



HART  
CENTRUM



## Update in de behandeling en ablatie van atriumfibrillatie

**Michael Wolf**, MD PhD MSc

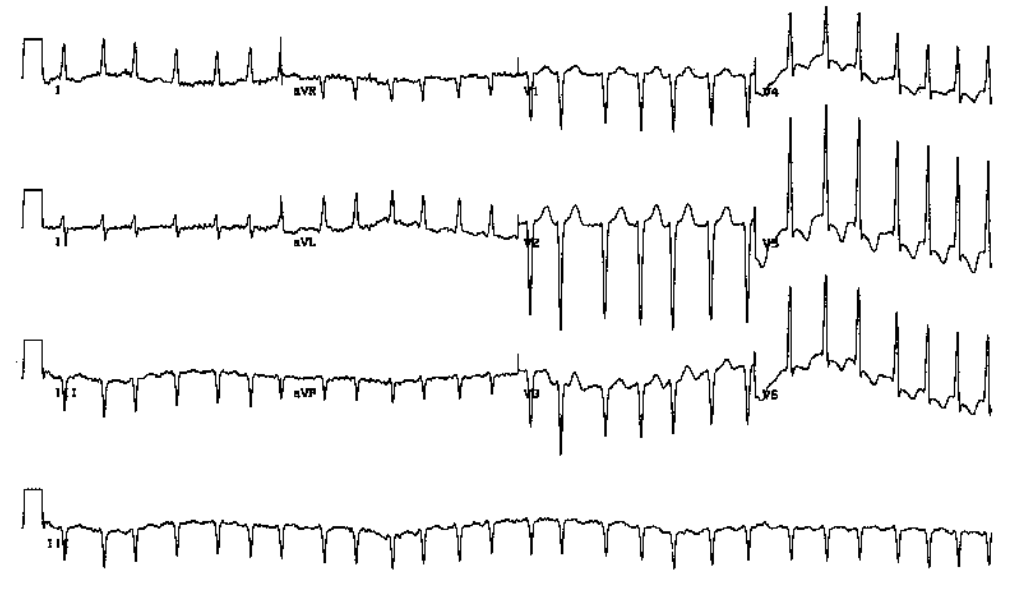
cardioloog - elektrofysioloog

ZIEKENHUIS *aan*  
*de* STROOM

# Casus: man 48j

- Cardiovasculaire risicofactoren:
  - Hypertensie, BMI 28kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Medicatie: perindopril/amlodipine
- Sinds laatste 2 jaar **palpitaties** gepaard met **thoracaal ongemak**
- Duur en frequentie episodes **progressief**: nu 1x per week, tot 1 à 2 uur durend

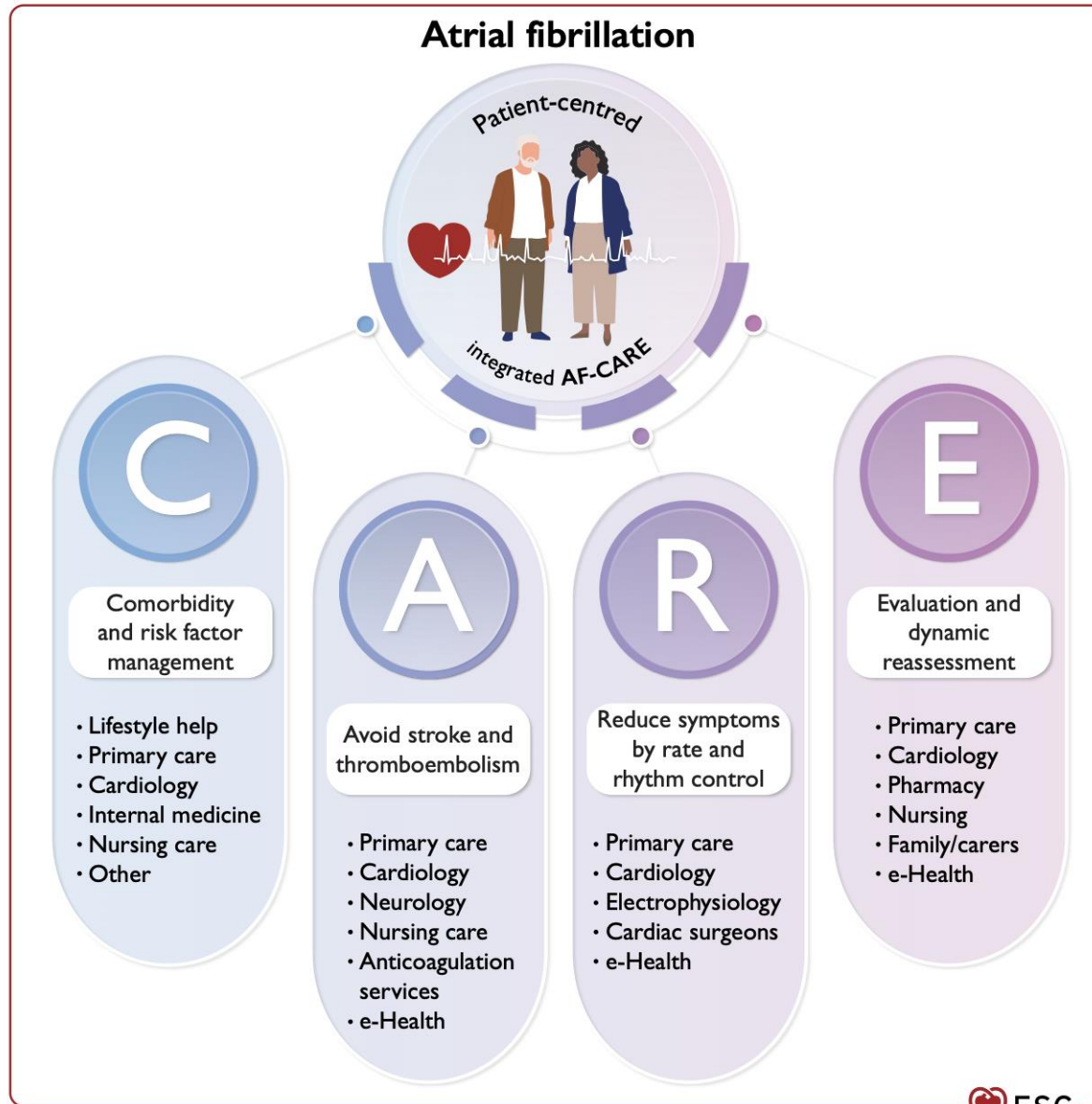
ECG:



Diagnose: **paroxysmale VKF**

Hoe behandelen we deze patiënt?

