

mV2 discriminated between NMS and controls with a sensitivity of 82% and specificity of 77% (AUC=0.81).

**Conclusions:** The presence of isolated very low QRS voltage in frontal plane ECG leads, as well as of small and elongated frontal QRS loops on the vectorcardiogram may help identify predisposition to NMS.

## P6633

### Pacing as a treatment for recurrent cardioinhibitory vasovagal syncope: systematic review with meta-analysis

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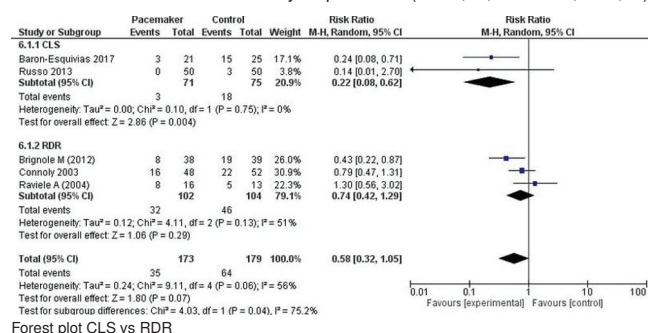
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**Introduction:** Vasovagal reflex is the most common cause of syncopal episodes, mostly considered a benign condition. However, some patients have recurring episodes and/or major trauma associated with syncope, thus compromising quality-of-life. Pacemaker with rate drop response (RDR) and Closed-Loop Stimulation (CLS) algorithms have been investigated in recurrent vasovagal syncope (R-VVS). The latter has shown promise in cardioinhibitory R-VVS (defined as heart rate <40 bpm >10 seconds and/or asystole >3 seconds).

**Purpose:** To define the role of cardiac pacing in cardioinhibitory R-VVS.

**Methods:** MEDLINE, Cochrane Library and registered clinical trials were searched for single or double-blinded placebo-controlled randomized controlled trials (RCT) on cardiac pacing treatment for R-VVS and systematically reviewed for inclusion and further analysis.

**Results:** Five clinical trials met the eligibility criteria, with a total of 254 patients included. Four trials were double-blinded and four had a follow-up of at least one year. Two of them investigated the CLS and three the RDR algorithms. The analysis of all trials (N=5) as well as that of the double-blinded with a follow-up greater than a year (N=3) did not find a significant reduction in recurring syncopal events (RR: 0.53; 95% IC: 0.21–1.34; RR: 0.58; 95% IC: 0.32–1.05, respectively). When analyzing the trials by algorithm, the RDR pacemaker has shown no significant advantage (RR: 0.74; 95% IC: 0.42–1.29). However, the CLS algorithm was associated with a 22% reduction in the syncopal events (RR: 0.22; 95% IC: 0.08–0.62).



**Conclusions:** The results of this meta-analysis suggest that the pacemaker DDD-CLS may have a role in cardioinhibitory R-VVS. The published data thus far is limited and pacemaker implantation should be reserved to carefully selected patients with refractory cardioinhibitory R-VVS and compromised quality-of-life.

## P6634

### Novel method of analysing heart rate variability at rest predicts a positive tilt table testing in patients with syncope of unknown origin

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**Background/Introduction:** Syncope is a common clinical entity, which is often challenging to explain. Head-up tilt test (HUTT) is a useful surrogate investigation in the diagnostic workup of syncope and can unveil a neurally-mediated syncope (NMS) in a considerable proportion of patients. The autonomic nervous system modulates both the heart rate variability (HRV) and the NMS events, the link however between HRV and HUTT outcome has not yet been elucidated.

**Purpose:** To investigate the association of HRV at rest with the HUTT outcome in patients with syncope of unknown origin (SUO).

**Methods:** We assessed 26 patients (15 females, age 46.5±21.8 years) with SUO who underwent a HUTT. We calculated three indices of HRV during a 5-minute ECG recording at the resting stage of HUTT before bed tilt. We employed a wavelet higher order spectral analysis (WHOS) in the low frequency band LF: 0.075–0.15 Hz which is an index of sympathetic and parasympathetic activity, using the wavelet bispectrum method to assess for nonlinear interactions in the HRV signal. To capture the time variations of bifrequency pairs, we applied the wavelet bispectrum in equal-length parts of the HRV signal. The bifrequency peaks F1 and F2 provide

the evidence of frequency interactions and the wavelet biamplitude quantifies their strength. In all signal parts, maxA is the maximum of wavelet biamplitude, maxFc1 the maximum of wavelet bifrequency Fc1 and maxFc2 the maximum of wavelet bifrequency Fc2. HUTT response was classified as positive or negative.

