Special article


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A B S T R A C T

Introduction and objectives: This report describes the findings of the 2017 Spanish Catheter Ablation Registry.

Methods: Data collection was retrospective. A standardized questionnaire was completed by each of the participating centers.

Results: A total of 15,284 ablation procedures were performed by 98 institutions (the highest number of ablations and institutions historically reported in this registry), with a mean of 156 ± 126 and a median of 136 procedures per center. For the first time, the most frequently treated ablation target was atrial fibrillation (n = 3,457; 22.6%), followed by cavotricuspid isthmus (n = 3,449; 22.5%) and atrioventricular nodal re-entrant tachycardia (n = 3,429; 22.4%). The overall success rate was 87%, the rate of major complications was 2.6%, and the mortality rate was 0.09%. The percentage of procedures performed without fluoroscopic support increased to 6% of all ablations, and 2.3% of all ablations were performed in pediatric patients.

Conclusions: The Spanish Ablation Catheter Registry systemati cally and uninterruptedly collects data on the ablation procedures performed in Spain, revealing that both the number of ablations and the number of centers performing them has progressively increased, while maintaining a high success rate and a low percentage of complications.

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Registro Español de Ablación con Catéter. XVII Informe Oficial de la Sección de Electrofisiología y Arritmias de la Sociedad Española de Cardiología (2017)

R E S U M E N

Introducción y objetivos: Se describen los resultados del Registro Español de Ablación con Catéter correspondientes al año 2017.

Métodos: La recogida de datos se llevó a cabo de forma retrospectiva con la cumplimentación de un formulario de recogida de datos de cada uno de los centros participantes.

Resultados: El número total de procedimientos de ablación fue de 15.284 realizados en 98 centros (mayor número de centros y de procedimientos de ablación comunicados históricamente en este registro) con una media de 156 ± 126 y una mediana de 136 procedimientos. El sustrato abordado con más frecuencia ha sido por primera vez en el registro la fibrilación auricular (n = 3,457; 22.6%), seguida del istmo cavotricuspidio (n = 3,449; 22.5%) y la taquicardia intranodular (n = 3,429; 22.4%). La tasa total de éxito fue del 87%; la de complicaciones mayores, del 2.6% y la mortalidad, del 0.09%. Se ha producido un aumento de los procedimientos realizados sin apoyo de fluoroscopia hasta suponer un 6% del total de las ablaciones. Un 2.3% de las ablaciones se realizó en pacientes pediátricos.

Conclusiones: El Registro Español de Ablación con Catéter recoge sistemáticamente e ininterrumpidamente los procedimientos de ablación realizados en España, y esto nos ha permitido observar un aumento progresivo del número de ablaciones y de centros que las realizan manteniendo una tasa de éxito elevada y unos porcentajes de complicaciones bajos.

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METHODS

registry of ablation.

Spain the voluntary society of arrhythmias in Spain, focusing on catheter ablation.

The objectives of the registry are to observe and describe developments in the interventional treatment of cardiac arrhythmias in Spain and to provide reliable information on the type of activity performed and the facilities available in Spanish arrhythmia units.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the present article is to report the findings of the Spanish Catheter Ablation Registry, the Official Report of the Working Group on Electrophysiology and Arrhythmias of the Spanish Society of Cardiology for 2017, which marks the 17th year of uninterrupted activity by this group.1–16 The registry is a voluntary nationwide record, published annually, that includes data from most arrhythmia units operating in Spain, making it one of the few large-scale, observational registries focusing on catheter ablation.

The information collected concerned the technical and human resources available in the arrhythmias units, the procedures performed, and their results and complications.

We analyzed the same 10 arrhythmias and arrhythmogenic substrates examined in previous registries: atrioventricular nodal reentrant tachycardia (AVNRT), accessory pathways, atrioventricular node ablation, focal atrial tachycardia (FAT), cavotricuspid isthmus (CTI), macroreentrant atrial tachycardia (MAT), atrial fibrillation (AF), idiopathic ventricular tachycardia (IVT), ventricular tachycardia associated with myocardial infarction (VT-AMI), and ventricular tachycardia not associated with myocardial infarction (VT-NAMI). Variables common to all conditions were analyzed: number of patients and procedures, success rate, type of ablation catheter used, and procedure-related complications (number and type), including periprocedural death. The numbers of procedures performed with a navigation system and those performed without fluoroscopy were also recorded for all substrates, as well as the number of patients younger than 15 years of age (pediatric). In addition, a number of ablation target-specific variables were analyzed: location and type of accessory pathway, location and mechanism of atrial tachycardias, type of AF ablation and approach, and ventricular tachycardia substrate.

As in previous years, the success rate refers only to the immediate postprocedural data (acute success rate). As for complications, only those occurring during the hospital stay following the procedure were reported.