# Atrial fibrillation





## Comorbidity and risk factor management

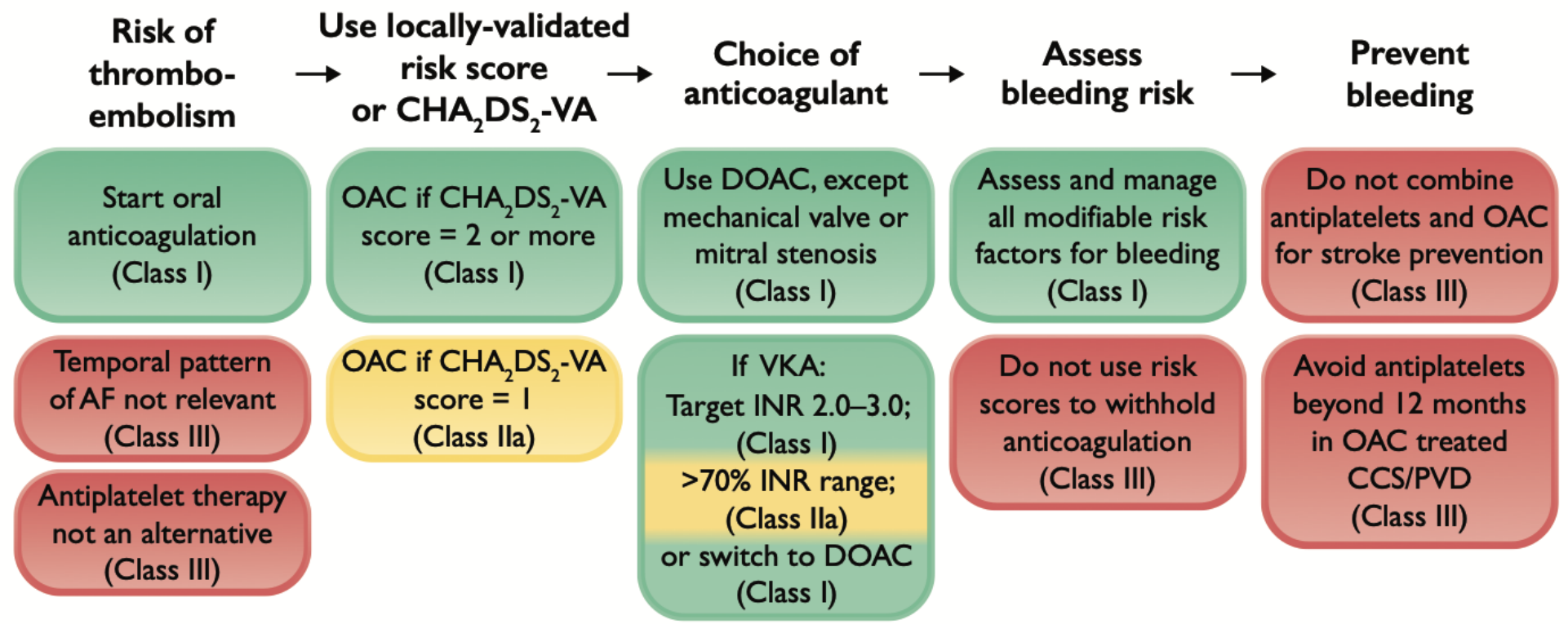
Hypertension	Heart failure	Overweight or obese	Obstructive sleep apnoea	Alcohol
Blood pressure lowering treatment (Class I)	Diuretics for congestion (Class I)	Weight loss (target 10%) <sup>a</sup> (Class I)	Management of OSA <sup>a</sup> (Class IIb)	Reduce to ≤3 drinks per week (Class I)
BD < 138/80mmHg	Appropriate HFrEF medical therapy (Class I)	Bariatric surgery if rhythm control <sup>a</sup> (Class IIb)	Exercise capacity	Other risk factors/ comorbidities
<b>Diabetes mellitus</b>	SGLT2 inhibitors (Class I)		Tailored exercise programme (Class I)	Identify and manage aggressively <sup>a</sup> (Class I)
Effective glycaemic control <sup>a</sup> (Class I)				

Van belang voor:

- preventie VKF
- ritmecontrole / VKF recurrece
- symtoomcontrole
- cardiovasculaire prognose



## Avoid stroke and thromboembolism

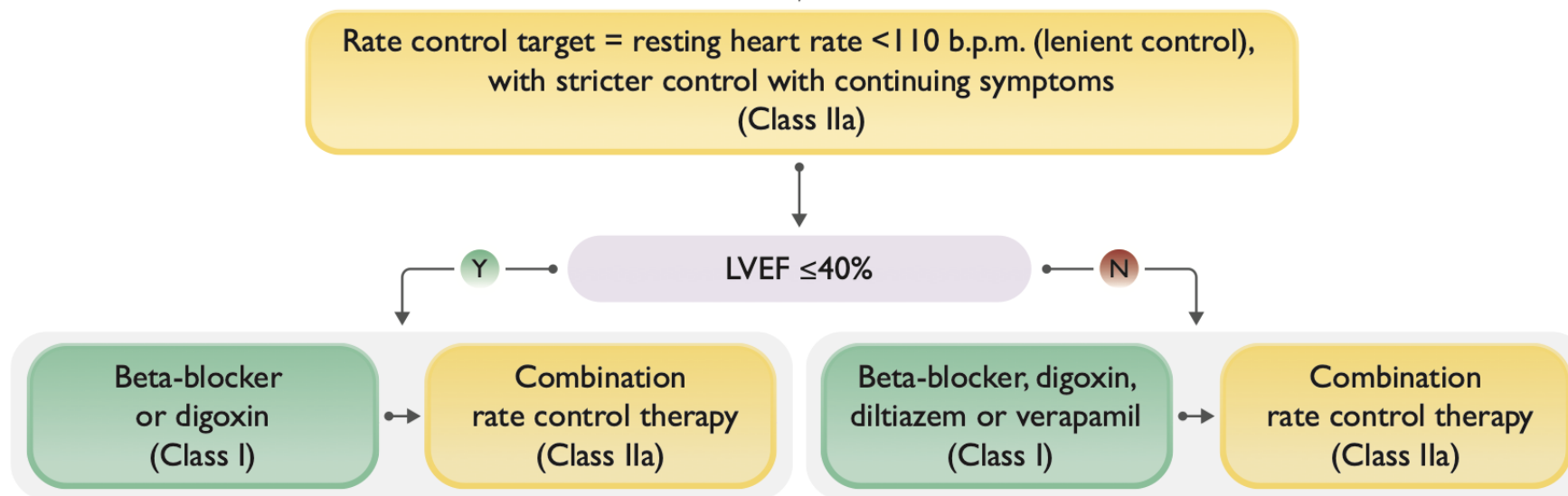


Acronym	Score
C Congestive HF	1
H Hypertension	1
A Age ≥ 75	2
D Diabetes Mellitus	1
S Stroke, TIA, TE	2
V Vascular disease (prior MI, PAD, aortic plaque)	1
A Age 65-74	1





## Reduce symptoms by rate and rhythm control



Lenient rate control with a resting heart rate of < 110 b.p.m. should be considered as the initial target for patients with AF, with stricter control reserved for those with continuing AF-related symptoms.<sup>459,460,466</sup>

