

Cover Page



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**Title:** Pacing in heart failure: focus on risk stratification and patient selection for cardiac resynchronization therapy

**Issue Date:** 2018-04-10

## STELLINGEN:

- 1) Despite the enormous number of randomized clinical trials including their subgroup analysis, an evident gap is present regarding CRT efficacy when it comes to individual application in real-world patients considering the selection criteria of RCT's and the underrepresentation of specific heart failure populations. (this thesis)
- 2) The CRT-SCORE allows prediction of survival in CRT using readily available and CRT-specific clinical, electrocardiographic and echocardiographic characteristics. The model provides estimates of 1 year and 5 year mortality that may assist clinicians in counseling patients and families and guide clinical shared decision-making (this thesis)
- 3) Significant lead-induced tricuspid regurgitation was associated with an impaired right ventricular performance and with a higher incidence of long-term mortality and heart failure events suggesting the importance of an echocardiographic follow-up in these patients in order to optimize patient management.(this thesis)
- 4) LV dyssynchrony is a complex and 3D phenomena. Considering accurate assessment of LV volumes, function and LV dyssynchrony with 3D echocardiography at the same time, within a single heartbeat, 3D echocardiography may play an important role in the evaluation of CRT patients/candidates. (this thesis)
- 5) CRT, with or without ICD capabilities, has been well established in multiple large trials to improve symptoms, hospitalizations, reverse remodeling, and mortality in well-selected patients with HF when used in addition to OMT. (J. Chinitz, Annals of Global Health 2014)
- 6) Although implantation and subsequent optimization could be refined, present-day CRT has been as revolutionary as drug therapy for selected patients with HF. Our attention should be directed toward increasing its delivery. To "get with the guidelines," we need to increase awareness outside the field of electrophysiology. Most importantly, we will need a team effort from electrophysiologists and HF specialists. (F. Leyva, JACC 2014)
- 7) A prospectively constructed risk scoring systems within this study population could have potentially provided better insight into the value proposition of CRT-P vs. CRT-D, and seems to have been a missed opportunity. (G. Upadhyay EHJ 2015)
- 8) An important goal of any related future initiative should be to enhance the knowledge of CRT-D and CRT-P outcomes in older patients and, as a result, improve the effectiveness of clinical decision making. The ultimate vision is to be able to provide patients with all the information they need to make the best decision for themselves based on what is most important to them. (S. Al-Khatib JACC Heart failure 2015)
- 9) If you understand everything, you must be misinformed. (Japanese Proverb)
- 10) Het klopt, het klopt, het klopt altijd, het hart (S.Somer 2016)
- 11) "It's never over till it's over."(Amerikaans spreekwoord, interpretatie: Het is nooit klaar tot dat het klaar is.)