RESULTS

All previous records have been broken in the 2017 registry, in terms of both the number of centers—98 (15.3% more than last year) (Appendix 1 and Appendix 2)—and the number of procedures that, with a total of 15,284, represents an increase of 11.8% vs 2016 (Figure 1).

The increase in the number of centers was regardless of their source of funding: public centers (68% of the total) increased by 12% and private centers by 20% (Figure 2). The participating hospital centers were still mostly teaching (72.4%) and tertiary (77.5%) centers. Patients were attended in cardiology departments in 97% of cases, and 67% of the centers had cardiac surgery units.

![Figure 1. Data analyzed.](image_url)
Infrastructure and Resources

The technical and human resources available in the different participating centers, as well as the other activities performed, are detailed in Table 1 and Table 2.

Overall, 62% of the centers were equipped with at least 1 dedicated cardiac electrophysiology laboratory. In addition, 74.5% of the centers had 1 room; 23.5%, 2; and 2%, 3. On average, the laboratory was available on 3.2 ± 1.7 (median, 3.0) days a week.

In addition to electrophysiological procedures, a cardiac device was implanted in 98.9% of centers: pacemakers in 92% of centers, defibrillators in 90%, resynchronization devices in 92%, and subcutaneous Holter monitors in 95%.

At least 1 fixed C-arm fluoroscopy system was available in 70 laboratories (71.4%) and at least 1 portable C-arm fluoroscopy system was available in 47 (48%).

No nonfluoroscopic navigation systems were available in 14 centers (14.2%), 29.6% had at least 2 nonfluoroscopic navigation systems, and 11 centers (11.2%) had 3, figures similar to those of the previous registries. The availability of rotational angiography, an X-ray system with integrated fluoroscopy, continues to be present, in 24.5% of the laboratories.

Radiofrequency ablation was again the most common type of ablation available in the different centers; cryoablation showed a slight decrease vs 2016 (72.4% vs 74.7%) but an increase in absolute numbers (71 vs 62), continuing the growth seen in recent years.

In terms of personnel (Table 2), there was a slight increase in staff physicians per laboratory (average, 3.2) and 87% of laboratories had at least 1 full-time physician (average, 2.2).

The average number of nurses per center continues to be stable at 2.8 registered nurses; 82% of laboratories had 2 or more (range, 1-6). In addition, 26.5% of laboratories had at least 1 X-ray technician (range, 0-4). Furthermore, 33.7% of the laboratories had fellows, most 1 or 2 (range, 1-12). Finally, 79.6% of laboratories had anesthesia support during ablation procedures.

Overall Results

The number of centers participating in the registry (98 centers) is the highest since its creation and the tendency continues for a progressive increase in the number of ablations, which peaked this year (15 284) (Figure 1). The mean number of procedures per center was 156 ± 126 (median, 124.5; range, 2-568).

Twelve centers (11 public) reported more than 300 ablations and 5 centers (all public) reported more than 400 ablations (Figure 2).

The overall success rate was 87%, similar to the 86% rate of the previous registry. The success rates of all substrates since 2011 are shown in Figure 3, although the success rate for AF is only from 2016, when the new data collection form was introduced.

The number of reported complications was 281 (2.6%), similar to previous years, but with a slight increase vs previous registries (2.3% in 2016 and 2% in 2015) (Figure 4).

The most common complications were vascular (32.4%), followed by pericardial effusion/cardi tamponade (30.2%). There were 16 atrioventricular blocks (AVBs) (5.7% of total complications and 0.1% of total ablations).

Ten deaths (0.09%) were recorded in 2017. The ablation targets in 5 of them were VT-AMI and VT-NAMI, with 2 complicated tamponades and 3 electrical storms that resulted in electromechanical dissociation and death.

There were 2 deaths related to AF ablation caused by esophageal problems. In addition, another 3 deaths were described for CTI ablation, 2 due to vascular complications and 1 due to complicated cardiac tamponade.

For the first time, AF (22.6%) was the most frequently treated ablation target, followed by CTI (22.5%) and AVNRT (22.4%) (Figure 5).

The number of ablation procedures reported increased for all substrates vs the 2016 registry, except IVT (Figure 5).

The changes in the relative frequency of the different ablation targets since 2008 are shown in Figure 6. The increase in AF continues with respect to the other ablation targets, as well as the decrease in accessory pathway ablation. The ablation of CTI and AVNRT has remained at a stable percentage in recent years, whereas VT ablation (of any cause, including ventricular extrasystole) increased this year to represent 16% of all substrates.