**IIa**

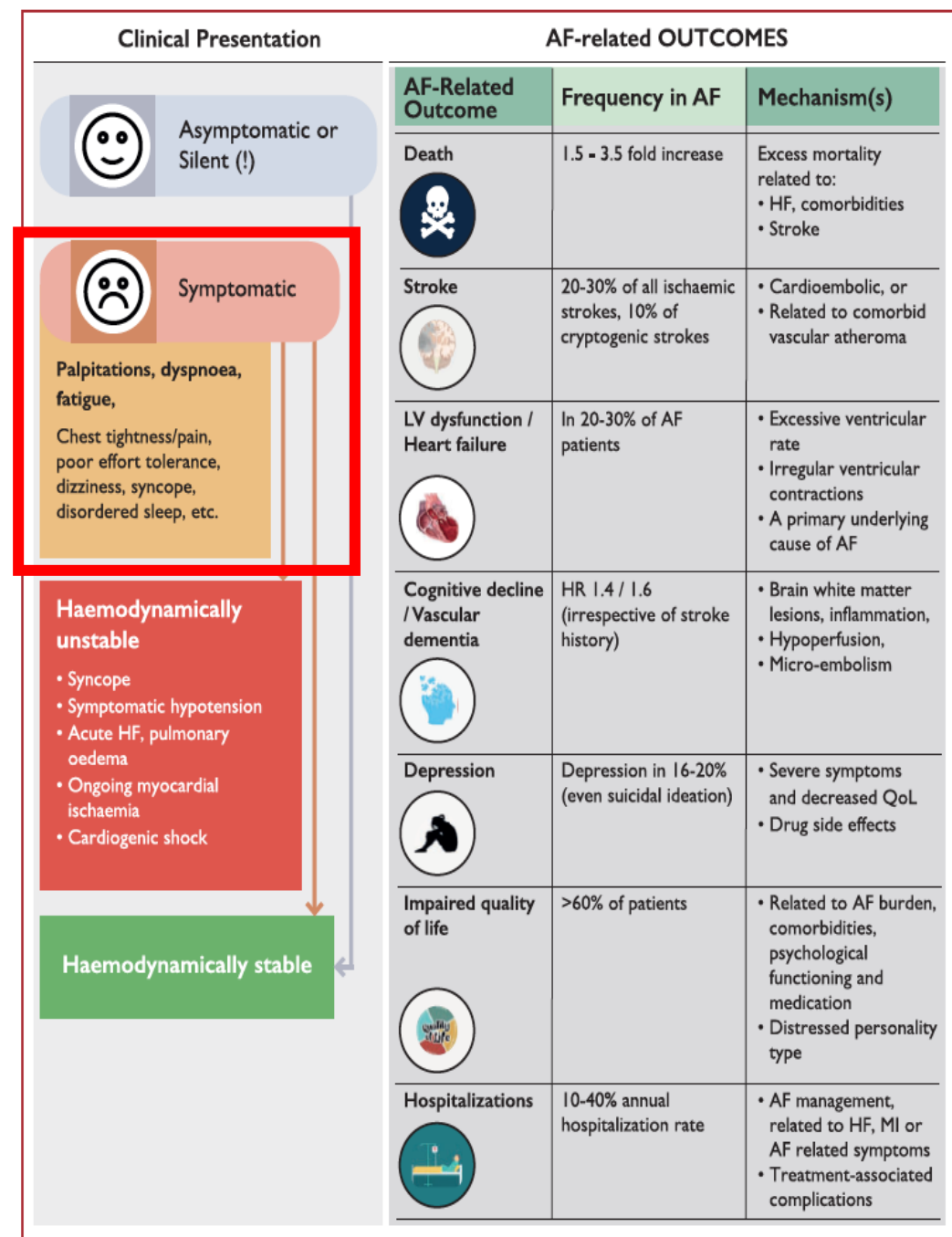
**B**



# Ritmecontrole

- = nastreven sinusritme
- **vroegtijdig**
- voor **symtoomcontrole**
- voor **betere prognose**

Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>
Rhythm control therapy is recommended for symptom and QoL improvement in symptomatic patients with AF. <sup>551 – 553</sup>	<b>I</b>	<b>A</b>
Implementation of a rhythm control strategy should be considered within 12 months of diagnosis in selected patients with AF at risk of thromboembolic events to reduce the risk of cardiovascular death or hospitalization. <sup>17,527</sup>	<b>IIa</b>	<b>B</b>

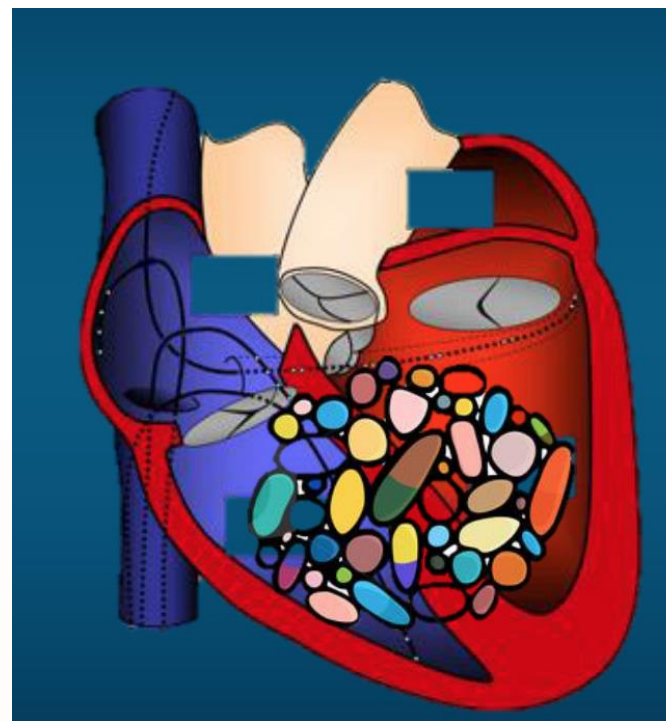


# RITMECONTROLE

Ablatie

vs.

Anti-aritmica

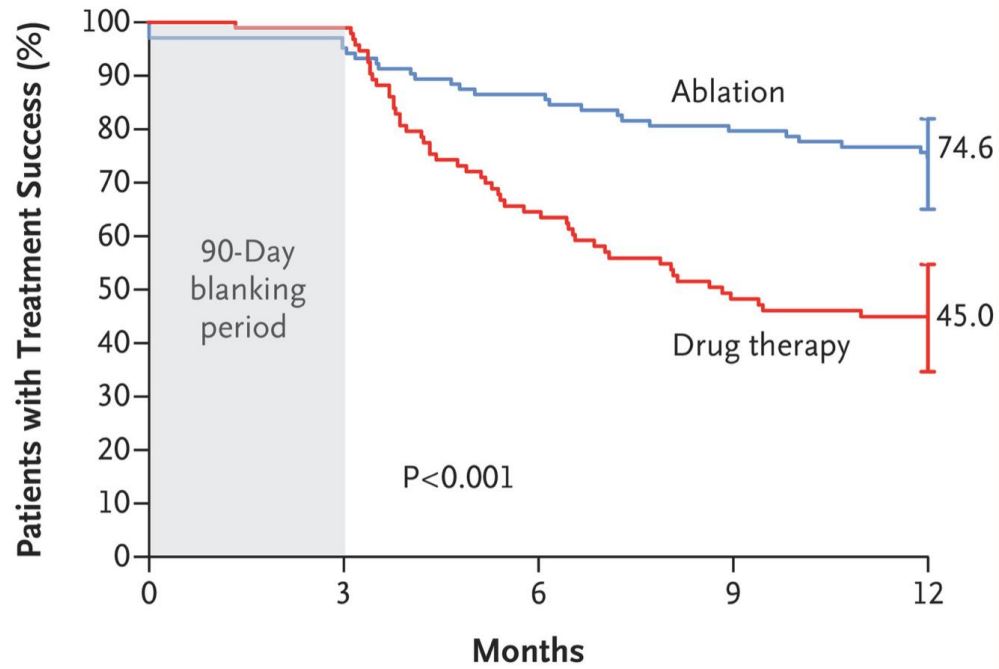


Pulmonale Venen Isolatie (PVI)