**Results:** Positive HUTT was seen in 11 patients and negative in 15. Positive tests lasted for 30.0±9.2 minutes and negative tests were completed in 40 minutes. Patients with positive HUTT exhibited higher maxA (5.49±3.59 vs. 2.95±1.88, p=0.04) and lower maxFc2 (0.12±0.02 vs. 0.14±0.01, p=0.004). No difference across groups was seen in maxFc1 (Table).

HRV indices at rest and HUTT outcome

Features	Positive HUTT	Negative HUTT	p
maxA	5.49±3.59	2.95±1.88	0.04
maxFc1	0.14±0.02	0.15±0.004	0.62
maxFc2	0.12±0.02	0.14±0.01	0.004

**Conclusion(s):** We provide a novel approach in the diagnosis of NMS by analysing HR dynamics in the frequency domain using a nonlinear and non-stationary method based on WHOS analysis. In patients with SUO, data from the rest stage before bed tilt, reveal subtle changes in HRV that are associated with a positive HUTT outcome suggestive of NMS. Further studies will confirm if this methodology can supplement HUTT thereby contributing to a cost- and time-effective diagnosis of NMS.

## P6635

### Clinical and electrocardiographic predictors of arrhythmic syncope in patients with severe aortic stenosis

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**Background:** Despite aortic stenosis (AoS) has been described itself as a cause of syncope, multiple other aetiologies can be present. Identification of an underlying arrhythmic cause of the syncope has evident clinical and prognostic implications. Few studies in the literature have evaluated the main causes of syncope in this population and the predictors of an arrhythmic cause.

**Aim:** To evaluate the clinical and electrocardiographic factors that could predict an arrhythmic aetiology of syncope in patients with severe AoS

**Methods:** We conducted an observational cohort study. All consecutive patients with the discharge hospital diagnosis of syncope and AoS from January 2010 to December 2017 were included. All patients were referred for evaluation of unexplained syncope, and were examined by multidisciplinary team according the current ESC syncope and valvular heart diseases guidelines. Main cause of syncope was defined according ESC syncope guidelines.

**Results:** Out of 293 patients with diagnosis of syncope and AoS, 41 (13.9%) presented severe AoS at the moment of the syncope. Fourteen (34.1%) patients had an arrhythmic syncope (8 (30.7%) advance AV block, 4 (15.4%) sinus node dysfunction, 2 (7.7%) fast atrial arrhythmias) and 30 patients had non-arrhythmic syncope (16 (39%) unexplained syncope, 7 (17.1%) Reflex/orthostatic syncope, 4 (9.6%) other causes). There were no significance differences in sex (46.7% vs 45.5% female, p=0.94), age (77.5±12.5 vs 76.9±8.9 y. o, p=0.16), treatment with antihypertensive drugs (73.3% vs 81.8% p=0.57) and basal comorbidities in patients with and without arrhythmic syncope. The presence of a wide QRS complex in the ECG on admission (16.7% vs 63.6%, RR 3.76 p<0.01) and lower heart rate on admission (80.1±22.2 vs 60.24±21.1 bpm p=0.02) were associated with a higher risk of arrhythmic syncope, while the presence of an identifiable clinical trigger (56.7% vs 9.1%, RR 0.15, p<0.01) was a predictor for a non-arrhythmic syncope. Patients with non-arrhythmic syncope had a trend in having a higher peak gradient in the echocardiogram (88.5±24.2 vs 71.3±27.2 mmHg p=0.07)

**Conclusions:** Arrhythmic syncope is a common cause of syncope in patients with severe aortic stenosis. The presence of a wide QRS complex in the admission ECG and lower heart rate on admission are associated with a higher risk of arrhythmic syncope, while the presence of an identifiable clinical trigger is a predictor for a non-arrhythmic syncope.

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## P6636

### Association of angiotensin-converting enzyme I/D gene variant rs1799752 and autonomic dysfunction with cardiovascular profile in syncope patients

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**Introduction:** The symptoms of autonomic dysfunction were strongly associated