Information on the number of laboratories treating each of the different ablation targets is shown in Figure 7. AVNRT was the most frequently treated substrate in the participating centers: 97 (99%), followed by CTI at 93 (95%). AF ablation was performed in 75.5% of the centers submitting their data to the registry, a slight increase from 2015 (73%) but a slight decrease from 2016 (78%).

The following sections summarize the data analysis for the different subgroups.
Table 1
General Characteristics, Technical Resources, and Activity (in Addition to Catheter Ablation) of the 98 Electrophysiology Laboratories in the 2017 Registry

General characteristics

| Teaching hospital | 71 (72.4) |
| Tertiary          | 76 (77.5) |

Health care system

| Public | 67 (68.4) |
| Fully private | 31 (31.6) |
| Responsible department: Cardiology | 95 (97) |
| Cardiac surgery available | 66 (67) |
| Anesthetist available | 78 (79.6) |

Technical resources

| Availability of the laboratory | |
| Exclusive use | 59 (60.2) |
| Used for electrophysiology, d | 3.3 ± 1.8 |
| More than 1 electrophysiology laboratory | 25 (25.5) |

Fluoroscopy system

| Fixed C-arm | 70 (71.4) |
| Portable C-arm | 47 (47.9) |
| Rotational angiography | 24 (24.5) |
| NFNS | |
| No navigator | 14 (14.2) |
| Carto ( Biosense Webster) | 53 (54) |
| Ensite (Abbott) | 58 (59.2) |
| Rhythmia ( Boston Scientific) | 15 (15.3) |

Remote navigation

| Magnetic | 2 (2) |
| Robotic | 2 (2) |

Other systems

| Intracardiac echocardiography | 34 (34.7) |
| Cryoablation | 71 (72.4) |
| Ultrasound ablation | 2 (2) |
| Laser ablation | 3 (3) |

Activity performed

| Device implantation | |
| Pacemaker | 90 (91.8) |
| ICD | 88 (89.8) |
| Resynchronization device | 90 (91.8) |
| Subcutaneous Holter monitor | 93 (94.9) |

Elective electrical cardioversion

| ECV | 86 (87.7) |
| IVC | 47 (48) |
| Renal denervation | 7 (7.1) |
| Atrial appendage closure | 18 (18.3) |

ECV, external cardioversion; ICD, implantable cardioverter-defibrillator; IVC, internal cardioversion; NFNS: nonfluoroscopic navigation system.
Values represent No. (%) or mean ± standard deviation.

rates.
with substrate
97
procedures
944
ablation
2017
Values
to
internal
hospitals.
More
Fluoroscopy
Other
Pacemaker
Intracardiac
Magnetic
Subcutaneous
ICD
Exclusive
Ensite
Rotational
Navigator
(Abbott)
Technical
characteristics,
activity,
and
procedure.
more
rates.
Twelve
major
complications
were
reported
(0.3%); 4 AVBs
requiring
pacemaker
placement
(0.12%), 3 vascular
complications
(0.09%), 2 pulmonary
thromboembolisms, 1 stroke, and 1 pericardial
effusion.
The
4-mm
tip
to
radiofrequency
ablation
was
hit
95.4% of
procedures,
followed
by
the
irrigated
tip
catheter
(2.2%).
In
addition,
the
cryoablation
was
used
in
1.8% and
the
8-mm
tip
catheter
in
0.4%.
The
use
of
navigation
systems
doubled
vs
the
previous
year;
they
were
used
in
11.6% of
procedures,
with
298
of
these
(8.7% of
the
total)
performed
without
fluoroscopy.

Cavotricuspid Isthmus

In all, 3449 CTI ablation procedures (22.6%) were performed in 94.9% of centers, with a mean number of 35.2 ± 29.3 (range, 2-123) procedures per center. Success was reported in 94% of procedures, with a 100% success rate in 60% of centers.
There were 23 major complications (0.7%), including 12 vascular
complications (52.2%), 5 pericardial effusions (21.7%), 3 AVBs (13%), 1 stroke (4.3%), 1 myocardial infarction (4.3%), and 1 pericarditis without effusion (4.3%). Three deaths were reported, 1 of them due to embolism. The other 2 deaths were due to complications occurring during surgical treatment of the problem: mesenteric ischemia and death after pericardial window in a patient with tamponade, and twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome and multiorgan failure 3 days after the repair of a vascular tear of the left femoral artery. Left femoral access had been used as the approach to control the bleeding of a lesioned right femoral secondary branch injured during the ablation procedure.
Irrigated tip catheters were the most prevalent catheters, used in 2053 procedures (60.4%; 225 with contact forcesensing technology), followed by 8-mm tip catheters (34.9%) and 4-mm tip catheters (4.3%).
A navigation system was used in 26% of procedures and 14.1% of the total were performed without fluoroscopy.

