



SPECIAL ARTICLE

National Registry on Cardiac Electrophysiology (2010 and 2011)[☆]

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Abstract Based on a survey sent to Portuguese centers that perform diagnostic and interventional electrophysiology and/or implant cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs), the authors analyze the number and type of procedures performed during 2010 and 2011 and compare these data with previous years.

In 2011, a total of 2533 diagnostic electrophysiologic procedures were performed, which were followed by ablation in 1033 cases, a steady increase over previous years. The largest share of this increase compared to 2010 was in atrial fibrillation, which is now the second most frequent indication for ablation, after atrioventricular nodal reentrant tachycardia.

The total number of ICDs implanted in 2011 was 1084, of which 339 were biventricular (BiV) cardiac resynchronization devices (BiV ICDs). This represents an increase in the total number relative to previous years, 2011 being the first year in which the rate of new ICD implantations in Portugal exceeded 100 per million population. However, compared to 2010, the number of BiV ICDs implanted decreased, despite the recent publication of updated European guidelines on device therapy in heart failure, which clarified and expanded the indications for implantation of these devices.

Some comments are made on the current status of cardiac electrophysiology in Portugal and on factors that may influence its development in the coming years.

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Registo Nacional de Electrofisiologia Cardíaca (2010 e 2011)

Resumo Os autores analisam o número e tipo de procedimentos efetuados durante os anos de 2010 e 2011, com base em inquéritos enviado aos centros nacionais que durante este ano praticaram electrofisiologia diagnóstica e de intervenção e/ou implantaram cardioversores-desfibriladores (CDIs) e comparam estes dados com os de anos anteriores.

Em 2011 foram efectuados 2533 estudos electrofisiológicos diagnósticos, sendo seguidos de ablação em 1033 dos casos, o que representa um aumento sustentado em relação aos anos anteriores. Em relação a 2010, a maior parcela desse incremento coube à fibrilhação auricular,

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que representa já a segunda indicação mais frequente para ablação, após as taquicardias por reentrada nodal aurículo-ventricular.

O número total de CDIs implantados em 2011 foi de 1084, sendo que destes, 339 eram dispositivos com ressincronização ventricular (CDI BIV). Estes dados representam um aumento do número total em relação aos anos anteriores, sendo 2011 o primeiro ano em que se ultrapassou em Portugal a taxa de 100 novos implantes de CDIs por milhão de habitantes. No entanto verificou-se em relação a 2010 um decréscimo no número de CDI BIV implantados, apesar da publicação recente de uma revisão das recomendações europeias para o tratamento da insuficiência cardíaca por dispositivos eléctricos, que veio clarificar e expandir as indicações para implantação destes dispositivos.

São feitas algumas considerações sobre o estado atual desta actividade e sobre alguns fatores que poderão influenciar a sua evolução nos próximos anos.

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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, records data on invasive electrophysiology and implantation of cardioverter-defibrillators in Portugal.

Publication of the Registry provides 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 developments over time.

The Registry is also essential for comparing Portugal with other countries, particularly as it forms the basis for Portuguese participation in the European Heart Rhythm Association (EHRA) White Book,¹ an annual publication that presents statistics on invasive electrophysiology in ESC member countries.

This article presents the data for 2011, some of which are compared with the available data for 2010 (already published in the EHRA White Book¹).

Methods

Although most centers in Portugal now have computerized records, it has still 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 centers via email or telephone, after which forms were sent on which the required information was to be entered, which were used by most centers to submit the data by email to those responsible for the Registry.

The centers provided information on the number and type of electrophysiologic studies (EPS), diagnostic and ablation procedures, type of arrhythmias treated by ablation and number and type of implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs) implanted, including biventricular cardiac resynchronization devices (BiV ICDs).

Results

Responses were obtained from all public and private centers, although the information was incomplete for 2010.

In 2011 the number of centers performing EPS and/or ICD implantation was 27, of which 20 were public hospitals and seven private institutions.

Electrophysiologic studies and catheter ablations

There were 18 centers performing EPS in 2011, of which 11 were public and seven private. One public hospital (Faro) and two private institutions began activities in this field during 2011.

The total number of diagnostic EPS in 2011 was 2533, followed by ablation in 2013 of cases, an increase of 11.2% in ablation procedures between 2010 and 2011 (Figure 1). The number of ablation procedures has shown sustained

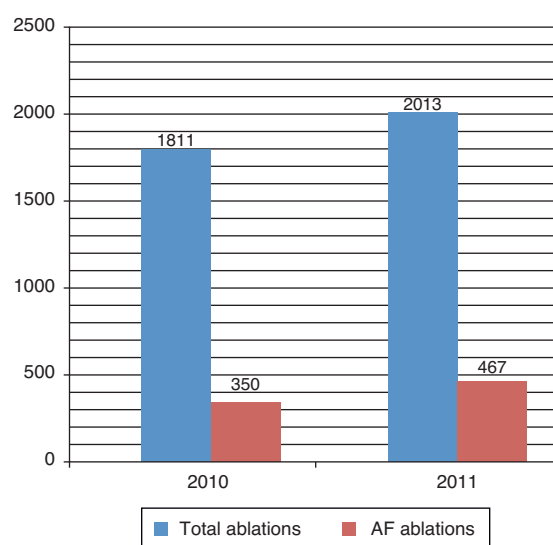


Figure 1 Total number of ablation procedures and atrial fibrillation ablations in Portugal in 2010 and 2011. AF: atrial fibrillation.

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