flecainide / propafenone  
sotalol  
amiodarone



# Ablatie is superieur aan anti-aritmica ter preventie van aritmie-recidief



No. at Risk	0	3	6	9	12
Ablation	104	99	88	81	70
Drug therapy	99	93	60	44	39

Wazni O et al. STOP-AF First, NEJM 2021



### Cryo-FIRST: Multicenter Randomized (1:1) Controlled Trial

**218** First-Line Patients with Symptomatic PAF

**CRYOBALLOON CATHETER ABLATION (CA) WITH ARCTICFRONT ADVANCE** N=107

**ANTIARRHYTHMIC DRUG (AAD) THERAPY** N=111

**82.2%** Freedom from Atrial Arrhythmia (%) at 12 months for Cryoballoon CA

**67.6%** Freedom from Atrial Arrhythmia (%) at 12 months for AAD Therapy

HR= 0.48 (95% CI: 0.26-0.86)  
P= 0.013

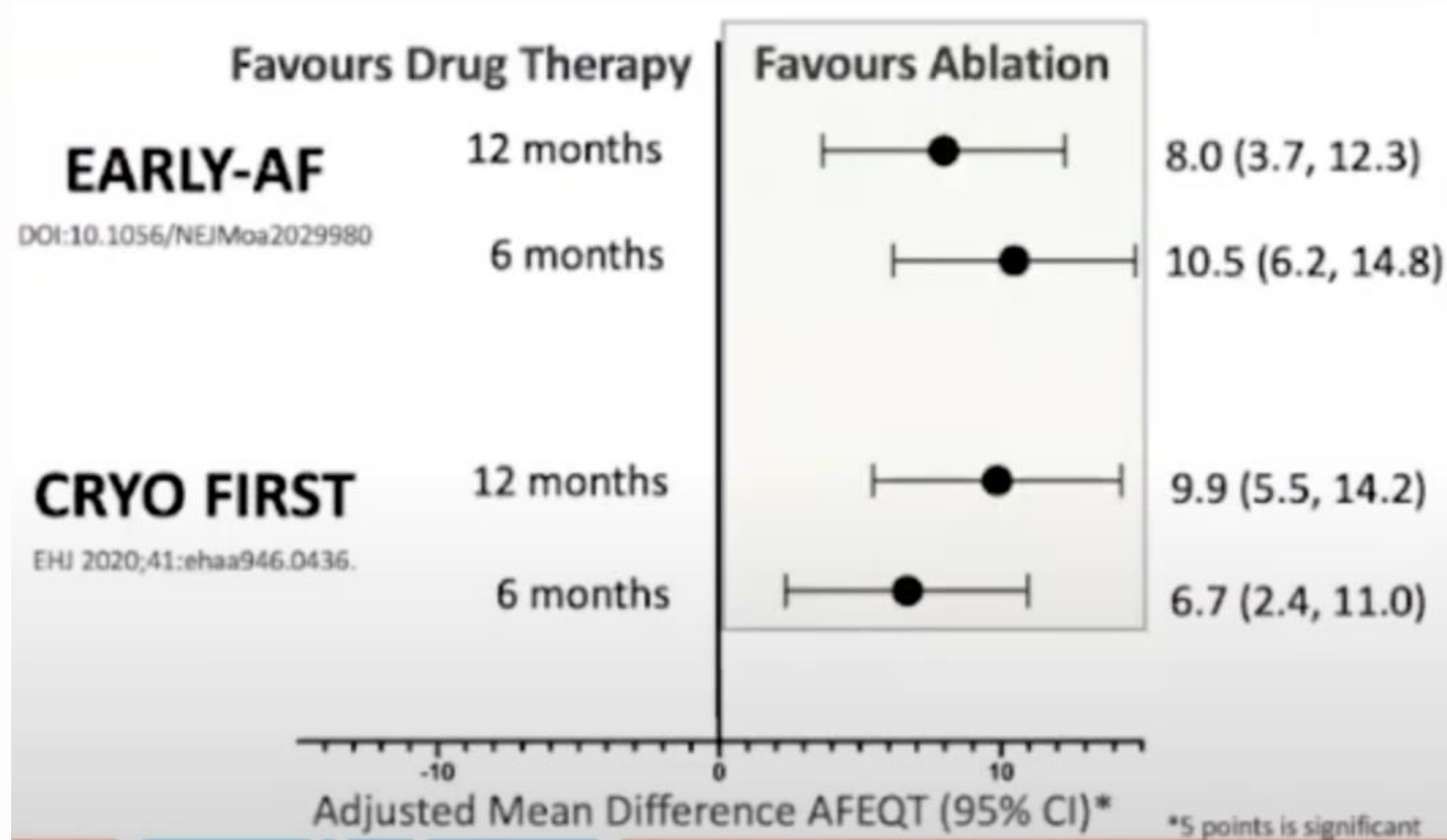
**60% Reduction in the Incidence Rate of Symptomatic Palpitations with Cryoballoon CA**

**No Difference in the Incidence Rate of Serious Adverse Events**

**Cryoballoon CA Results in Superior Efficacy Compared to AAD Therapy and has a Comparable Safety Profile in Treatment Naïve Patients with Symptomatic Paroxysmal AF**

Kuniss M et al. Cryo-FIRST, Europace 2021

# Ablatie is superieur aan anti-aritmica ter verbetering van levenskwaliteit



# Ritmecontrole : VKF ablatie **eerste keuze behandeling** bij parox VKF

## First-line rhythm control therapy

Catheter ablation is recommended as a first-line option within a shared decision-making rhythm control strategy in patients with paroxysmal AF, to reduce symptoms, recurrence, and progression of AF. <sup>16,591–594</sup>

