

1 **Evaluation of ECG Imaging to map haemodynamically stable and unstable ventricular**
2 **arrhythmias**

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4 **Running title:** Simultaneous ECGI vs Contact mapping during VT
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36 **Key Words:** Ventricular tachycardia, arrhythmia, catheter ablation, mapping , ECGI
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Clinical Perspective

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WHAT IS KNOWN?

- ECG imaging (ECGI) allows non-invasive reconstruction of epicardial unipolar electrograms using heart-torso geometry and body surface potentials in just 1 beat.
- The ECGI system has been recently introduced for clinical application, and it's accuracy has not been quantitatively assessed with simultaneous recordings during catheter ablation for ventricular tachycardia.

WHAT THE STUDY ADDS?

- ECGI outperforms the standard 12 lead surface ECG for localisation of VT circuits during VT ablation.
- The ECGI system localizes sites of origin of VT with a resolution of 22.6, 13.9—36.2 mm. A resolution that is insufficient to solely guide catheter ablation of VT but potentially sufficient for non-invasive radiation therapy.

69 **Abstract**

70 **Background:** ECG Imaging (ECGI) has been used to guide treatment of ventricular
71 ectopy and arrhythmias. However, the accuracy of ECGI in localising the origin of
72 arrhythmias during catheter ablation of ventricular tachycardia (VT) in structurally
73 abnormal hearts remains to be fully validated.

74 **Methods:** During catheter ablation of VT, simultaneous mapping was performed using
75 electro-anatomical mapping (EAM) (CARTO, Biosense-Webster) and ECGI
76 (CardioInsight™, Medtronic) in 18 patients. Sites of entrainment, pace-mapping and
77 termination during ablation were used to define the VT site of origin (SoO). Distance
78 between SoO and the site of earliest activation on ECGI were measured using co-
79 registered geometries from both systems. The accuracy of ECGI vs a 12-lead surface
80 ECG algorithm was compared.

81 **Results:** A total of 29 VTs were available for comparison. Distance between SoO and
82 sites of earliest activation in ECGI was 22.6, 13.9—36.2 mm (median, first—third
83 quartile). ECGI mapped VT sites of origin onto the correct AHA segment with higher
84 accuracy than a validated 12-lead ECG algorithm (83.3% vs 38.9%, $P=0.015$).

85 **Conclusions:** This simultaneous assessment demonstrates that CardioInsight™
86 localises VT circuits with sufficient accuracy to provide a region of interest for targeting
87 mapping for ablation. Resolution is not sufficient to guide discrete radiofrequency
88 lesion delivery via catheter ablation without concomitant use of an electro-anatomical
89 mapping system, but may be sufficient for segmental ablation with radiotherapy.

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91 **Keywords:** ECG imaging, ventricular tachycardia, catheter ablation, mapping,
92 arrhythmia

93 **Non-standard Abbreviations and Acronyms:** Electroanatomical mapping, method
94 of fundamental solutions (MFS), stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT), sites of
95 origin (SoO), Activation time (AT).

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108 **Introduction**

109 Clinical outcomes for catheter ablation of ventricular tachycardia (VT) remain sub-
110 optimal despite advances in mapping technology¹. Mapping is frequently limited by
111 haemodynamic instability, hence substrate based ablation strategies have been
112 developed to combat this with varied results due to lack of consensus in the criteria
113 for targeting pro-arrhythmic sites and limitations of lesion delivery ². The ability to
114 accurately and expediently map exit sites in unstable VT could offer promise to
115 improve outcomes and the efficiency of procedures ³. Electrocardiographic imaging
116 (ECGI) employs body surface electrodes combined with a patient specific CT or MRI
117 derived epicardial geometry to display the full sequence of electrical activity during a
118 single beat over the whole heart hence providing a panoramic map of the arrhythmia
119 ⁴. This is achieved using an inverse method described and tested in prior publications
120 ⁵⁻⁷ and commercial ECGI systems, e.g. CardioInsight™, have recently become
121 available for clinical applications. This commercial system uses the method of
122 fundamental solutions (MFS) to solve the inverse problem of electrocardiography.
123 Other methods have been developed, attempting to correct for inhomogeneities
124 between the epicardial surface and body surface, with as yet no improvement in
125 accuracy ⁸.

126 Clinically, ECGI has been utilised in ablation of ventricular ectopy ^{9,10} and a non-
127 commercial research-oriented ECGI system has been used most recently to direct
128 stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT), in failed radiofrequency ablation VT cases
129 ^{11,12}. However, there has been limited study of arrhythmias in structural heart disease
130 and limited simultaneous validation during VT ¹³. Following an initial study focusing on
131 simultaneous comparison of ECGI derived versus contact-mapping measured
132 unipolar electrogram and activation/repolarization maps ¹⁴, we studied the accuracy

133 of the commercially available ECGI system CardiolInsight™ in mapping
134 haemodynamically stable and unstable VT using contact electro-anatomical mapping
135 (EAM) data collected simultaneously as a reference.

136

137 **Methods**

138 Because of the sensitive nature of the data collected for this study, requests to
139 access the dataset from qualified researchers trained in human subject
140 confidentiality protocols may be sent to Professor Pier Lambiase, UCL, London at
141 p.lambiase@ucl.ac.uk.

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143 The study was approved by the National Research Service Committee, London
144 (14/LO/0360). Thirty-seven patients undergoing catheter ablation of VT were recruited
145 for the study. Ten of these were elective, with the remaining being emergency
146 procedures. All patients were scheduled for a catheter ablation on clinical grounds for
147 structurally abnormal heart VT and gave their informed consent to participate in the
148 research study.

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150 ***Clinical Method***

151 Procedures were performed under conscious sedation using Diamorphine and
152 Midazolam or general anaesthetic. Endocardial access was obtained under ultrasound
153 guidance using Seldinger technique via the right femoral vein +/- right femoral artery.
154 All patients were planned for endocardial access to the right ventricle (RV) +/- left
155 ventricle (LV) access via trans-septal puncture or retrogradely via the aorta. A sub-

156 xiphisternal puncture using a Tuohy needle, with fluoroscopic guidance, was used to
157 access the epicardial space in five patients, using a previously described technique ¹⁵.

