mild heart failure does not reduce the percentage of patients that clinically worsen
- CRT improves LV end-systolic volume index and reduces the risk of hospitalization compared with optimal medical therapy

Presented Dr. Cecilia Linde at SCAI-ACC i2 Summit/ACC 2008 MADIT-CRT: Automatic Defibrillator Implantation with Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy

#### • N=1820

- EF < 30%. Class I or II HF
- Randomized to CRT\_D (60%) or ICD-only (40%)
- OMT
- Combined end-point of all-cause mortality/HF events when compared with ICD-only therapy
- Ongoing study

The Resynchronization Therapy in Normal QRS (RethinQ) Study Beshai et al., NEJM, 2007

Study Sponsored by St. Jude Medical

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

#### **Inclusion Criteria**

- NYHA class III HF
- LVEF ≤ 35%
- Evidence of mechanical dyssynchrony

**QRS duration < 130ms** 

**Exclusion Criteria** 

- NYHA class I, II, or IV
- Permanent Atrial Fibrillation
- Recent MI, unstable angina or cardiac revascularization

 Prior cardiac resynchronization therapy



- CRT did not improve Peak VO<sub>2</sub> during exercise in patients with NYHA Class III heart failure, QRS duration <130ms, EF ≤ 35% and mechanical dyssynchrony as specified in this trial.
- While there was a statistically significant improvement of NYHA class, a secondary endpoint, there was no improvement in qualityof-life, 6-minute walking test, or echocardiographic measures of reverse LV remodeling
- A subgroup of patients with QRS duration between 120 ms and 130 ms demonstrated an improvement from CRT, however patients with QRS duration < 120 ms did not demonstrate improvement
- The subgroup of patients stratified on the basis of cardiomyopathy etiology did not demonstrate an improvement in peak VO2.

### Post-Implant Follow-Up

- Management outside EP office:
  - Cardiologists with HF training
  - Need for more practitioners as number of patients with devices grows

#### **Optimisation of Device**

- Important clinical data is recorded by device to evaluate patient progress
- Optimisation of AV, VV delays in CRT devices

### CRT Therapy – The Future

- Possible new indications
- Better optimization techniques (echo, etc.)
- Better programming (VV, AV algorithms)
- Better therapy (multiple activation sites)
- Auto-optimization
- More sophisticated monitoring

### Conclusion

 CRT benefits many but not all patients with severe heart failure, low left ventricular ejection fractions and wide QRS complexes

### **Stages of Therapy**



#### Pharmacologic and Device Therapy Across the Continuum