I

A

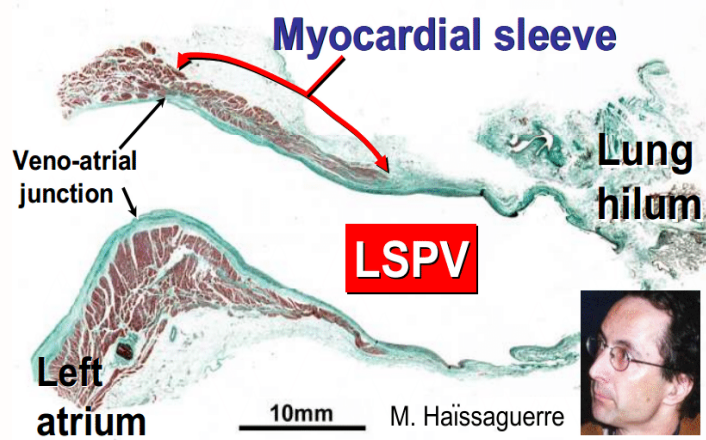
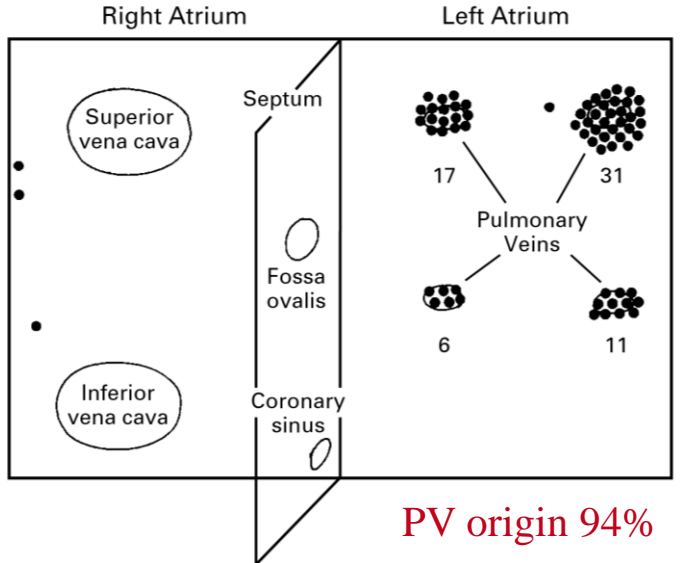
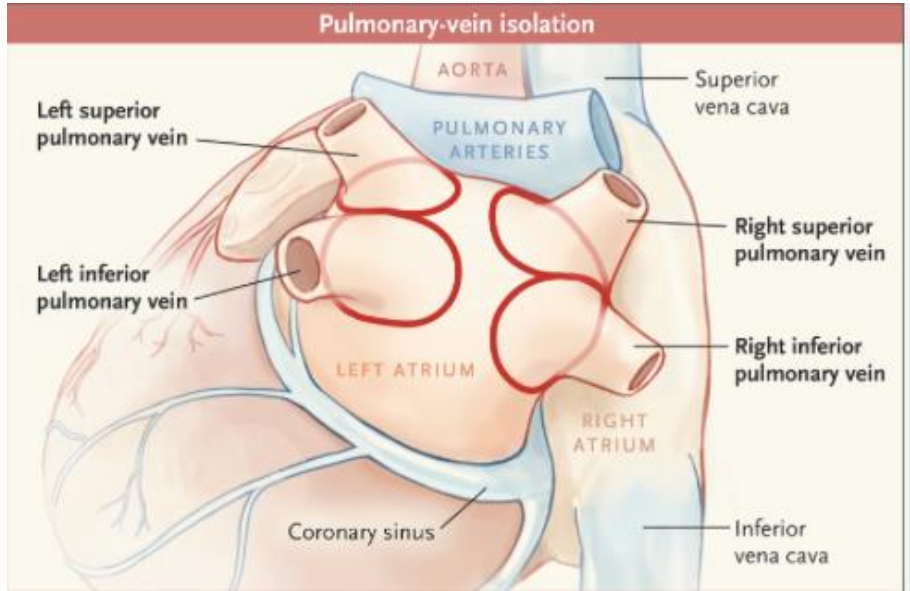
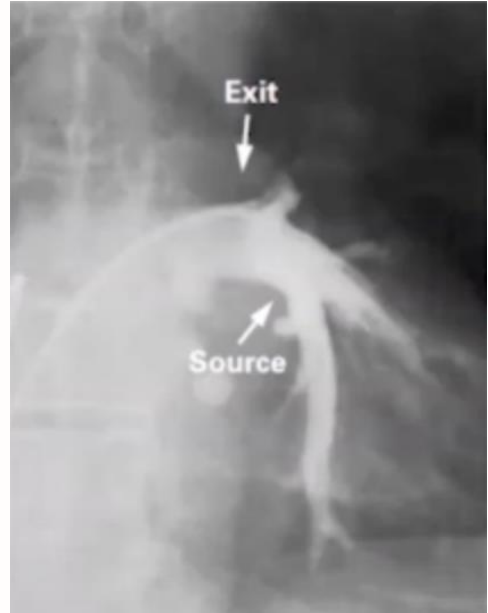
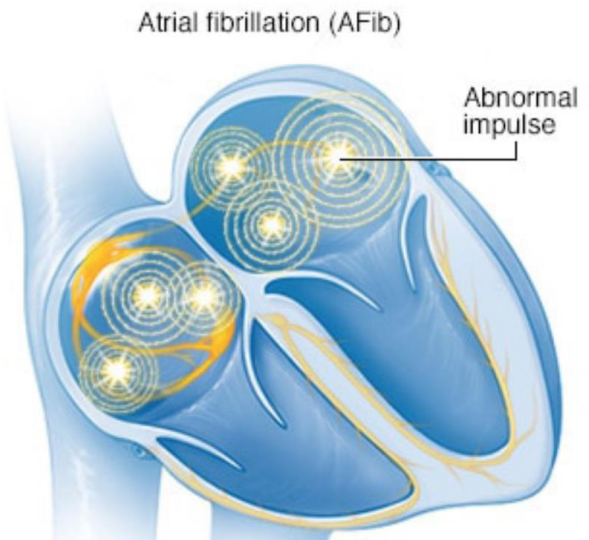
## AF patients resistant or intolerant to antiarrhythmic drug therapy

Catheter ablation is recommended in patients with paroxysmal or persistent AF resistant or intolerant to antiarrhythmic drug therapy to reduce symptoms, recurrence, and progression of AF. <sup>3,15,503,505,506,508</sup>