158 A full geometry of the ascending, arch and descending aorta was created for co-
159 registration with ECGI (Figure 1A). If arterial access was not part of the procedure,
160 detailed geometry from either the right ventricular outflow tract (RVOT) and the inferior
161 and superior vena cava (IVC and SVC), or the left atrium (LA) (if trans-septal puncture)
162 was collected (Figure 1B).

163 Ventricular tachycardia was induced with a standard Wellens protocol from the RV
164 apex. If no VT was induced the protocol was repeated from the RVOT or LV. An EAM
165 (CARTO, Biosense-Webster, CA, USA) was created during VT using a multipolar
166 catheter or by point-by-point mapping (Pentarray, Decapolar or SmarTouch,
167 Biosense-Webster, CA, USA). In haemodynamically tolerated VTs identification of
168 sites of origin (SoO) was defined by entrainment or termination with ablation.
169 Entrainment at a cycle length 20 ms shorter than the VT was attempted at sites where
170 diastolic activity was seen. For the purpose of the study a rhythm was considered
171 entrained when concealed fusion with a post-pacing interval (PPI) minus tachycardia
172 cycle length of <30 ms was present and the S-QRS was <50% of the tachycardia cycle
173 length¹⁶. In the case of unstable VT or non-sustained VT, pace-mapping was
174 performed and the average correlation coefficient between the 12 lead ECG of VT and
175 the paced beat was calculated using the Bard EP system (Boston Scientific, MA,
176 USA). An average correlation coefficient $\geq 90\%$ was taken as a surrogate marker of
177 the VT SoO/exit zone ¹⁷. The location on the EAM of these sites was recorded.

178 **ECGI**

179

180 Prior to catheter ablation, a 252-electrode vest (CardioInsight™, Medtronic, MN, USA)
181 was fitted for recording of body surface potentials (sampling rate 1000 Hz) and
182 remained in situ until conclusion of the procedure. A non-contrast axial CT scan with
183 3 mm slice thickness was performed up to four hours before the procedure. Patient-
184 specific epicardial geometry was created using the EcVue system (Medtronic, MN,
185 USA) with data from the CT and body surface potentials. Epicardial unipolar
186 electrograms were computed over approximately 1400 epicardial points covering both
187 ventricles using torso-heart geometry and unfiltered body surface potentials.
188 Reconstructed unipolar electrograms over the atrioventricular valves were excluded
189 from the analysis. Activation time (AT) and voltage maps were created for all induced
190 VTs.

191 Co-registration of EAM and ECGI geometries was performed semi-automatically with
192 bespoke software (Matlab, The Mathworks Inc., MA, USA) as in our previous study ¹⁴.
193 Figure 1 shows alignment of ECGI and EAM geometries including the Aorta, LA and
194 IVC and RVOT. The optimal co-registration was visually determined by two experts
195 independent of subsequent analysis.

196 The VT SoO was projected from the co-registered EAM onto the nearest node of the
197 ECGI geometry, including for SoO localised to the septum.

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199 Unipolar electrograms from ECGI were analysed blindly to VT SoO (Matlab, The
200 Mathworks Inc., MA, USA). Signals were band-pass filtered between 0.5 and 80 Hz
201 and activation time (AT) was measured as the time of the steepest signal downslope
202 (dV/dt_{min}) during the QRS complex ^{18,19}. In ECGI multiple sites may share the same
203 AT. Therefore, the site of earliest activation was defined as the nearest site to the
204 centre of the region of earliest activation (area including 2% of sites showing earliest

205 activation). The closest site to the centre of the area of earliest negative voltage was
206 also utilized to localize earliest sites of activation²⁰. This was defined as the area
207 including the first 2% of sites showing a voltage lower than a patient-specific noise
208 threshold (1/3 of the absolute minimum potential).

209 The Euclidean distance between the VT SoO and the earliest activation sites on ECGI
210 was calculated to assess ECGI spatial resolution for VT mapping.

211 All signals and markers were carefully reviewed and semi-automatically corrected if
212 needed as in previous studies^{21,22}.

213

214 ***12 Lead ECG Comparison***

215 Twelve lead body surface ECGs were recorded throughout the cases using Bard EP
216 system (Boston Scientific, MA, USA) with filters set between 0.5-100 Hz. A
217 contemporary algorithm that allocates the VT SoO to one of the 17 myocardial
218 segments of the standard AHA model was implemented²³. The ECGs for each
219 mapped VT were analysed by 2 experts who allocated the SoO onto the corresponding
220 cardiac segment by following the algorithm. A third electrophysiologist arbitrated any
221 discrepancies. Both were blinded to results of EAM and ECGI maps. ECGI and EAM
222 were allocated a segment based on the position of the earliest site of activation and
223 the SoO, on ECGI and EAM respectively, with the central point in the region of earliest
224 activation used for ECGI. Given ECGI reconstructs epicardial potentials only, VTs
225 with a septal SoO on the EAM were excluded from the 17-segment model comparison
226 portion of the analysis. SoO from the RV were also excluded as they are not part of
227 the AHA 17 segment model.

228

229 **Statistical analysis**

230 Data distribution is described by median, first-third quartiles. Statistical differences
231 were assessed using the Wilcoxon rank sum test for unpaired comparisons and the
232 Wilcoxon signed rank test for paired comparisons. Differences between the proportion
233 of correct cardiac segments identified by ECGI or 12-Lead ECG were assessed using
234 the exact Fisher's test. Threshold for statistical significance was 0.05. Statistical
235 analysis was performed in Matlab, MathWorks.

236

237 **Results**

238 Nineteen of the 37 patients prospectively recruited were excluded from the final
239 analysis. Five were non-inducible (26.3%), 3 due to procedural complications (15.8%),
240 1 due to ECGI equipment failure (5.3%) and 10 on account of haemodynamically non-
241 tolerated VT with no suitable pace-mapping (52.6%). Absence of pace-mapping was
242 on account of inability to pace from areas producing adequate morphology match or
243 due to termination of case before pace-mapping was employed. Procedural
244 complications were unrelated to ECGI. One patient had a groin complication, 1 a large
245 pericardial effusion during epicardial access and 1 became hypotensive during the
246 procedure.