Accessory Pathways

Accessory pathways were again the fourth most targeted
substrate, treated in 91 centers, with a slight increase in absolute
number after several years of decline. In total, 1902 procedures
were performed (mean, 20.9 ± 17.2; range, 2-88). Success was
achieved in 90% of procedures and 33 centers reported a 100% success
rate.
Data were available on the conduction direction of 1784 of the
accessory pathways, and bidirectional conduction was again the
most frequent presentation in electrophysiology laboratories
(820, 46%), followed by concealed pathways (632; 35.4%),
whereas there were 332 exclusively anterograde conduction
pathways (18.6%). Regarding their locations, left-sided accessory
pathways continue to predominate (49.5%), followed by
inferoseptal (27.8%), right ventricular free wall (12%), and
para-Hisian (10.6%) pathways.
Nonfluoroscopic navigation systems were used in 16.2% and 5%
of the total were performed without fluoroscopy.
Regarding the approach used in the ablation of left-sided
pathways, the preference was for the retrograde aortic approach
(68.3%); the remainder were transseptal (31.7%)
The success rate was 97.4% for left ventricular free wall
pathways, 93.7% for inferoseptal, 91.8% for para-Hisian/ante-
roseptal, and 86.9% for right ventricular free wall.
There were 29 major complications (1.5%): 12 pericardial
effusions, 10 vascular complications, 1 acute myocardial infarction,
1 systemic embolism, 1 AVB, 1 mitral insufficiency, 1 pulmonary
thromboembolism, 1 hematoma, and 1 pericardial puncture
during transseptal puncture without effusion.

Atrophicventricular Nodal Reentrant Tachycardia

AVNRT has ceased to be, probably definitively, the most treated
substrate and now occupies third place, despite 371 more
procedures than in the previous registry. A total of 3429 AVNRT
ablation procedures (22.4% of the total) were performed in
97 hospitals.
The mean number of procedures was 34.9 ± 24.7 (range, 2-122),
with a success rate of 98.6%; 77% of centers reported a 100% success
rates. Twelve major complications were reported (0.3%); 4 AVBs
Most ablations (65.4%) were performed with 4-mm tip ablation catheters, although the use of irrigated tip catheters increased to 27.3%; of these, 39 had contact forcesensing technology. The other catheters used were cryoablation catheters (6.2%) and 8-mm tip catheters (1.3%).

**Atrioventricular Node Ablation**

The number remained stable with 700 ablations performed in 81 centers. Success was achieved in 96% of cases. Only 2 complications were reported (0.3%), 1 vascular and the other due to the onset of heart failure. Catheters other than the standard 4-mm tip catheter were used in 233 procedures (33.3%): 144 irrigated tip catheters and 88 8-mm tip catheters, with cryomodulation of the atrioventricular node attempted on 1 occasion.

**Focal Atrial Tachycardia**

In all, 429 FAT ablation procedures (3%) were performed in 78 centers, with a success rate of 86%. The available data on location (412 procedures) showed that this substrate was located in the right atrium in 310 cases (with an 87.4% success rate) and in the left atrium in 131 (90.2% success rate). Complications developed in 6 cases (1.4%), 0.7% due to vascular complications, 0.2% due to AVBs, 0.2% due to pericardial effusions, and 0.2% due to pericarditis without effusion.

A total of 142 4-mm tip catheters and 13 8-mm tip catheters were used, but irrigated tip catheters predominated with a continual increase vs previous registries; in 2017, these catheters were used in 61.3% of procedures, with a high number of catheters with contact forcesensing technology (91 catheters).

A navigation system was used in 56.6% of procedures; 7.2% of the total were performed without fluoroscopy.

**Macreentrant Atrial Tachycardia/Atypical Atrial Flutter**

This ablation target was treated in 58 centers (59.2%), with 538 procedures (3.5% of the total) in 443 patients (mean, 5.4; range, 0-123). The number of procedures performed on this substrate has increased each year: 80 more cases and 4 more

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**Table 2**

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RN, registered nurse; RT, radiologic technologist.

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**Figure 3.** Changes in catheter ablation success rates since 2011 by the substrate treated. AF, atrial fibrillation; AP, accessory pathway; AVN, atrioventricular node; AVNRT, atrioventricular nodal reentrant tachycardia; CTI, cavitricuspid isthmus; FAT, focal atrial tachycardia; IVT, idiopathic ventricular tachycardia; MAT, macroreentrant atrial tachycardia; VT-AMI, ventricular tachycardia associated with acute myocardial infarction; VT-NAMI, ventricular tachycardia not associated with acute myocardial infarction.
centers vs the 2016 registry. The procedure was successful in 76% of cases. The left atrium was the most frequently treated location (234 procedures), with a 76.5% success rate; 134 procedures were performed in the right atrium, successfully in 93.3%. Regarding the information available on the substrate underlying the MAT: 122 cases (40.9%) were secondary to AF ablation, 70 to atrial fibrillation, 61 to congenital heart disease (23.5%), 45 to atriotomy (15.1%), and 61 to others (20.5%).