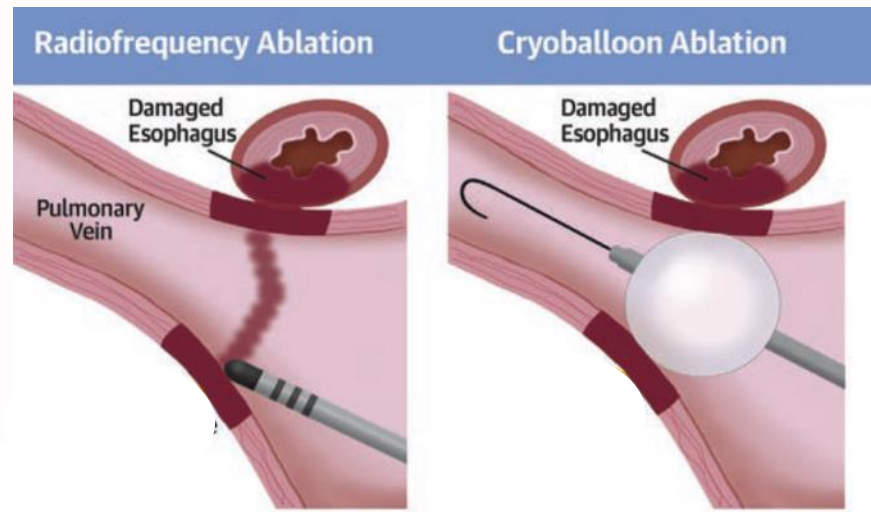
I

A

# VKF ablatie: pulmonale venen isolatie



Haïssaguerre M, et al. N Engl J Med 1998; 339: 659-66



# VKF ablatie is veilig

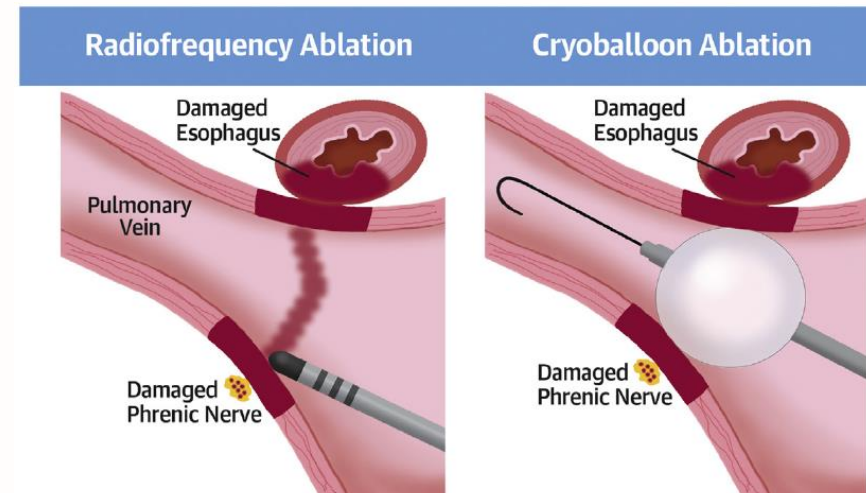
## Complicaties van pulmonale venen isolatie (PVI)

### Procedure-gerelateerd

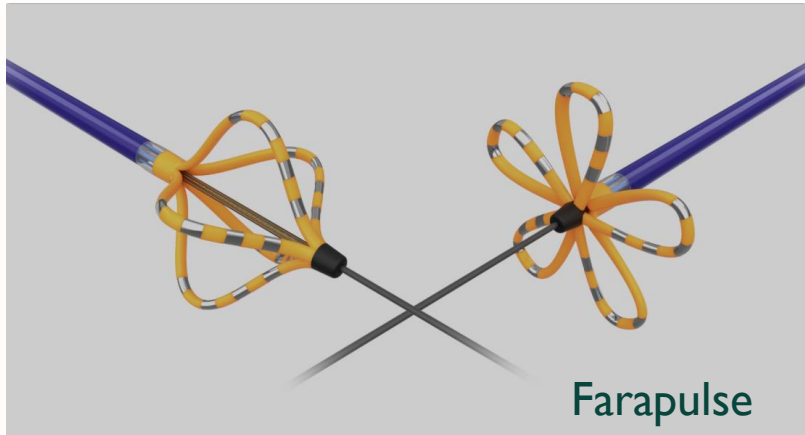
- tamponade ~ 0.3%
- stroke/TIA < 0.3%
- liescomplicaties < 0.5% (punctie met echo)

### Energie-gerelateerd

- N. phrenicus schade 1 - 2% (cryo>RF)
- atrio-esophageale fistel 0.025% (RF>>cryo)



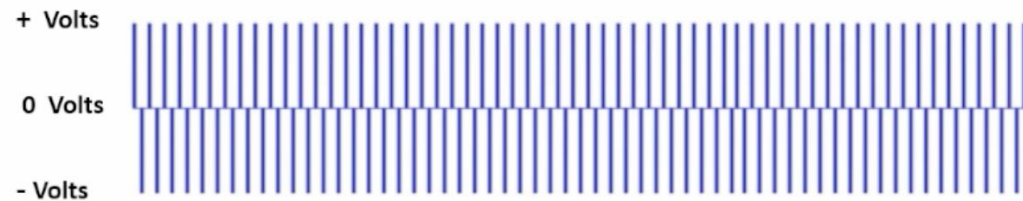
# Pulsed field ablation (PFA) of electroporation: nieuwe *niet-thermische* energie, **nog veiliger**



## PFA: technology and biophysical aspects

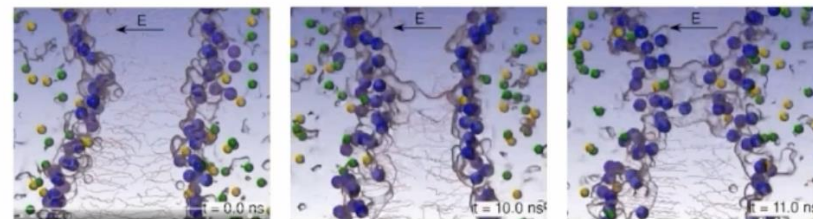
### Pulsed field ablation

The use of pulsed electric fields to ablate cardiac tissues, through the mechanism of irreversible electroporation.