247 Eighteen patients were studied, of which 4 had Dilated Cardiomyopathy DCM (22.2%),
248 4 Arrhythmogenic RV Cardiomyopathy (22.2%) and 10 ischaemic heart disease (IHD)
249 (55.6%) (Table 1). 29 different VT circuits mapped using EAM of which 20 (69%)
250 where haemodynamically stable and 9 (31%) unstable. Epicardial access was utilised
251 in 5 patients (27.8%). Three VTs were mapped to the epicardium (10%) and 26 (90%)
252 to the endocardium. Of the endocardial VTs, 6 were localised to the septum (5 LV and

253 1 RV) and 6 the RV. The remaining were mapped to the LV anterior, inferior or lateral
254 walls. The SoO was located with entrainment in 11 VTs (38%), termination with
255 ablation in 9 VTs (31%) and pace mapping in 9 VTs (31%). If a rhythm was entrained
256 and then subsequently terminated with ablation, for the purpose of analysis this was
257 recorded as entrained (Table 2).

258 ***ECGI localisation of VT Circuits***

259 Co-registration of ECGI and EAM geometries utilised the Aorta in 11 patients (61.1%),
260 LA in 4 patients (22.2%) and IVC and RVOT in 3 patients (16.7%).

261 Of the 11 entrained VTs, 9 (81.9%) presented lines of block adjacent to the region of
262 earliest activation (Supplementary Figure 1). In general however, the VT circuit, which
263 could involve intramural pathways, was not discernible from ECGI AT maps. In the
264 region of earliest activation, the ECGI unipolar electrograms showed a QS complex
265 typical of earliest activation independent of endocardial as opposed to epicardial origin
266 (Supplementary Figure 2).

267 Figures 2, 3 and 4 show examples of VTs terminated with ablation, pace-mapped, and
268 entrained, respectively.

269 The distance between the site of earliest activation on ECGI and the nearest ECGI
270 point to the VT SoO registered on EAM was 22.6, 13.9–36.2 mm (median, 1st-3rd
271 quartile) (Table 2). This was not significantly different between VTs that were pace-
272 mapped, entrained or terminated with ablation ($P>0.3$), or between VTs mapped on
273 the RV vs LV ($P=0.47$), while borderline non-significant differences existed between
274 ischaemic (26.6, 18.5-39.1 mm) and non-ischaemic patients (15.8, 9.6-21.6 mm),
275 $P=0.055$. In 7 patients, more than 1 VT was mapped, with an average distance per
276 patient of 18.2, 14.8-34.7 mm. In two of the 3 VTs mapped onto the epicardium,
277 distance from earliest site of activation in ECGI and VT SoO was lower than the

278 median (14.2 and 17.3 mm), whereas in the remaining case the distance was much
279 larger as in this case ECGI showed 2 distinct regions of earliest activation, with the
280 earliest being located on the opposite site of the heart.

281 Using time to earliest negative voltage instead of AT to define the earliest site of
282 activation provided significantly lower resolution, with distance from VT SoO equal to
283 34.6, 18.8-45.4 mm (P=0.039).

284 Supplementary Table 1 shows results of further analysis, including distance from the
285 site of earliest activation in ECGI to the original VT SoO registered on the EAM (without
286 projecting it onto the nearest ECGI point) of 26.1, 13.9-36.2 mm and distance from the
287 VT SoO to the margin of the area of earliest activation (surface 3.4, 1.8-4.3 cm²) of
288 13.0, 3.4-24.0 mm.

289 ECGI localised the SoO of the VT to the correct anatomical AHA segment in 15 out of
290 18 cases (83.3%) whereas the 12-lead algorithm identified the correct anatomical
291 segments in 7 out of 18 cases (38.9%), P=0.015 (see Table 2).

292

293 **Discussion**

294 This is the first simultaneous assessment of an ECGI approach to localise VT sites of
295 origin during catheter ablation in structurally abnormal hearts. Due to its spatial
296 resolution, EAM provides a suitable reference for ECGI assessment²⁴. We have
297 demonstrated that CardioInsight™ localizes VT sites of origin with a spatial resolution
298 of 22.6, 13.9–36.2 mm (median, first-third quartile). ECGI localised VT SoO to the
299 correct AHA anatomical segment in 83.3% of VTs studied, outperforming a recently
300 proposed 12 lead ECG algorithm²³.

301

302 A recent study has questioned the accuracy of Cardiolnsight™ activation time maps,
303 including the localization of epicardial breakthrough, during sinus rhythm ²⁵. Given the
304 marked differences in conduction dynamics between sinus rhythm and re-entrant
305 ventricular tachycardia as well as different methodological analysis, our results cannot
306 be directly compared. One may however speculate that the resolution required to
307 correctly localise the VT SoO may be lower than the resolution required to track the
308 activation sequence when the normal conduction system is engaged.

309 Previous studies have examined the capacity of ECGI to localise paced beats ^{6,26–31}.
310 In experimental studies using tank-torso models, the accuracy has been shown to be
311 <10 mm ^{30,31}. Similar accuracy was seen in humans when localising RV endocardial
312 and LV epicardial pacing from the coronary sinus ⁵. Given ECGI reconstructs
313 epicardial potentials, accuracy should be superior with direct pacing on the
314 epicardium, when compared to endocardial pacing. However, a human study using an
315 ECGI system based on 120-lead body-surface potential mapping reported distances
316 to the SoO of 13.5±9 mm and a recent study from our group showed similar results ¹⁴.
317 In a similar study in canines using direct contact epicardial electrodes accuracy was
318 10 mm ²⁷. Although this latter study utilised a different inverse method, therefore
319 comparison could be limited. Bear et al. (2018) in a porcine model utilised a similar
320 inverse method to the one employed in our study and found an accuracy of 16 mm for
321 localising epicardial foci ³².

322 The localisation of pacing sites provides a surrogate marker for arrhythmia localisation
323 ⁴. Two studies have examined the role of ECGI in mapping ventricular ectopy (VE).
324 ECGI showed superior capability to localise VE origins when compared to 12 lead
325 algorithms and facilitated faster times to ablation^{9,10}. For sustained VT, accurate

326 reconstruction of activation sequences has been demonstrated in heart torso-tank
327 models using canine hearts, where average accuracy of localisation was 8.69 mm³³.
328 In humans, ECGI was accurate in a heterogeneous group of patients with both normal
329 and abnormal hearts, and mainly focal VT¹³. Comparison between contact mapping
330 and ECGI in both the VE^{9,10} and VT¹³ studies was based on location of an anatomical
331 segment of the heart and not a distance to the point of earliest activation. In contrast,
332 our data contains only structurally abnormal heart VT, with induced VTs most likely to
333 be re-entrant in mechanism. Given the re-entrant mechanism, distance from SoO to
334 early activation on ECGI, could have been expected to be shorter for pace-mapped
335 than entrained or terminated with ablation VTs. This was not the case in this study.

