

The effects of chronic atrial dilatation on atrial electrophysiology and contractility

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The Effects of Chronic Atrial Dilatation on Atrial Electrophysiology and Contractility

1. Chronic atrial dilatation is associated with the development of a substrate for atrial fibrillation.
2. Chronic atrial dilatation is associated with local conduction delays.
3. In dilated atria fibrosis or a shortened refractory period is not a prerequisite for maintenance of atrial fibrillation.
4. In dilated and electrically remodeled atria a wide excitable gap exists during atrial fibrillation.
5. Chronic atrial dilatation is associated with reduced atrial contractility.
6. The mechanisms underlying this “dilated atrial cardiomyopathy” differ from contractile dysfunction induced by atrial fibrillation.
7. Scientific ranking by using impact factors improves science and does provoke scandals.
8. Scientifically trained physicians are better doctors - skepticism can be salutary.
9. Non vitae sed scholae linguam Latinam discimus.
10. “Ein weites Herz haben” does not necessarily mean to suffer from heart disease.

Hans-Ruprecht Neuberger

Maastricht 1 december 2006