![Figure 4](image-url) Percentage of catheter ablation-related complications since 2009 by the substrate treated. AF, atrial fibrillation; AP, accessory pathway; AVN, atrioventricular node; AVNRT, atrioventricular nodal reentrant tachycardia; CTI, cavotricuspid isthmus; FAT, focal atrial tachycardia; IVT, idiopathic ventricular tachycardia; MAT, macroreentrant atrial tachycardia; VT-AMI, ventricular tachycardia associated with acute myocardial infarction; VT-NAMI, ventricular tachycardia not associated with acute myocardial infarction.

![Figure 5](image-url) Relative frequency of the different ablation targets treated by catheter ablation in Spain in 2017 (15,284 procedures). The change in the number of cases compared with the previous registry (13,482 procedures) is also shown for each ablation target, expressed as number of cases. AF, atrial fibrillation; AP, accessory pathway; AVN, atrioventricular node; AVNRT, atrioventricular nodal reentrant tachycardia; CTI, cavotricuspid isthmus; FAT, focal atrial tachycardia; IVT, idiopathic ventricular tachycardia; MAT, macroreentrant atrial tachycardia; VT-AMI, ventricular tachycardia associated with acute myocardial infarction; VT-NAMI, ventricular tachycardia not associated with acute myocardial infarction.
Figure 6. Changes in the relative frequency of different ablation targets treated since 2007. AF, atrial fibrillation; AP, accessory pathway; AT, atrial tachycardia (focal and atypical flutter); AVN, atrioventricular node; AVNRT, atrioventricular nodal reentrant tachycardia; CTI, cavotricuspid isthmus; VT, ventricular tachycardia.

Figure 7. Number of electrophysiology laboratories treating each of the different ablation targets. AF, atrial fibrillation; AP, accessory pathway; AVN, atrioventricular node; AVNRT, atrioventricular nodal reentrant tachycardia; CTI, cavotricuspid isthmus; FAT, focal atrial tachycardia; IVT, idiopathic ventricular tachycardia; VT-AMI, ventricular tachycardia associated with acute myocardial infarction; VT-NAMI, ventricular tachycardia not associated with acute myocardial infarction.

The most used catheters were conventional irrigated tip catheters (38.9%) and irrigated tip catheters with contact forcesensing technology (37.4%); the other types were rarely used. A navigation system was used in 51.5% of procedures; of these, 3.5% of the total were performed without the use of fluoroscopy.

There were 12 nonfatal complications (2.2%): 7 femoral vascular complications, 3 pericardial effusions, and 1 ABV.

Atrial Fibrillation

For the first year, AF was the most targeted substrate, with 3457 procedures (22.6%) in 3103 patients, spread over 74 centers (75.5%). These data reflect the recent trend for a progressive increase and represent an increase of 504 ablations and 9 centers treating this ablation target vs the previous registry (2016). The mean number of procedures per center was 32.3 (range, 0-199), with a success rate of 93.8%.

More than 50 procedures were performed in 23 centers (31% of the total); of these, 8 centers performed more than 100 procedures (10.8%). According to the type of AF and the available data, paroxysmal AF was the most treated ablation target, with a total of 1912 procedures. The participating centers reported 787 procedures for persistent AF and 120 procedures for long-standing (> 1 year) persistent AF.

Electrical isolation of the pulmonary veins was the most common procedure, performed in 2877 cases (95.6%), with a success rate of 97%, as well as reduction of the antral electrogram in 4%, successful in 100%; placement of left atrial lines in 3.4%, successful in 95.7%; complex fractionated electrogram ablation in 0.5%, successful in 94.4%; superior vena cava isolation in 3.8%, successful in 97.7%; and other objectives in 14 procedures (including 3 magnetic resonance-guided scar ablations and 2 atrial appendage isolations performed with posterior box isolation).

The most widely used technique for AF ablation procedures continues to be point-to-point radiofrequency ablation, with 2171 procedures (62.9%). Cryoablation was in second place with 1235 procedures (35.8%), representing a 5% increase vs the previous registry. Other procedures represented a minority, such as multielectrode radiofrequency catheter ablation (9.9%) and laser ablation (0.4%).
The most commonly used catheter in point-to-point ablation was the irrigated tip ablation catheter and contact force sensor (72.3% in this type of procedure). The remainder comprised conventional irrigated tip catheters, 1.2% of them with microelectrodes. There was another increase in the use of steerable sheaths, with 26.9% of all procedures in 31 centers vs 23.3% in the previous registry. The use of intracardiac echocardiography continues to be negligible: 304 procedures (8.8%).