336 The ability to expeditiously differentiate between focal and re-entrant VTs could
337 influence subsequent contact mapping and ablation strategy. ECGI has been shown
338 previously to differentiate between these¹³. We found 81.8% of entrained VTs were
339 suggestive of a macro re-entrant mechanism on ECGI, with lines of block seen in
340 areas adjacent to areas of early activation. Although the limited number included in
341 this study precludes definitive conclusions being drawn, in this study ECGI did not
342 accurately reconstruct re-entrant sequences for all VTs of this type. Figure 2 illustrates
343 an example of accurate localisation of SoO on ECGI for a re-entrant VT. The projected
344 point from the SoO on the EAM can be seen within the area of earliest activation on
345 ECGI. However, the direction of the propagation through the diastolic pathway on the
346 EAM, and bipolar electrograms recorded from the decapolar catheter, would suggest
347 activation is occurring from high to low. The ECGI map suggests the converse of this.
348 The reasoning for this is uncertain and could represent an artefactual line of block, as
349 has been reported by other investigators^{25,34}.

350

351 ECGI is also purported to differentiate between epicardial and endocardial VT's^{13,28,31},
352 as epicardial unipolar electrograms should exhibit an rS wave for endocardial and a
353 pure Q wave for epicardial sites of origin. Despite being unable to directly compare
354 accuracy of epicardial vs endocardial VTs due to insufficient data points, our findings
355 do not support the use of ECGI to accomplish this. None of the VTs localised to the
356 endocardium on EAM showed evidence of rS complexes in the region of early
357 activation (see supplementary figure 2). If an endocardial site of earliest activation
358 arising from a region of dense scar conducts epicardially then this could explain why
359 only Q waves are seen in a region of earliest activation on ECGI, as there is insufficient
360 tissue to generate the electromotive force to form an R wave, hence only the epicardial
361 breakthrough is identified as a Q wave in more superficial viable tissue. This casts
362 doubt on ECGI being able to discern whether epicardial access is warranted based on
363 the reconstructed electrograms from VT beats in structural heart disease.

364

365 The localization of VTs with septal origin would be expected to be less accurate as
366 only epicardial electrograms are reconstructed. However, our data indicates that
367 accuracy of the location of septal VTs was similar to those located elsewhere in the
368 heart. Further data and clinical algorithm development are required to determine if
369 ECGI can provide information on the depth of the SoO on the septum or indeed if
370 further processing of the unipolar signals is needed to improve the identification of
371 endo, mid- or epicardial origins. Furthermore, we found no difference in the localisation
372 of RV and LV VTs. This is in spite of the differing wall thickness between the ventricles.

373

374 Our data demonstrated an accuracy of 83.3% with ECGI when the 17-segment model
375 was used, which compares to over 90% accuracy in localising mostly focal VT shown

376 in a previous ECGI study ¹³. The 12 lead ECG algorithm used for comparison in this
377 study has been validated previously examining the 17 segment model in structural
378 heart disease showing 81.9% of VTs localised in ischaemic and non-ischaemic
379 cardiomyopathy with equivalent accuracy in non-septal VTs (83%) ²³. Its applicability
380 to various forms of heart disease was the rationale for our use of this particular
381 algorithm. By providing more accurate localisation of VT SoO than the 12 lead ECG,
382 ECGI could better guide targeted ablation, particularly in haemodynamically unstable
383 VT. The increased accuracy of ECGI in comparison to the 12 lead ECG could be a
384 feature of ECGI taking into account individual heart-torso geometry and rotation, and
385 the use of multiple body surface electrodes providing more electrical data.

386

387 This study has highlighted a number of features that could be developed to optimise
388 the system including refinement of signal processing and algorithms for allocation of
389 activation times to reconstructed electrograms. Indeed, additional work will be required
390 to isolate diastolic potentials during VT if this is possible. Furthermore, integration of
391 ECGI epicardial maps into a common geometry within an EAM system to enable
392 targeted ablation will be a major advance. Treatment of VT using stereotactic body
393 radiation therapy (SBRT), guided in part by ECGI localisation of VT, has shown
394 promising results as VT episodes decreased from 119 (4-292) to 3 (0-31) at 6 months
395 post treatment ^{11,12}. A single segment of VT origin was targeted with a more
396 homogenous lesion delivery versus conventional radio-frequency ablation. This novel
397 methodology has thus far been performed in a single centre and further research will
398 be needed into both its long-term efficacy and the role played by ECGI. At present the
399 precision of ECGI may be sufficient to enable application of this form of energy without
400 the need for additional mapping as the area of lesion delivery is larger: 17-81 ml versus

401 “point by point” radiofrequency ablation coupled with the more homogeneous tissue
402 effects. Furthermore, ECGI localises the VT exit site as opposed to the diastolic
403 pathway as we are unable to discern diastolic potentials, even in the epicardial VT
404 cases. The exit site will co-localise adjacent to the diastolic pathway in the majority of
405 cases which can be compensated for by a wider area of ablation of radiation energy
406 and will also be more transmural. However, mapping of the diastolic pathway with
407 EAM will still be required if more localised radiofrequency energy is to be delivered to
408 the critical component of the circuit.

409

410 ***Limitations***

411 There are inherent limitations posed by EAM and pacing manoeuvres to locate VT
412 SoO. Pace-mapping accuracy can be affected by area of capture and functional block
413 only present in VT¹⁶. Pace mapping was performed at the lowest outputs to ensure
414 consistent myocardial capture but was not performed at the VT cycle length ¹⁷. A
415 previous study has reported 82% sensitivity and 87% specificity in identifying the exit
416 region by pace mapping with a 82% morphology match ¹⁷. Our choice of using a cut
417 off value of 90% morphology match to identify SoO is expected to provide slightly
418 higher specificity, with a spatial resolution which needs to be assessed in future
419 studies. Furthermore, given that ECGI reconstructs unipolar epicardial electrograms
420 our methodology of locating SoO, mainly on the endocardium, represents an indirect
421 comparison and introduces potential error. Points of entrainment with S-QRS interval
422 between 30-50% of the tachycardia cycle length can be remote from the exit site. The
423 inclusion of these points may have resulted in an overestimation of the distance
424 between the VT exit site and the point of earliest activation on ECGI³⁵.

