

Comparison of Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy characteristics between Israel and Other ESC member Countries: Data from European CRT-SURVEY

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Aim: The European CRT-Survey described the current clinical practice of CRT implantation in Europe. The aim of our study was to describe CRT implantation characteristics in Israel, compared to other European countries, based on that survey.

Methods: All centers implanting CRT devices in 13 European countries were invited to participate in this web-based survey. A total of 141 centers responded, of which six were Israeli centers. All patients who had CRTD/P devices implanted or upgraded to CRT between November 2008 and June 2009 were included in this survey.

Results: A total of 2438 patients were studied, of whom 195 (8.0 %) were from Israel. Israeli patients differed significantly from their European counterparts, having a higher percentage of ischemic etiology (71.8% vs. 48.8%) a higher incidence of diabetes and they underwent more coronary revascularization. 26.2% of Israeli patients had normal baseline ECG compared to only 9.9% in Europe and they had significantly shorter QRS duration (145 ± 34 ms) compared to European patients (159 ± 31 ms). Israeli compared to European patients had significantly lower LVEF ($25\% \pm 7$ versus $27\% \pm 8$), and 17.5% of Europeans had LVEF > 35% compared to only 10.1% among the Israelis. CRTD was implanted in 80.5% among Israelis compared to 72.5% in other European patients. While most implantations were performed by electrophysiologists (96.9%) in Israel, only 73.5% were performed by electrophysiologists in the other European countries. The rate of periprocedural complications did not differ between the 2 groups, except for bleeding which was higher among Israeli patients.

Conclusion: There are several differences between CRT practice in Israel compared to other European countries. These differences should be taken into account when extrapolating data acquired in Europe versus Israel.