### Irreversible electroporation

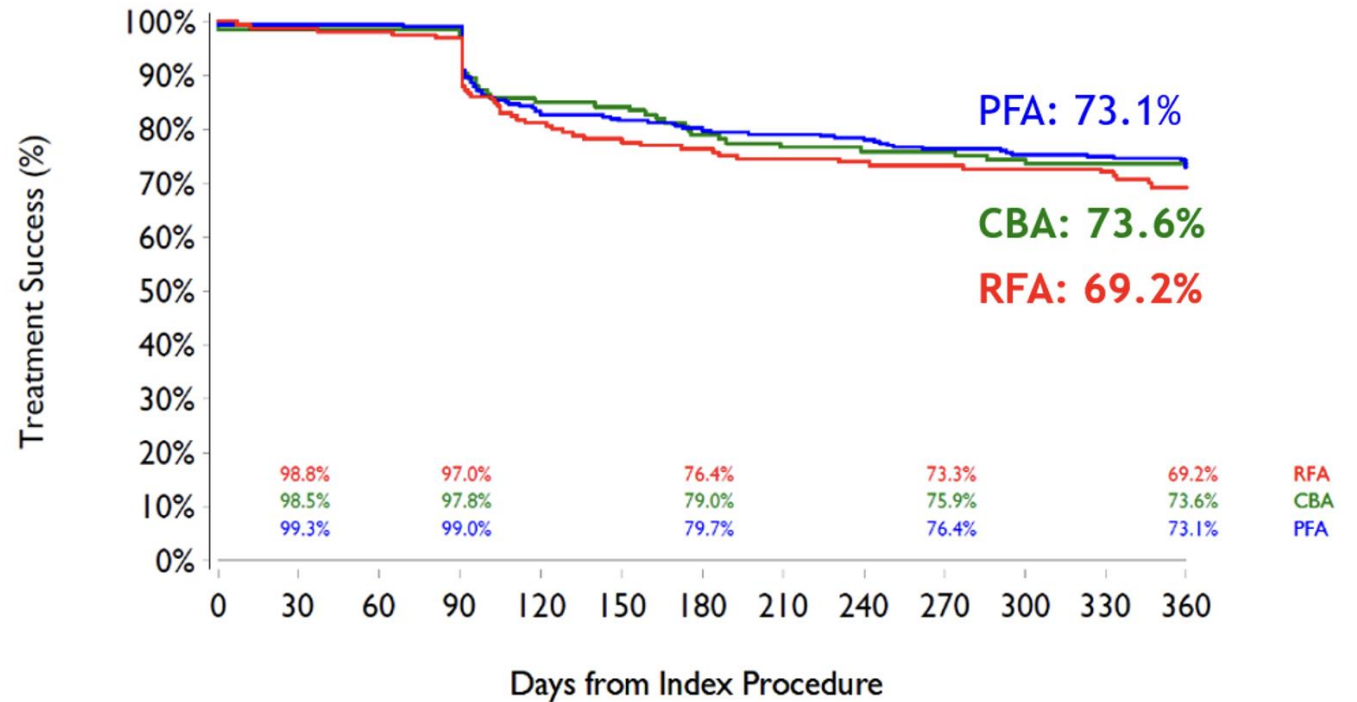
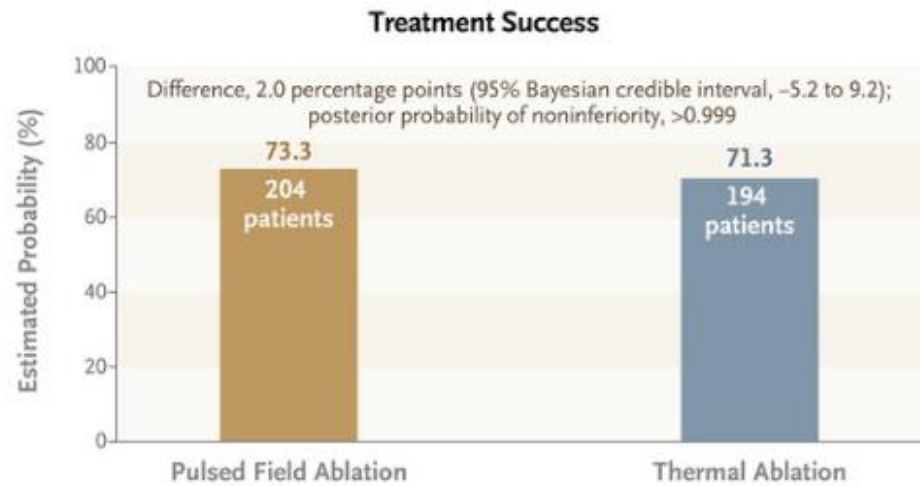
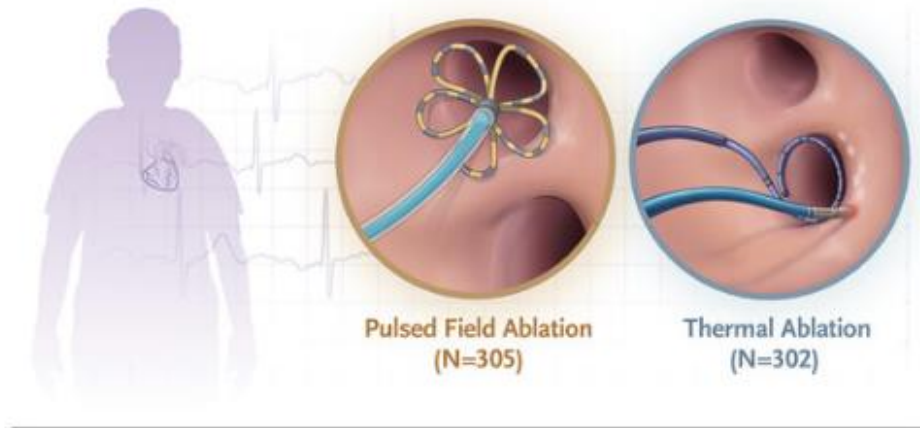
The mechanism of tissue necrosis through exposure to high electric field gradients that induce a permanent, hyper-permeabilization of the cell membranes, leading to cell death.



Cell membrane permeabilization in nanoseconds.

# Pulsed field ablation (PFA): even effectief voor ritmecontrole

ADVENT studie : Gerandomiseerd PFA (Farapulse) vs Thermale energie ( radiofrequency + Cryoballon) voor parox VKF



# Pulsed field ablation (PFA): nog veiliger

## Complicaties met Farapulse PFA in 17'642 ptn in 106 sites



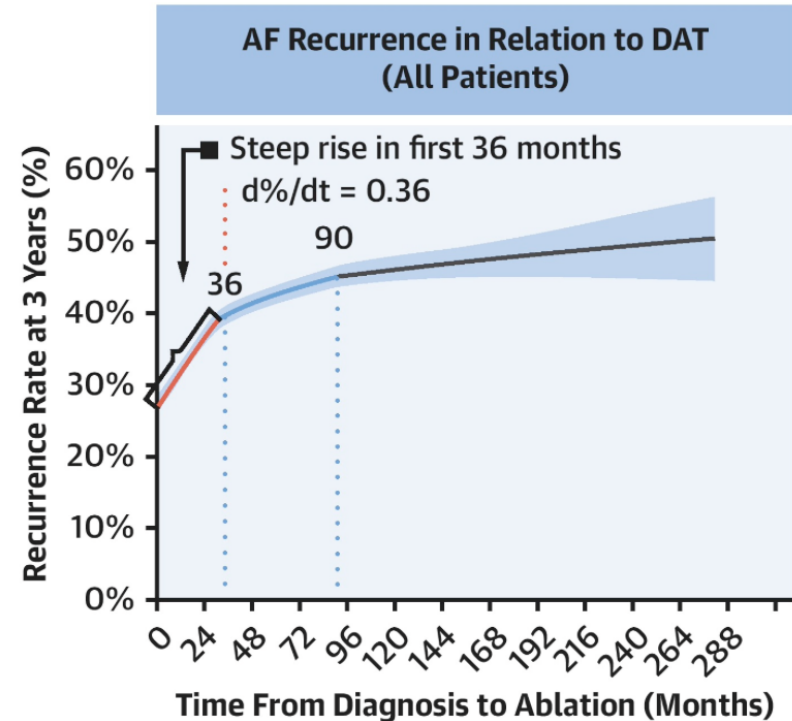
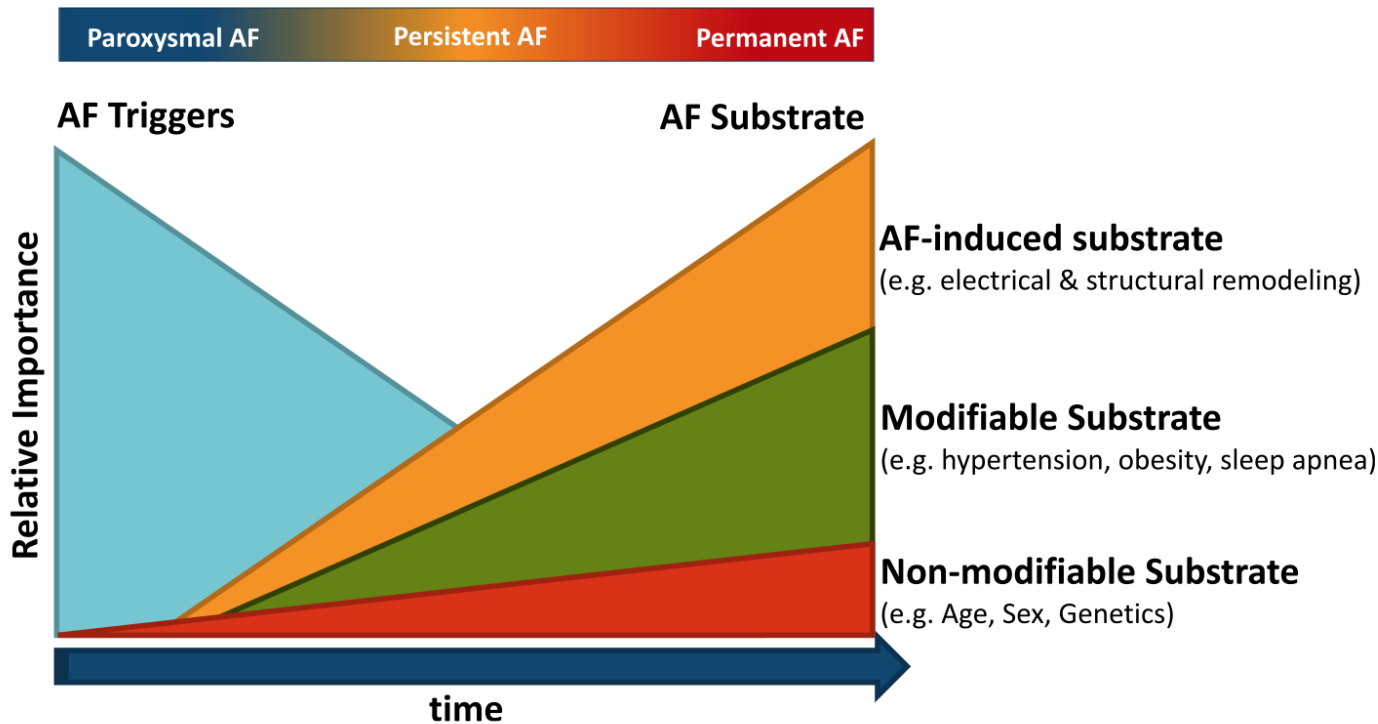