425

426 Accuracy of the ECGI maps could have been affected by alterations in the relationship
427 between the heart and torso during the cardiac and respiratory cycle³⁶. To our
428 knowledge no adequate correction for this is currently available. Despite using fixed
429 anatomical landmarks, the co-registration of the geometries could still introduce error.
430 Visually the aorta is the easiest anatomical structure to co-register and for future
431 research, and potential clinical application, may offer the best means of effective
432 alignment of geometries from different systems. Movements of up to 4 mm and
433 rotations of up to 5° have been previously shown to alter correlation co-efficient
434 between activation time maps on EAM and ECGI by up to 25%¹⁴. An integrated ECGI
435 and EAM system with electrogram data presented in a common geometry would
436 overcome this issue. Finally, reported Euclidean distances could be smaller than
437 distances accounting for the curved surface of the heart, and the statistical analysis is
438 limited by the small number of VTs included.

439

440 **Conclusion**

441 ECGI provides sufficient resolution to identify myocardial segments with sites of
442 earliest activation in VT, but in its current iteration would be insufficient to guide
443 catheter ablation without detailed contact mapping. However, it may be sufficient for
444 targeting radiotherapy-based strategies or energies that deliver transmurally over a
445 wider area than current discrete radiofrequency lesion sets. The capacity to give a
446 region of interest could facilitate efficient targeted mapping and ablation of
447 haemodynamically unstable VTs out-performing the 12 lead ECG.

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458

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460

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595 **Tables**

596

597 **Table 1:** Baseline Characteristics for patients included in analysis. M: Male, F: female,

598 IHD: Ischaemic heart disease, DCM: Dilated Cardiomyopathy, ARVC: arrhythmogenic

599 right ventricular cardiomyopathy, Ao: Aorta, RV: right ventricular, RVOT: right

600 ventricular outflow tract, SVC: superior vena cava, IVC: inferior vena cava, LA: Left

601 Atria.

602

Patient	Age	Sex	Aetiology	ICD	LVEF	Anti-Arrhythmics	Anatomical Structure
1	73	M	IHD	Y	20	Bisoprolol, Amiodarone	Ao
2	22	M	ARVC	N	>55	Bisoprolol	RVOT, SVC, IVC
3	43	M	ARVC	Y	>55	Sotalol	Ao
4	54	M	DCM	Y	>55	Bisoprolol, Amiodarone	Ao
5	81	M	IHD	Y	25	Bisoprolol, Amiodarone, Mexilitine	Ao
6	82	M	IHD	Y	22	Bisoprolol, Amiodarone	LA
7	76	F	IHD	Y	20	Bisoprolol, Amiodarone	Ao
8	24	F	ARVC	N	>55	Flecainide	RVOT, SVC, IVC
9	79	M	IHD	Y	30	Bisoprolol, Amiodarone, Mexilitine	Ao
10	78	M	IHD	Y	15	Bisoprolol, Amiodarone	Ao
11	55	M	DCM	Y	45	Sotalol	LA
12	78	M	IHD	Y	14	Bisoprolol	Ao
13	69	M	IHD	Y	10	Bisoprolol, Amiodarone	Ao
14	79	M	IHD	Y	25	Bisoprolol, Mexilitine	LA
15	82	M	DCM	Y	45	Bisoprolol, Amiodarone	LA
16	52	F	ARVC	Y	>55	Sotalol	RVOT, SVC, IVC
17	22	M	DCM	Y	40	Bisoprolol, Amiodarone	Ao
18	84	M	IHD	Y	20	Bisoprolol, Mexilitine, Amiodarone	Ao

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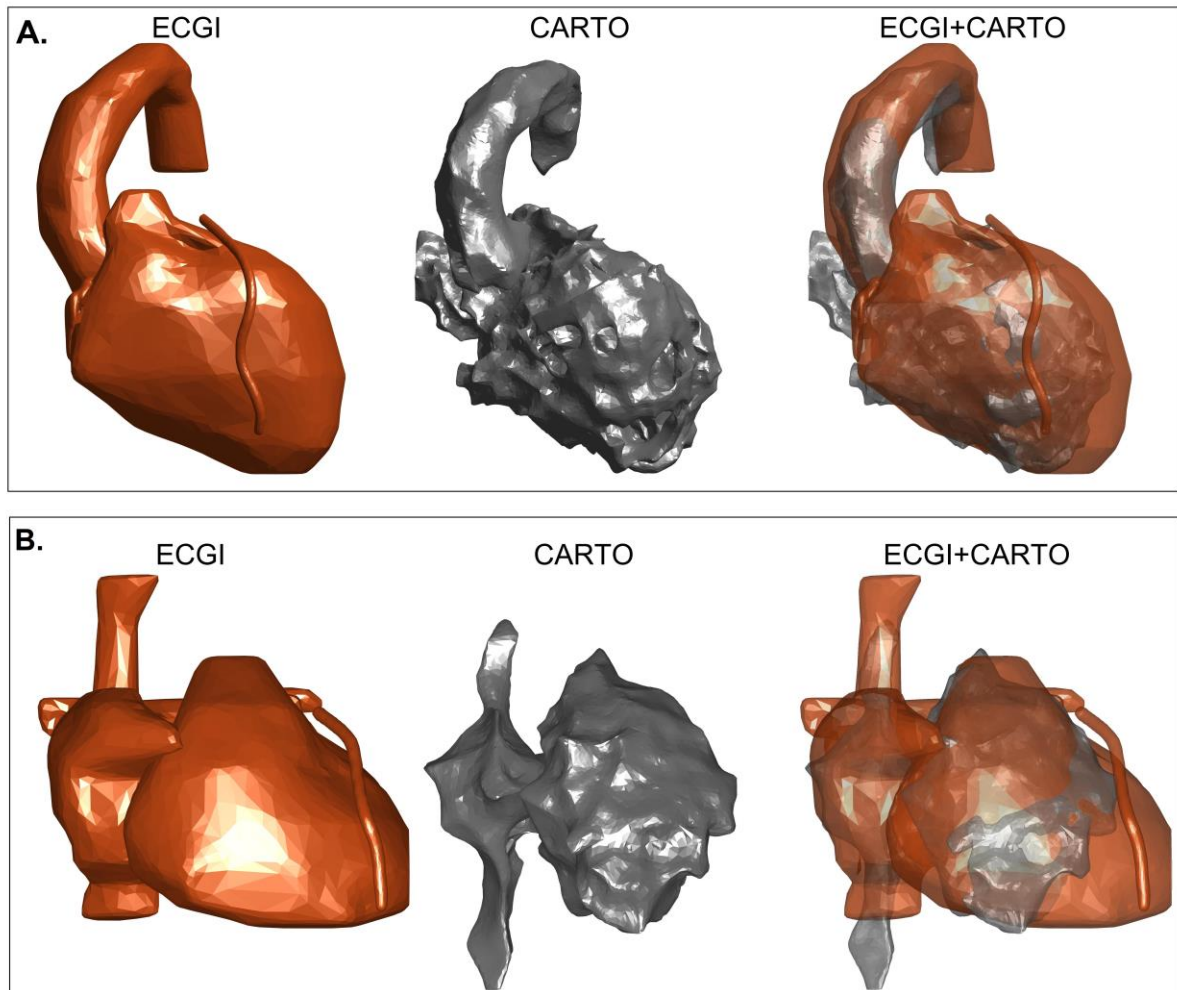
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605 **Table 2:** Localisation of VT sites of origin (SoO) using ECGI. Site of origin was
606 determined by pace-mapping (PM), entrainment (ENTR) or termination with ablation
607 (ABL). Distance to VT SoO: Distance from the site of earliest activation on ECGI to
608 the VT SoO registered on the EAM. Indication of whether the correct anatomical
609 segment of the VT SoO was identified by ECGI or by a 12-lead ECG algorithm is given
610 by ✓: Match. ✗: No Match. N/A: Not available (RV and septal VTs were excluded as
611 not represented either in AHA or ECGI).
612

