

TO PACE OR NOT TO PACE

2ND EUROPEAN PACEMAKER COLLOQUIUM

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TO PACE OR NOT TO PACE

CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECTS IN CARDIAC PACING

edited by

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This book is dedicated to

PAUL M. ZOLL,

who initiated the modern era of cardiac stimulation with his publication “Resuscitation of the heart in ventricular standstill by external electric stimulation” in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1952 and who continuously has played an active role in cardiac stimulation as he demonstrated with his participation in the final Round Table of this Colloquium – exactly 25 years after his first publication.

PREFACE

The increasing number of pacemaker patients correlates with the number of pacemaker meetings that attract physicians and medical engineers entering this expanding branch of medicine. The Pacemaker Colloquium organised in Brussels April 21st and 22nd 1977 was such a meeting. It was different from previous meetings as it had no surveys or summaries on patient series but instead it focused on controversial subjects that have emerged from pacing in the past and on new developments for the future.

Besides controversial papers on indications for temporary and long-term pacing, new technical developments were presented in Brussels, where for the first time the important lithium battery manufacturers demonstrated their data. The surveys on electrodes, especially the fixation mechanisms and the atrial electrodes, initiated an animated discussion. This all converged in a Round Table on the choice of the electrode-pacemaker combination. Pacemaker electrocardiography and the application of cardiac stimulation in various types of tachyarrhythmias formed two clinically oriented sessions.

After a survey of the various follow-up systems a series of presentations deals for the first time with the possibilities and difficulties of the application of computers in cardiac pacing. A Round Table on the organisation of the Pacemaker clinic closed this friendly and animated meeting.

It is our sincere hope that the publication of the presented papers and discussions in these Proceedings will help all those active in cardiac pacing to answer some of their problems and to improve the treatment of pacemaker patients.

HILBERT J. TH. THALEN

CONTENTS

<i>Contributors</i>	XV
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OPENING

Introduction	3
A.J. BLANKESTIJN	
Opening Address	4
J.N. HOMAN VAN DER HEIDE	
Official Opening	6
H. DENOLIN	

SECTION I. CONDUCTION SYSTEM

Introduction	9
S.S. AMRAM	
The Normal Anatomy of the Sinus Node and its Pathology	11
J.CL. DEMOULIN, H.E. KULBERTUS	
Evaluation of the Cardiac Conduction System by His Bundle Recordings	16
O.S. NARULA	
Significance of His Bundle Recording in Bundle Branch Block	33
L. SEIPEL, G. BREITHARDT, H. KUHN	
Satrap: A Computer Study of His Bundle Potentials Obtained by a Non-invasive Method	46
G. FONTAINE, F. GALLAIS-HAMONNO, R. FRANK, Y. GROSGOGEAT	
A Technique for Non-Invasive His-Purkinje System (HPS) Recording	49
J.K. CYWINSKI, J.R. MNIECE, G.J. LEDEE, J. RUSKIN	
Discussion	54

SECTION II. TO PACE OR NOT TO PACE

Cardiac Pacing in Sick Sinus Syndrome 61
 H.J.TH. THALEN
 Cardiac Pacing in Fascicular Block 73
 M.J. STOPCZYK
 Cardiac Pacing in Acute Myocardial Infarction 78
 J.P. VAN DURME
 Prophylactic Preoperative Pacing 82
 F.A. PIRZADA, K. VENKATARAMAN, J.E. MADIAS, W.B. HOOD JR.
 Cardiac Pacing in Open Heart Surgery. 91
 G. RÁBAGO, J. FRAILE, N.G. DE VEGA, T. MORENO
 Discussion 94

SECTION III. ENERGY SOURCES AND ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT

Pacemaker Energy Sources, Old and New. 105
 W. GREATBATCH
 The Saft Lithium-Silver Chromate Battery: Performances of the Li 210
 Type 109
 G. LEHMANN, M. BROUSSELY, P. LENFANT
 The Lithium-Iodine Cell 116
 A.A. SCHNEIDER, F. TEPPER
 The Lithium Pacemaker, a Four-Year Clinical Experience 122
 J. KREUZER, O. ELERT, P. SATTER
 New Pacemaker Devices from a Technical Point of View. 126
 D.L. BOWERS
 New Pacemaker Circuitry from a Clinical Point of View 131
 G. E. FREUD
 End-of-Life Indications for Lithium Pacemakers 137
 A.C.M. RENIRIE
 Discussion 143

SECTION IV. STIMULATION ELECTRODES

A. Atrial Electrodes
 Transmediastinal and Transthoracic Atrial Electrodes 151
 S. LARSSON
 The Use of Coronary Sinus Pacing 156
 M.H. ELLESTAD, J. MESSENGER, P. GREENBERG, M. CASTELLANET

Permanent Atrial Electrodes with Special Consideration to Transvenous Endocardial Forms 162
M. KLEINERT

B. Ventricular Electrodes

Results of 57 Cases with MIP 2000 Endocardial Electrode, Compared with a Series of 1200 Endocardial Electrodes 177
G. PIOGER, R. DIAN, A. BIANCHINI

Clinical Results with Intramural and Endocardial Electrodes Implanted for over 8 Years. 185
M.F. LEFÈBVRE, G. SOOTS

Long-term Experience with an Endocardial Screw-in Electrode . . . 191
W.E. MEIER, I. BABOTAI, A. SENNING

Permanent Endocardial Pacing without Electrode Dislodgement? . . . 196
J. BREDIKIS, A. DUMCIUS, P. STIRBYS, K. MUCKUS

