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Title: Cardiac resynchronization therapy : determinants of patient outcome and emerging indications

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Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy; Determinants of patient outcome and emerging indications

1. Rather than attempting to predict narrowly defined responses to CRT in individual patients, consideration of relevant baseline characteristics may help place the patient in the appropriate part of the spectrum of responses and aid in pre-implantation counseling and setting of expectations (this thesis).
2. The implementation of an integrated approach that includes assessment of LV dyssynchrony and the latest activated segment together with characterization of myocardial scar may improve patient selection and survival after CRT (this thesis).
3. Attenuation of disease progression by CRT, rather than reversing severe heart failure may prove to be a successful new treatment strategy in heart failure patients in the future (this thesis).
4. CRT is a potential therapeutic option in heart failure patients with moderate-severe functional mitral regurgitation and high risk for surgery (this thesis).
5. With the expansion of CRT indications to minimally symptomatic or asymptomatic patients, the benefit of device therapy must be carefully weighed against the potential risk of lifelong device complications (Guglin M, *J Interv Card Electrophysiol.* 2012, DOI: 10.1007/s10840-011-9639-0).
6. Routine protocol-driven approach to evaluate ambulatory CRT patients who did not exhibit a positive response is feasible, and changes in device settings and/or other therapies after multidisciplinary evaluation may be associated with fewer adverse events (Mullens W, *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2009;53:765-73).
7. Over the next few years, our understanding of ventricular mechanical dyssynchrony along with substrate- and pacing site-specific response will improve, enabling wider applicability of innovative forms of pacing of the ventricle(s) in the narrow and wide QRS population of heart failure patients (Singh JP, *Eur Heart J.* 2012;33:305-13).
8. CRT may have the added benefit of specifically targeting many of the underlying pathophysiological mechanisms which are felt to be central to the propagation of cardiorenal syndrome and data suggest that it may also be an effective means of treating heart failure while improving renal function in this population (Davis MK, *Int J Nephrol.* 2011, DOI: 10.4061/2011/168461).
9. De kans dat alle statistici van de wereld het met elkaar eens zijn is eigenlijk heel erg klein (Fokke & Sukke).
10. Voor wie wacht komt alles steeds te laat (Thé Lau, the Scene).
11. Without music, life would be a mistake (Friedrich Nietzsche).
12. Death is not the worst that can happen to men (Plato).