VT	Pts	Localisation of VT SoO	ENTR	ABL	PM	Distance to VT SoO (mm)	AHA Segm. ECGI	AHA Segm. 12-L ECG
1	1	LV Basal Anteroseptal			✓	25.4	N/A	N/A
2	1	LV Basal Anterior			✓	37.5	✓	✓
3	2	RV Inferior			✓	19.7	N/A	N/A
4	3	RV Lateral Wall	✓			13.3	N/A	N/A
5	4	RVOT	✓			35.8	N/A	N/A
6	5	LV Basal Inferolateral	✓			35.1	✓	✗
7	5	LV Basal Inferior	✓			39.4	✓	✗
8	5	LV Basal Anterior		✓		67.1	✗	✓
9	5	LV Mid inferolateral		✓		23.6	✓	✗
10	5	LV Basal Inferolateral	✓			39.0	✓	✗
11	6	LV Mid inferolateral		✓		39.5	✗	✓
12	7	LV Mid anteroseptal		✓		54.5	N/A	N/A
13	8	LV Mid anterior (EPI)		✓		14.2	✓	✓
14	8	RVOT	✓			7.4	N/A	N/A
15	9	LV Mid inferolateral		✓		4.1	✓	✗
16	9	LV Basal inferolateral	✓			25.1	✓	✗
17	10	LV Mid anterior	✓			32.3	✗	✗
18	10	LV Mid anterolateral		✓		26.6	✓	✗
19	11	RV Septum	✓			3.4	N/A	N/A
20	11	LV Basal Anteroseptal	✓			10.7	N/A	N/A
21	11	LV Basal Anteroseptal	✓			20.6	N/A	N/A
22	12	LV Mid inferolateral			✓	17.0	✓	✗
23	13	LV Mid anterior			✓	6.9	✓	✓
24	14	LV Mid anteroseptal			✓	14.1	N/A	N/A
25	15	LV Basal Anterior		✓		22.6	✓	✗
26	15	LV Basal Anterior			✓	8.5	✓	✓
27	16	LV RV Free wall (EPI)			✓	76.2	N/A	N/A
28	17	LV Mid inferolateral (EPI)			✓	17.3	✓	✓
29	18	LV Mid anterior		✓		19.1	✓	✗
			n=11 (38%)	n=9 (31%)	n=9 (31%)	22.6 (14-36)	n=15 (83%)	n=7 (39%)

613 **Figures**

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615

616 **Figure 1:** Anatomical co-registration of ECGI (left) and CARTO (middle) geometries

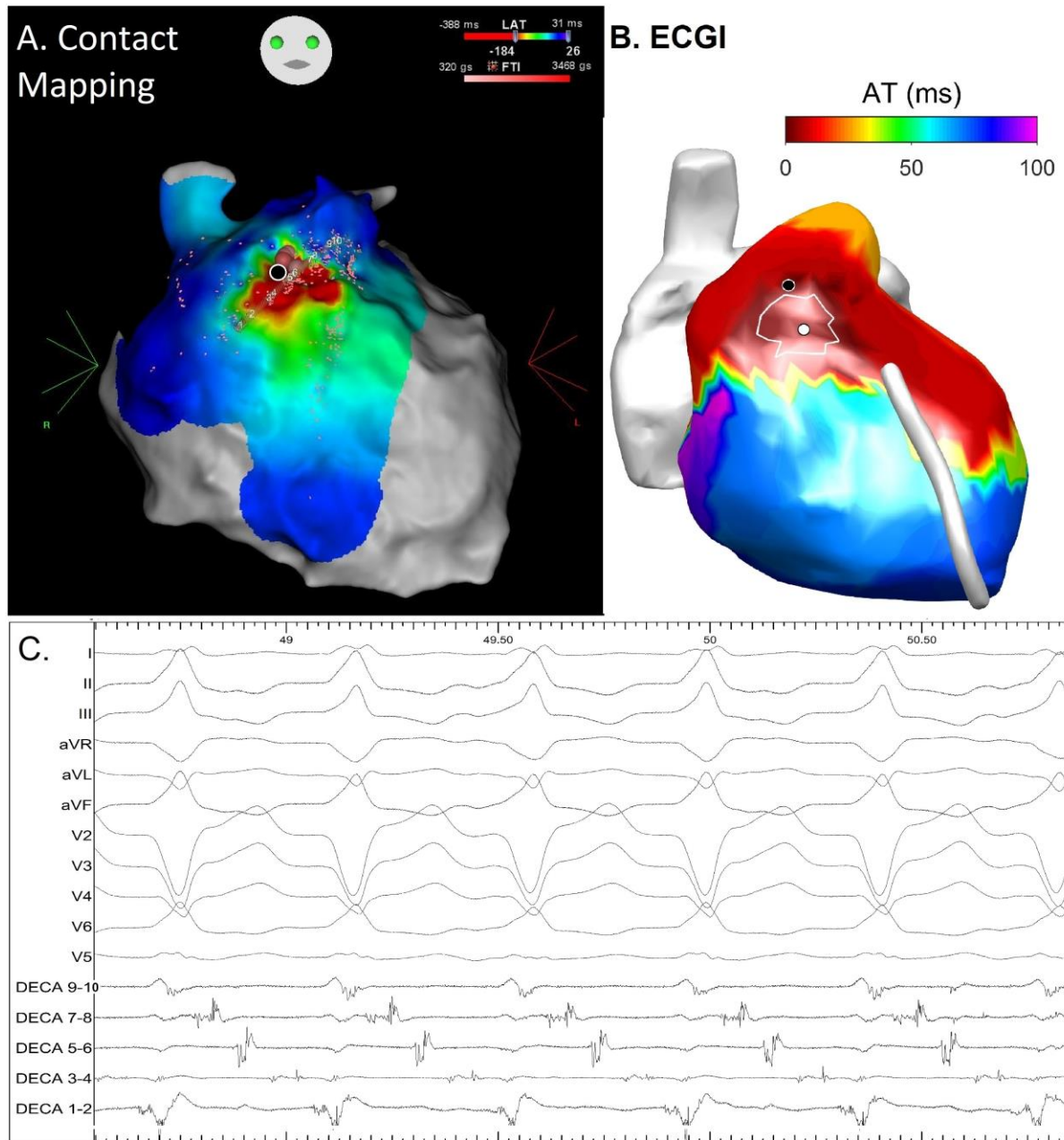
617 in two patients. The two geometries are combined in the panel on the right. A –