Discussion 198

SECTION V. THE CHOICE OF THE PACEMAKER-ELECTRODE COMBINATION

The Pacemaker-Electrode Combination and Its Relationship to Service Life 209
W. IRNICH, U. GEBHARDT

The Choice of the Pacemaker-Electrode Combination: Clinical Implications in Paroxysmal Arrhythmias 223
S. DALLA VOLTA, I. MARAGNO, A. NAVA

The Choice of the Electrode and Pacing Method for Emergency Cardiac Pacing 229
A.H. SHEIKH-ZADEH, H. POUR KALBASSI, M. ATAII, M.J. TABAEE-ZADEH

ROUND TABLE

Round Table Discussion: The Choice of the Pacemaker-Electrode Combination. 235
M. BILITCH, R.G. GOLD, R. HARDJOWYONO, W. IRNICH, C. MEERE, M. MURTRA, V. PARSONNET, A.H. SHEIKH-ZADEH, J.G. SLOMAN, H.J.TH. THALEN, S. DALLA VOLTA, C.J. WESTERHOLM

SECTION VI. PACEMAKER IMPLANTATION:
SURGEON AND/OR CARDIOLOGIST

The Cooperation in Management of Pacemaker Patients 253
 K. STEINBACH, G. JOSKOWICZ, A. LACZKOVICS
 The Teamwork in Pacemaker Implantation 259
 A.J. DZIATKOWIAK, J.W. KOZLOWSKI
 Who Should Implant a Pacemaker System, Cardiologist or Surgeon?. . . 263
 J.W. HARTHORNE, J.MCDERMOTT, K.B. PETERSON
 The Surgeon, Who Selects and Implants? 271
 S. FURMAN
 Discussion 276

SECTION VII. PACEMAKER ELECTROCARDIOGRAPHY

ECG Survey of Various Pacemaker Modes 283
 M. LEVANDER-LINDGREN
 Pacemaker Electrocardiography – the Importance of QRS and T wave
 Configuration 289
 J.G. SLOMAN, H.G. MOND, J.K. VOHRA, D. HUNT
 Electrocardiographic Diagnosis of Myocardial Infarction and Coronary
 Insufficiency in the Pacemaker Patient 295
 B. DODINOT, L. KUBLER, E. ALIOT, A. RIO
 The Irregular Pacemaker: Mechanisms and Clinical Significance . . . 302
 A. WIRTZFELD, CH. HIMMLER, H.W. PRÄUER
 Complex Demand Pacemaker Arrhythmias: The Differential Diagnosis of
 Pacemaker Pauses 312
 S.S. BAROLD, L.S. ONG, M. FALKOFF, R.A. HEINLE
 Electrocardiographic Patterns in Sick Sinus Syndrome 324
 R. SUTTON, P. BARRETT, R. EMANUEL
 Discussion 330

SECTION VIII. TACHYCARDIA AND PACING

Diagnostic Pacing in Tachycardia 335
 H.J.J. WELLENS

Pacing in Supraventricular Tachycardia	339
T.A. PRESTON	
Risks of Delayed Potentials in Pacemaker Patients Prone to Ventricular Tachycardia	344
G. FONTAINE, R. FRANK, J.C. PETITOT, Y. GROSGOGEAT	
A Special Approach in the Management of Re-entry Tachycardias . . .	355
R.A.J. SPURRELL	
Discussion	359

SECTION IX. PACEMAKER FOLLOW-UP METHODS

Pacemaker Follow-up Methods	367
M.S. LAMPADIUS	
Significance of Photoanalysis in a Pacemaker Surveillance System. . .	372
H. ECTOR, A. AUBERT, H. DE GEEST	
Pacemaker Failure Detectable by Röntgen Analysis	375
W. DU MESNIL DE ROCHEMONT, U. MÖDDER	
Transtelephone Pacemaker Monitoring	381
S. FURMAN	
Pacemaker Follow-up by a Self-Check system	389
CH. HIMMLER, K.F. SEIDL, H. PRÄUER, A. WIRTZFELD	
Discussion	394

SECTION X. COMPUTER APPLICATION IN PACEMAKER
REGISTRATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Computer Applications for the Control of Pacemaker Patients: Remarks and Personal Experience	401
G.A. FERUGLIO	
Computer Storage of Pacemaker Data	406
A. RICKARDS	
Storage, Evaluation and Application of Data in a Pacemaker Clinic . .	410
A. SCHAUDIG, R. THURMAYR, M. ZIMMERMANN, J. BEYER	
Digital Computers in Pacemaker Analysis	421
G. MYERS, V. PARSONNET	
The National Pacemaker Databank.	429
G.D. GREEN, G. THOMPSON	
Impulse Analyser-Computer Interface: A New Way to Store Pacemaker Data	439
B.J.L. CANDELON, A.L. GRAULLE, P.F. PUEL	

The Significance in Quality Control of a Computer for Production- and Field-Data. Complete Traceability, possible or not?	444
L.P. Lolkema, P.A. van der Heijden	
Discussion	455

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

The Pacemaker Clinic: Organization and Patient Load	457
H. Ector, B.S. Goldman, J. Meibom, J.R. Muir, V. Parsonnet, I.J. Pinto, F.A. Rodrigo, A. Schaudig, R.J. Zochowski, P.M. Zoll	

OFFICIAL CLOSURE

Importance of Colloquium for the Clinician	477
J. Nieveen	
Importance of Colloquium for Research and Development	479
A.C.M. Renirie	
Closure	480
J.N. Homan van der Heide	
Farewell	482
A.J. Blankestijn	
Index	483

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