Three-dimensional navigation was used for this ablation target in 61.8% of the procedures. Several centers reported the use of “minimal fluoroscopy” and have even described procedures performed completely without fluoroscopy.

A total of 124 complications were recorded (3.6%, slightly lower than the 3.9% of the previous year) subdivided as follows: vascular complications (39; 1.1%), pericardial effusion/cardiac tamponade (37; 1.1%), stroke (11; 0.3%), phrenic nerve palsy (19; 0.5%), and infarction/angina (3; 0.1%). Additionally reported were 2 air embolisms (with ST-segment elevation), 2 cases of pulmonary vein stenosis requiring stent dilatation or placement, 2 atrioseptal fistulas 1 left atrial appendage perforation (requiring surgery), 1 atrial free wall perforation during transseptal puncture (which also required surgery), 1 hemoptysis, 1 fistula between the coronary cusp and right atrium, 1 coronary spasm with secondary ventricular fibrillation, 1 esophageal perforation during transseptal/dilatation (in the left atrium during transseptal puncture, recovered with a loop, and 1 esophageal hematoma with internal hemorrhage resulting in death. Of the 2 cases of fistula, 1 died due to massive digestive bleeding during transseophageal echocardiography a few days after the procedure; the other patient underwent surgical repair, but experienced severe neurological sequelae.

**Idiopathic Ventricular Tachycardia**

In total, 600 IVT ablation procedures (3.9%) were performed in 548 patients and 72 centers (mean, 6.1; range, 0–24). A successful outcome was achieved in 81.5% (81.1% in 2016). The type of ventricular tachycardia (VT) targeted was known for 95%; 292 of the right ventricular outflow tract, 107 of the left ventricular outflow tract, 52 originating from the aorto root/aortic cusps, 41 fascicular tachycardias, and 24 originating from the coronary/pericardial sinus. Other origins described in lesser proportion were the papillary muscles, lateral mitral ring, and ventricular free wall. The most successful ablation tachycardias were those originating from the right ventricular outflow tract and fascicular tachycardias (92.5% and 90.2%, respectively), with a lower success rate in those originating from the aorto root/coronary cusps, left ventricular outflow tract, and epicardial/coronary sinus (78.8%, 76.6%, and 50%).

Irrigated tip catheters were used in 88.6% of the cases reported: conventional in 46% and contact forcensing in 42.6%. The 4-mm tip catheter was used in 8.3% and the use of other types of catheter was negligible. Fluoroscopy was not used in 3.5% of the procedures.

There were 18 complications (3%): 9 effusions/tamponades, 5 vascular complications, 2 acute coronary syndromes, 1 AVB, and 1 coronary spasm.

**Ventricular Tachycardia Associated With Myocardial Infarction**

The total number of VT-AMI ablation procedures slightly increased, reaching 531 procedures (3.5%) in 438 patients (mean, 5.4; range, 0–33). The type of ablation performed was reported for 89.8% of the cases: 101 with a “standard” approach and 376 with a substrate approach (a slight increase vs the previous year). The overall success rate was 78.7% (slightly lower than that reported in 2016 and 2015: 83.1% and 80.0%, respectively).

A high number of cases are still performed with an exclusively endocardial approach (89.9%). Consequently, the number of procedures with an epicardial or combined (endocardial and epicardial) approach continues to fall, with 43 procedures with a combined approach (8.9%) and 6 with a combined epicardial approach (1.2%). The rate of procedures with an exclusively epicardial approach continues to decline (8.7% in 2015, 4.9% in 2016, and 1.2% in the current registry) and there was a slight uptick in procedures with a combined approach (from 7.6% in 2016 to 8.9% in 2017).

Regarding the endocardial approach, retroaortic access continues to predominate and was used in 261 procedures (59.9%). An irrigated tip ablation catheter was the most popular choice for VT-AMI ablations (93.7%), of which 66.5% were contact forcensing catheters. Steerable sheaths were used in 24.3%.

The following complications (44; 7.3%) were reported: 14 pericardial effusions (2.3%), 11 vascular complications (1.8%), 10 heart failure events (1.7%), 3 AVBs (0.4%), 2 embolic episodes (0.4%), and 1 pleural cavity puncture during an attempted epicardial approach (0.2%). Three deaths (0.5%) were reported: in 1 case, tamponade occurred due to coronary sinus perforation, prolonged cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and surgery with sternotomy; the patient died at 48 hours due to cardiogenic shock. The second patient experienced electromechanical dissociation secondary to rapid VT induction after ablation completion. Finally, the third patient had refractory heart failure after 2 failed attempted incessant VT ablation procedures.