618 demonstrates the use of the Aorta for co-registration and in B the RVOT, IVC and

619 SVC.

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623 **Figure 2:** Example from a VT terminated with ablation. A: Contact Electro-anatomical
 624 map (EAM) of a VT (patient #8, VT #13) shown in anteroposterior (AP) view. The red
 625 coloured area denotes diastolic activity seen on a Decapolar catheter overlying this
 626 area, with bipolar electrograms (EGMS) from this shown in panel C. Ablation tags
 627 (shown as red spheres) can be seen above the decapolar catheter, with the black
 628 circle highlighting the point from where VT was terminated during ablation. B: ECGI
 629 activation time (AT) map, shown in AP view, of the same VT. The area of earliest

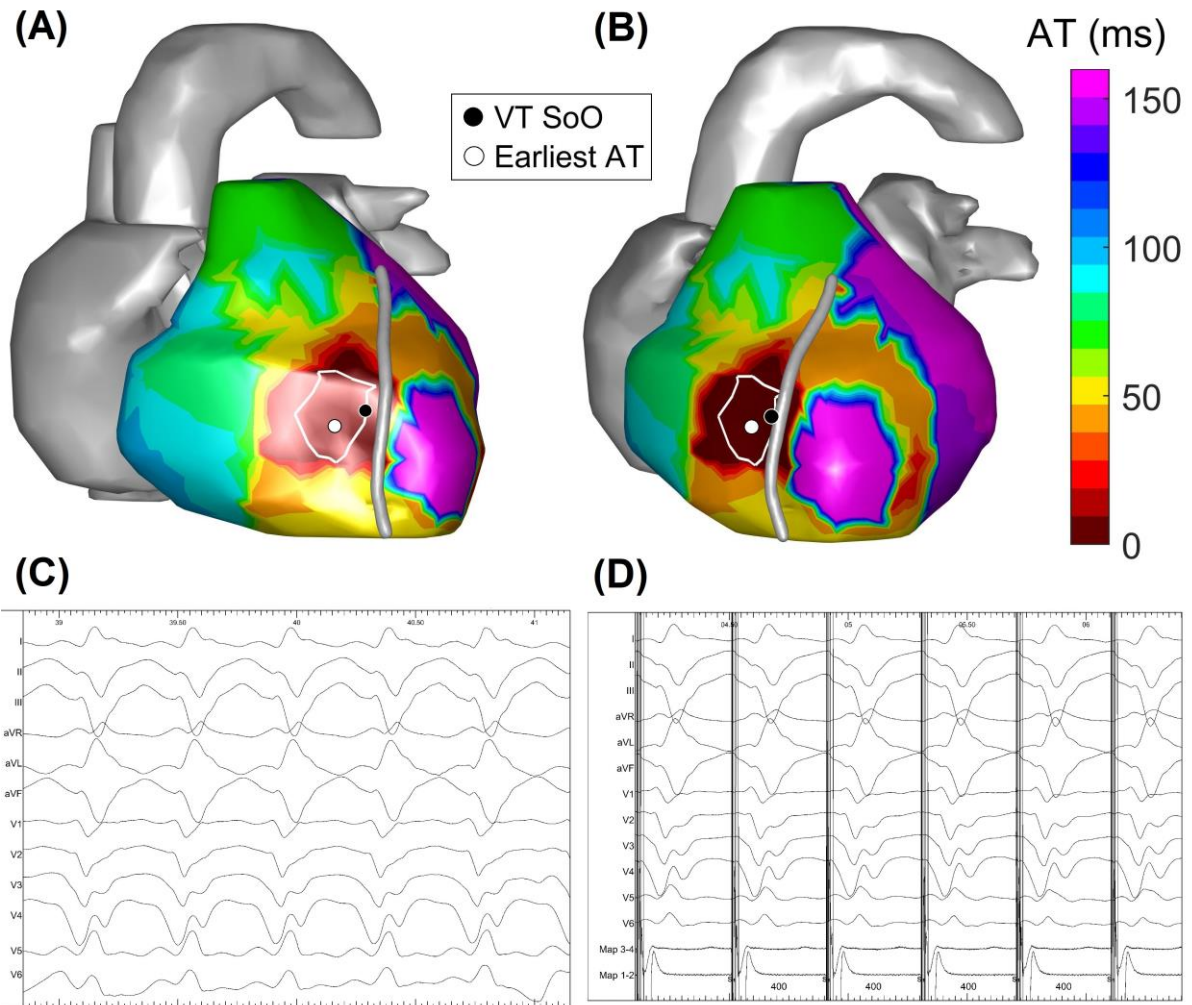
630 activation (lowest 2% of AT) is bordered by a white line and a white circle highlights
631 its geometrical centre, which is the earliest site of activation. A black circle represents
632 the nearest ECGI site to the VT site of origin (SoO) registered on the contact EAM. C:
633 Surface ECG and intracardiac bipolar EGMs taken from decapolar catheter position
634 as seen in panel A. Entrance to the isthmus can be seen on decapoles 7-8 with
635 electrogram timing progressively later during the diastolic period until probable exit
636 site in 1-2.

