

## Letter to Editor/Carta ao Editor

## Electrocardiophysiology of chagasic cases

Eletrocardiofisiologia dos casos chagásicos

Viroj Wiwanitkit<sup>1</sup>

### **Dear Editor:**

A recent report on electrocardiophysiology of chagasic cases was very interesting¹. Gupta et al. concluded that "the indeterminate form of Chagas' disease can present cardiac wall motion abnormality, demonstrating functional and electric damage compared with chagasic patients with normal echocardiogram¹." There were some concerns about this work. First, the few subjects might not be statistically acceptable for the comparison or correlation study. Second, without control of previous cardiological status of the patients, it could not exclude the confounding factors that affect the electrocardiophysiology of the patients.

#### REFERENCE

Barros ML, Ribeiro A, Nunes MD, Rocha MO. Association between left ventricular wall motion abnormalities
and ventricular arrhythmia in the indeterminate form of Chagas disease. Rev Soc Bras Med Trop 2011; 44:
213-216.

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#### Artigo/Article

Associação entre dissinergia miocárdica e arritmia ventricular na forma indeterminada da doença de Chagas

Association between left ventricular wall motion abnormalities and ventricular arrhythmia in the indeterminate form of Chagas disease

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#### RESUMO

Introducios. Pacientes na forma indestruminada da decesa de Chagas (URCC) podem generatus anomulidades constituis sugnasticas, como ordinatas de por prospolation propriatas anomulidades constituis quarte de la companio de la constitui de la constitui con foi de archies a susceigio entre a presença de anomulidade constitui espanio en a FIDC. Susceigio entre constituit de la constitui espanio en a financia de la constitui espanio de desindente ca promise sun momenta de la constituit es 2 com presença de desindente constituit espanio en a FIDC. Completa finalmente de propiete tectual, have mondo a montentração efectual desparador de 23th (Heller). Resultadors: Entre as diversas variativos entindada, foram escontradado de 23th (Heller). Resultadors: Entre as diversas variativos entindada, foram escontrador (y o 0.05) modelos pela cocardinografica e Dopole resculada home momentarios (v o 0.05) modelos pela cocardinografica e Dopole resculada de momentarios (v o 0.05) modelos pela cocardinografica e Dopole resculada home momentarios (v o 0.05) modelos pela cocardinografica e Dopole rescultada home concentrazion del vision (v o 0.05) modelos pela cocardinografica e Dopole rescultada home (v o 0.05) modelos pela cocardinografica e Dopole rescultada del pela (v o 0.05) modelos pela cocardinografica e positiva pela del constituida de un medical presentario prisidos mais frequentes de cartasistados variatedas, traducida, traducidos un presentario prisidos mais frequentes de cartasistados variatedas, particular, traducidos un presentario prisidos mais frequentes de cartasistados variatedas, particular, traducidos un presentario prisidos mais frequentes de cartasistados variatedas, particular que presentario presentario prisidos mais frequentes de cartasistados variatedas, particular que presentario presentario prisidos mais frequentes de cartasistados variatedas, particular que presentario presentario producidos mais frequentes de cartasistados variatedas, particular que presentario presentario produ

#### lavras-chaves: Doença de Chagas. Ecocardiografia. Arritmia ventricul

#### ABSTRAC

Keywords: Chagas disease. Echocardiography. Ventricular arrhythmia.

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#### INTRODUÇÃO

#### METODOS

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# Authors' reply regarding the comments about the article Association between left ventricular wall motion abnormalities and ventricular arrhythmia in the indeterminate form of Chagas disease

Resposta do autor quanto aos comentários feitos sobre o artigo Associação entre dissinergia miocárdica e arritmia ventricular na forma indeterminada da doença de Chagas

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We appreciate Wiwanitkit's interest in our study and the opportunity to clarify several issues. In relation to the size of the sample studied, the calculation of the statistic power test, considering the difference observed in the percentage of ectopic ventricular beats > 10 by Holter monitoring, was 88%<sup>1</sup>.

Regarding the patient selection, we described the exclusion criteria in the method's section, with the purpose of avoiding confounding conditions that could induce ventricular ectopy.

The following were the excluding criteria: systemic arterial hypertension, defined as arterial pressure measured during physical examination > 160/95; suggestive history of coronary artery disease; previous episode suggesting rheumatic fever disease; diabetes mellitus or intolerance to glucose as defined by the National Diabetes Data Group; thyroid dysfunction, manifested by abnormal levels of thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) and free thyroxine (T4); kidney failure, defined by the increase in creatinine and urea levels; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease based on suggestive radiologic and electrocardiographic clinical data; hydroelectrolytic disorders, based on

sodium and potassium dosages; significant anemia, defined as hemoglobin below  $10\,\mathrm{g/dl}$ ; alcoholism, defined as an average consumption of 420 grams of ethanol per week; pregnancy; abnormal ECG and/or echocardiogram and Doppler studies; and impossibility of following the protocol.

## REFERENCE

 Dupont WD, Plummer WD: Power and Sample Size Calculations for Studies Involving Linear Regression. Controlled Clin Trials 1998; 19:589-601.

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