**Ventricular Tachycardia Not Associated With Myocardial Infarction**

A total of 249 VT-NAMI ablation procedures were performed (1.6%) in 48 laboratories (52.2%) (mean, 2.5; range, 0–37). The type of VT substrate was specified in 212 cases: 105 in nonischemic dilated cardiomyopathy (68.6% success rate), 34 in arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy (82.4% success rate), 37 in congenital heart diseases (86.5% success rate), 10 bundle branch reentrant VTs (100% success rate), and 15 reported as being of “another type” (80% success rate), which included 6 cases of valvular heart disease, 2 after myocarditis, 1 in Chagas disease, and 1 in Brugada syndrome.

Regarding the approach used for these ablation targets, there was greater use of the epicardial or combined (endocardial and epicardial) approach vs VT-AMI procedures, similar to the previous registry. In total, 21 procedures were exclusively performed with an epicardial approach (8.4%) and 42 with a combined endocardial and epicardial approach (16.9%).

The most used catheter type was the irrigated tip (93.4%), with contact forcensing technology used in most (53.7%). There were 15 complications (6%), divided into 3 effusions/tamponades (1.2%), 3 heart failure events (1.2%), 2 AVBs (0.8%), 1 peripheral embolism (0.4%), 1 myocardial infarction (0.4%), and 3 “others” (1.2%): 1 pulmonary thromboembolism, 1 arrhythmic storm during ablation, and 1 pneumothorax. Two deaths were reported: an iniprocedural arrhythmic storm and an electromechanical dissociation in a patient with dilated cardiomyopathy.

**Zero-fluoroscopy Ablation**

The use of nonfluoroscopic navigation systems was reported in 5388 procedures (35%). Such navigation systems were most commonly used for point-by-point pulmonary vein isolation (61.8% of the procedures).
DISCUSSION

Although its use has been mostly complementary to fluoroscopy, the percentage of zero-fluoroscopy procedures has continued to increase, reaching 6% (3.5% in 2016).18,19

As in the previous registry, the ablation target most commonly treated without fluoroscopy was the CTI (14.1% of all CTI ablations). At the other extreme, TV-AMI was not ablated at any time without fluoroscopy.

Ablations in Pediatric Patients

The registry recorded 347 ablation procedures (2.3% of the total number) in 34 centers; the most frequent ablation target was the accessory pathways (69.7%), representing 12.7% of the total number of ablations performed of this target. The data on the other procedures are shown in Figure 8.

CONCLUSIONS

The Spanish Catheter Ablation Registry continues to systematically record the ablation procedures performed in Spain and its track record and consistency make it the only such registry of its kind. The numbers of procedures and centers reached a historic peak this year, with very high success rates and low percentages of complications. The high participation means that the registry continues to represent the current situation of this procedure in Spain.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Once again, the coordinators of the registry would like to thank all of the participants in the Spanish Catheter Ablation Registry for voluntarily and selflessly submitting their procedural data. We again thank Cristina Plaza for her excellent and indispensable administrative work.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.
## APPENDIX 1. REGISTRY COLLABORATORS


## APPENDIX 2. ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY LABORATORIES PARTICIPATING IN THE 2017 SPANISH CATHETER ABLATION REGISTRY BY AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY AND PROVINCE

### Andalusia

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<td>Hospital Universitario Puerta del Mar (Lucas Cano-Calabria)</td>
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<td>Granada</td>
<td>Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de Granada, Hospital Inmaculada (Miguel Álvarez-López)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huelva</td>
<td>Hospital Juan Ramón Jiménez, Hospital Costa de la Luz (Pablo Moriña)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Córdoba</td>
<td>Hospital Reina Sofia (Francisco Mazuelos)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Málaga</td>
<td>Hospital Clínico Universitario Virgen de la Victoria, Hospital El Ángel, Vithas Parque San Antonio, Vithas Xanit Internacional, Hospital Quirón Málaga, Hospital Quirón Salud Marbella, Vithas Internacional Benalmádena (Albeto Barrera-Cordero)</td>
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<td>Sevilla</td>
<td>Hospital Virgen Macarena (Rocio Cózar); Hospital Nisa Aljarafe (Ernesto Díaz-Infante); Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocío (Alfonso Pedrote); Hospital Universitario Virgen de Valme (Ricardo Pavón Jiménez); Hospital Quirón Sevilla, Hospital Infanta Luisa (Juan Manuel Fernández-Gómez)</td>
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<td>Hospital Universitario Miguel Servet, Hospital Quirón Salud Zaragoza (Antonio Asso); Hospital Clínico Universitario Lozano Blesa (Gonzalo Rodrigo-Trallero)</td>
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<td>Hospital Son Lázzer (Santiago Magnani); Hospital Universitario Son Espases (María del Carmen Expósito-Pineda); Clínica Rotger, Quirón Palmapiñanas (Nelson Alvaralenga); Grupo Juareda (Ivo Roca)</td>
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<td>Hospital Santa Catalina (Juan Carlos Rodríguez-Pérez); Hospital Universitario Dr. Neigrín (Eduardo Caballero-Dorta); Hospital Perpetuo Socorro (Pablo Ruiz Hernández); Hospital Insular de Gran Canaria (Federico Segura)</td>
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### Castile and Leon