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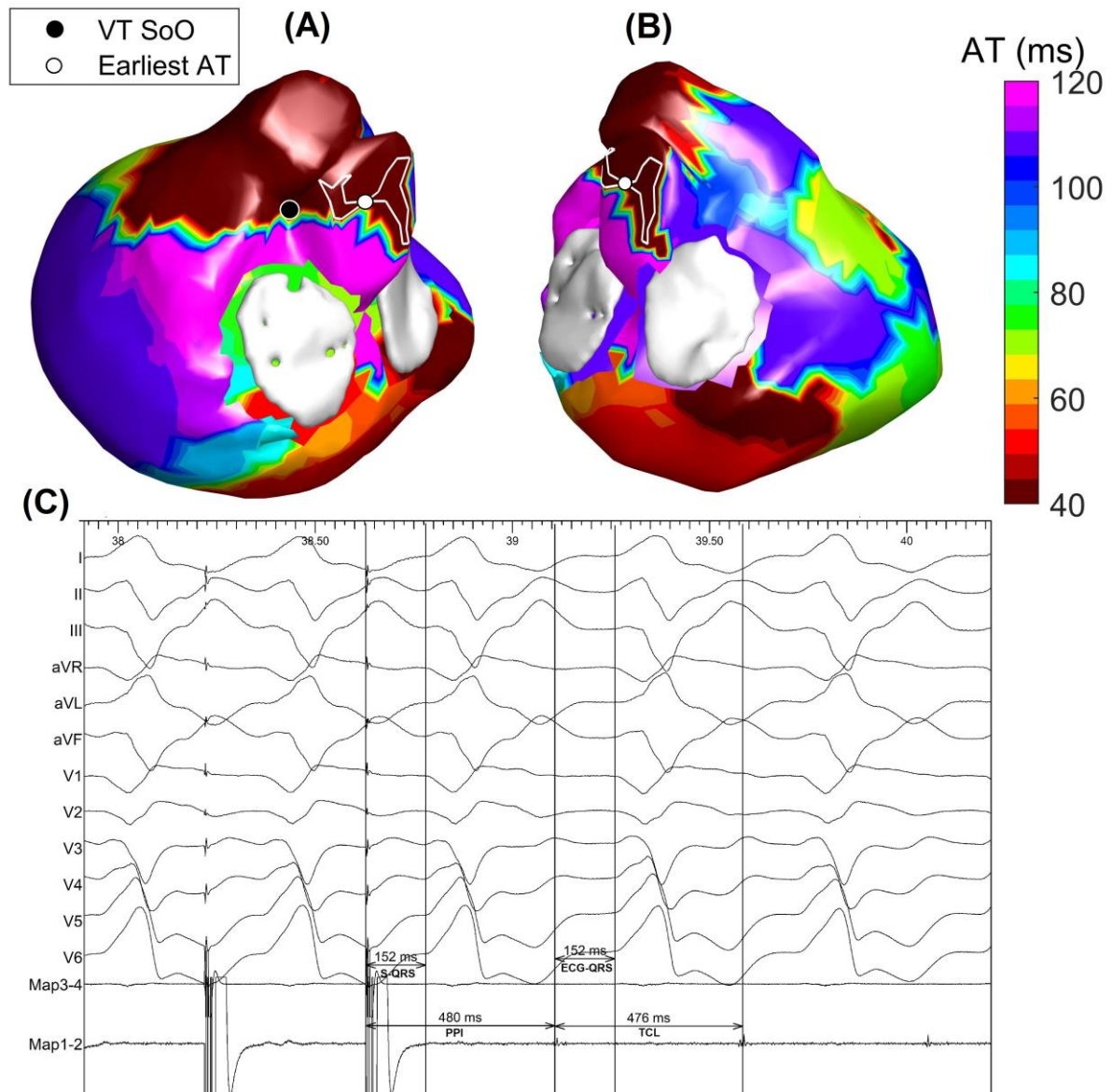


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642 **Figure 3:** Example from a pace-mapped VT (patient #14, VT #24). Top: ECGI
 643 activation time map during VT shown in right and left anterior oblique views in A and
 644 B, respectively, with atria, IVC, SVC and aorta in grey. The region of earliest activation
 645 is bordered by a white line (lowest 2% of AT) and a white circle highlights its
 646 geometrical centre, which is the earliest site of activation. A black circle represents the
 647 nearest ECGI site to the VT site of origin (SoO) registered on the contact EAM and
 648 identified using pace-mapping. C: Surface ECG of the VT. D: Surface ECG during
 649 pace mapping of the VT. Paced rhythm had a 93% morphology match to the
 650 tachycardia (Template Matching, Bard EP system, Boston Scientific, MA, USA).

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654 **Figure 4:** Example of an entrained VT (patient #11, VT #21). A: ECGI activation map
 655 during VT shown in standard PA view (panel A) and a modified PA view (panel B).

656 The region of earliest activation is bordered by a white line (lowest 2% of AT) and a
 657 white circle highlights its geometrical centre, which is the earliest site of activation. A

658 black circle represents the nearest ECGI site to the VT site of origin (SoO) registered
 659 on the EAM and identified using entrainment mapping. Activation occurs almost

660 simultaneously on the LV basal anterior wall and RV basal inferior wall. Furthermore,
 661 the axis on the 12 lead ECG would suggest activation occurring from inferior to

662 superior LV. This could be due to propagation of the re-entrant circuit exiting inferiorly

663 from the isthmus location on the basal antero-septum. A superior line of block would
664 limit superior to inferior activation on the 12 lead ECG.C: Intracardiac electrograms
665 demonstrating entrainment of tachycardia with a post pacing interval (PPI) minus
666 tachycardia cycle length (TCL) of 4ms and identical timing for stimulus to QRS (S-
667 QRS), and local electrogram to QRS (EGM-QRS).

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