# Timing van VKF ablatie?

**Korte diagnose-tot-ablatie tijd: predictor van succes**  
**Uitstel van ablatie leidt tot slechtere outcome**



## Natuurlijke progressie van VKF



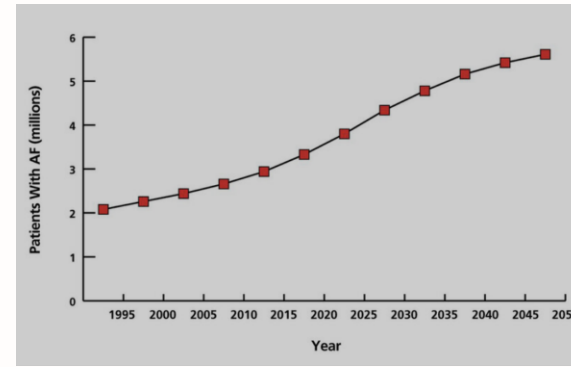
- Has no lower limit ('the shorter the better')
- Is nonlinear with
  - steep rise in first 36 months
  - little gain to be expected beyond 36 months) ('the longer the more irrelevant')

# VKF ablatie: praktische aspecten

- algemene anesthesie (dus nuchter)
- 1 overnachting (geselecteerde gevallen single-day discharge)
- NOAC vooraf: *minimally interrupted* (= geen inname ochtend van ablatie)
- NOAC nadien:
  - minstens 2 maand verder (CHADSVA = 0)
  - nadien in functie CHADSVA-score
- anti-aritmica verder tot eerste controle (blanking periode), nadien individueel
- belang van **cardiale revalidatie**

# “VKF epidemie”:

- sterk stijgende prevalentie VKF
- ablatie als eerstelijnsbehandeling
- # PVI stijgt **10%** / jaar



## ZAS Hartcentrum is voorbereid:

Efficiënte, veilige en snelle  
ablatie-technieken



Uitbreiding van de elektrofysiologie-staf



Prof. Bruno Schwagten, MD PhD

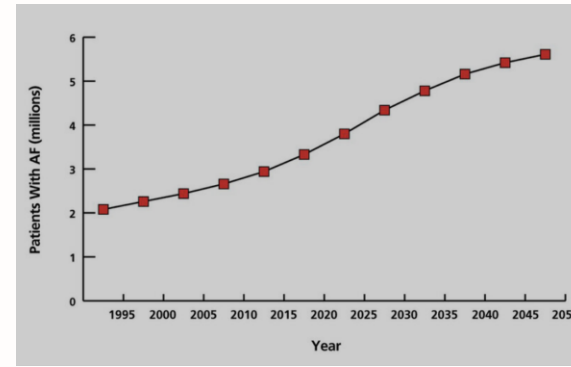
Prof. Yves De Greef, MD PhD

Dr. Michael Wolf, MD PhD

Dr. Benjamin De Becker, MD PhD

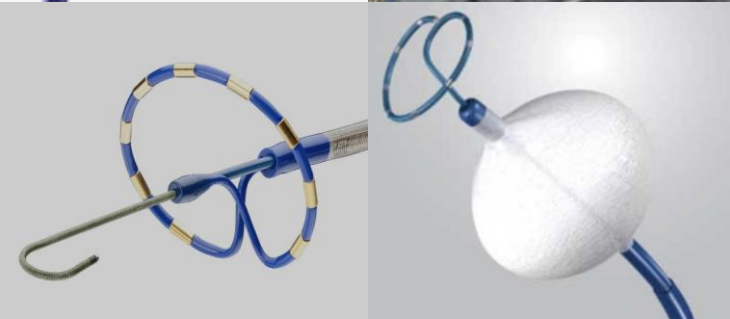
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Uitbreiding van de EFO-staf



Uitbreiding van de cathlab capaciteit:



5 cathlab zalen  
+ hybride zaal in 2024  
+ zesde cathlab zaal in 2025



## Evaluation and dynamic reassessment

Re-evaluate when AF episodes or non-AF admissions

Regular re-evaluation: 6 months after presentation, and then at least annually or based on clinical need

ECG, blood tests,  
cardiac imaging,  
ambulatory ECG,  
other imaging  
as needed

Assess new and  
existing risk factors  
and comorbidities  
(Class I)

Stratify risk  
for stroke and  
thromboembolism  
(Class I)

Check impact of AF  
symptoms before  
and after treatment  
(Class I)

Assess and manage  
modifiable bleeding  
risk factors  
(Class I)

Continue OAC  
despite rhythm  
control if risk  
of thromboembolism  
(Class I)

# Take-home boodschappen

## Behandeling van VKF anno 2025

- **AF-CARE: patiënt-gecentreerde, geïntegreerde zorg**  
Start met behandeling van **comorbiditeiten** en **risicofactoren**
- **Ritmecontrole**
  - **Vroege** ritmecontrole, voor zowel **symptoomcontrole** als betere **prognose**
  - Ablatie = **eerste keuze behandeling** voor paroxysmale VKF
  - VKF ablatie is **nog veiliger** geworden met nieuwe technieken (PFA)
- Belang van **vroegtijdige** ablatie
  - Geassocieerd met betere outcome



Ziekenhuis aan de Stroom  
[ZAS] is het netwerk van  
ZNA en GZA Ziekenhuizen