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<td>Hospital Universitario de Bellvitge (Ignasi Anguera); Hospital Clín (Lluís Mont); Clínica Teknon (Enrique Rodríguez-Font); Hospital Germans Trias i Pujol (Axel Sarrias); Hospital Vall d’Hebron (Nuria Rivas-Gándara); Clínica Corachán Barcelona (José M. Guerra-Ramos); Clínica Sagrada Familia, Hospital Quirón Dexeus (Ángel Moya-e-Mitjans); Hospital Mútua de Terrassa (Sonia Ibars); Hospital Sant Joan de Déu (Georgia Sarquella-Brugada); Hospital del Mar (Jesús Jiménez); Hospital Universitario de Sabadell (Jordi Punti-Sala); Hospital de la Santa Creu y Sant Pau (Concepción Alonso)</td>
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<td>Tarragona</td>
<td>Hospital Juan XXIII (Sandra Cabrera)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lleida</td>
<td>Hospital Arnau de Vilanova (Miguel Jauregui)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girona</td>
<td>Clínica Girona (Josep Brugada)</td>
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APPENDIX 2. (Continued)

Valencian Community

Alicante
Hospital Universitario de San Juan de Alicante (José Moreno-Arribas); Hospital General Universitario de Alicante (José Luis Ibáñez-Criado); CardioRitmo-Levante (Alícia Ibáñez-Criado).

Castellón
Hospital General Universitario de Castellón (Josep Navarro Manchón).

Valencia
Hospital La Fe (Joaquín Osca); Hospital Universitario de Valencia (Aurelio Quesada); Hospital Clínico de Valencia (Ángel Martínez-Brotons); Hospital de Manises (Pau Alonso-Fernández); Hospital Universitario de la Ribera (Santiago Heras-Herreros); Hospital Dr. Peset (Claudia Cabadés).

Extremadura

Badajoz
Hospital Infanta Cristina (Manuel Dobladillo).

Cáceres
Hospital San Pedro de Alcántara (Rosa Porro-Fernández).

Galicia

A Coruña
Complejo Hospitalario Universitario de A Coruña (Luisa Pérez-Alvarez); Hospital Clínico Universitario de Santiago de Compostela (José Luis Martínez-Sande).

Pontevedra
Hospital Álvaro Cunqueiro (Pilar Cabanas-Granado).

Lugo
Hospital Lucus Augusti (Juliana Elies).

Community of Madrid

Hospital Universitario Ramón y Cajal (Javier Moreno-Planas); Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre (Adolfo Fontenla); Hospital Sanitas La Moraleja (Roberto Matía-Francés); Hospital Universitario de Getafe (Agustín Pastor); HM Hospitales (Jesús Almendral); Hospital Puerta de Hierro (Víctor Castro-Uría); Hospital La Paz (Rafael Peinado); Hospital Infantil La Paz (Martha Ortega-Molina); Hospital Clínico San Carlos (Nicasio Pérez-Castellano); Fundación Hospital de Alcorcón (Elena Esteban-Paul); Fundación Jiménez Diaz (José Manuel Rubio-Campal); Hospital Severo Ochoa (Ángel Grande); Hospital La Luz (Juan Benezet-Mazuzeco); Hospital de Móstoles-Rey Juan Carlos (Federico Gómez-Pulido); Hospital Universitario de Torrejón (Carla Lázaro Rivera).

Region of Murcia

Hospital Virgen de la Arrixaca (Arcadio García-Alberola); Hospital Santa Lucía (Ignacio Gil-Ortega).

Chartered Community of Navarre
Complejo Hospitalario de Navarra (Javier Martínez-Basterria); Clínica Universidad de Navarra (Gabriel Ballesteros).

Basque Country

Vizcaya
Hospital de Cruces (Andrés Bodegas-Cañas); Hospital de Basurto (María Fe Arcocha-Torres).

Álava
Hospital Txagorritxu (Javier Pindado).

La Rioja
Hospital Viamed Los Manzanos (F. Javier García-Fernández).

The physician in charge of the registry in each center is indicated in parentheses.

REFERENCES