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REGISTRY

National Registry on Cardiac Electrophysiology (2012)



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KEYWORDS

Cardiac electrophysiology; Catheter ablation; Implantable cardioverterdefibrillator; Cardiac resynchronization therapy **Abstract** Based on a survey sent to Portuguese centers that perform diagnostic and interventional electrophysiology and/or implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD) implantations, the authors analyze the number and type of procedures performed during 2012 and compare these data with previous years.

In 2012, a total of 2561 diagnostic electrophysiologic studies were performed, which were followed by ablation in 2017 cases, representing a steady situation compared with the previous year. There was a 12% increase in the number of ablation procedures for atrial fibrillation, making it for the first time the most frequent indication for ablation, overtaking atrioventricular nodal reentrant tachycardia.

The total number of first ICD implantations was 1048 (around 100 per million population), of which 375 were cardiac resynchronization devices (BiV ICDs). This represents a slight decrease (3.3%) in the total number of new implants, with a relative increase of 10% in the number of BiV ICDs compared to the previous year. However, there was a considerable increase in the number of ICD generator replacements, resulting in an overall increase of 3.5% in implantations performed in 2012.

Some comments are made regarding developments in this activity and its current status, and on some factors that may influence the dynamics of this area of interventional cardiology. © 2014 Sociedade Portuguesa de Cardiologia. Published by Elsevier España, S.L.U. All rights reserved.

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PALAVRAS-CHAVE

Eletrofisiologia cardíaca; Ablação por cateter; Cardioversordesfibrilhador implantável; Ressincronização cardíaca

Registo nacional de eletrofisiologia cardíaca (2012)

Resumo Os autores analisam o número e tipo de procedimentos efetuados durante o ano de 2012 com base em inquéritos enviado aos centros nacionais que durante este ano praticaram eletrofisiologia diagnóstica e de intervenção e/ou implantaram cardioversores-desfibrilhadores (CDI), e comparam estes dados com os de anos anteriores. Em 2012 foram efetuados 2.561 estudos eletrofisiológicos diagnósticos, seguidos de ablação em 2.017 dos casos, o que representa uma estabilização comparativamente ao ano anterior. Registou-se um aumento de 12% no número de ablações de fibrilhação auricular, que passou a representar a indicação mais frequente para ablação, ultrapassando a taquicardia por reentrada nodal auriculoventricular.

O número total de primeiras implantações de CDI foi de 1.048 (cerca de 100/milhão de habitantes), sendo que, destes, 375 eram CDI com ressincronização ventricular (CDI BIV). Estes dados traduzem um ligeiro decréscimo (3,3%) do número de primeiras implantações, com um aumento relativo de 10% no número de CDI BIV face ao ano anterior. No entanto, verificou-se um crescimento muito significativo no número de substituições de geradores de CDI, de que resultou um acréscimo de 3,5% no total de implantações efetuadas em 2012. São feitas algumas considerações acerca da evolução e estado atual desta atividade hospitalar e sobre alguns fatores que poderão influenciar a dinâmica verificada nesta área da cardiologia de intervenção. © 2014 Sociedade Portuguesa de Cardiologia. Publicado por Elsevier España, S.L.U. Todos os direitos reservados.

Introduction

The National Registry on Cardiac Electrophysiology is an annual registry maintained by the Portuguese Association of Arrhythmology, Pacing and Electrophysiology (APAPE) and the Portuguese Institute of Cardiac Rhythm (IPRC) that, in collaboration with all national electrophysiology centers (public and private), records data on invasive electrophysiology (electrophysiology studies and catheter ablations) and implantation of implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs) in Portugal.

This is an area of considerable dynamism in cardiology in terms of technical advances, clinical implementation and updating of international guidelines. It is therefore important to assess not only the scientific aspects of the activity but also the number of procedures performed, to provide an overall picture of the situation in Portugal with regard to the number of participating centers and their volume of activity and the number and type of procedures performed, as well as development over time. These data are also important in determining the training capabilities of the different centers in order to provide the national health authorities with information on the activity of this hospital sector.

The Registry is also used for comparing Portugal with other countries, particularly as it forms the basis for Portuguese participation in the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) White Book, an annual publication that presents statistics on invasive electrophysiology in European Society of Cardiology member countries.

This article presents the data for Portugal for 2012.

Methods

Although most centers in Portugal have computerized records, it has not been possible to achieve centralized data collection for the Registry, the main reason being

the different data formats used by the various centers. Thus, as in previous years, data were collected following personal contact with the heads of the pacing and electrophysiology laboratories, and forms were sent on which the required information was to be entered, which were submitted by email in most cases. This information was used to assess the number and type of diagnostic electrophysiologic studies (EPS) and ablation procedures performed, types of arrhythmia treated by ablation and number and type of ICDs implanted or replaced, including biventricular cardiac resynchronization devices (BiV ICDs).

Results

Responses were obtained from all public and private centers. In 2012 the number of centers performing EPS and/or ICD implantation remained at 27, of which 20 were public hospitals and seven private institutions.

Electrophysiologic studies and catheter ablations

There were 18 centers performing EPS in 2012, of which 10 were public (three in the north of the country, one in the central region, and six in the south) and eight private (one in the north, two in the central region, and five in the south). One public hospital (Faro), which had begun operating in this field in 2011, suspended activity in 2012, while one private center (Idealmed, Unidade Hospitalar de Coimbra) began performing EPS in 2012.

The total number of diagnostic EPS was 2561, around 1% more than in 2011, followed by ablation in 2017 of cases, a similar number of ablation procedures to the previous year (Figures 1 and 2).

With regard to the types of arrhythmia treated, there was a considerable increase in ablation of atrial fibrillation (AF) (Figure 1), rising from 467 cases in 2011 to 524 in 2012,

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