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Collateral findings during CT scan for atrial fibrillation ablation: Let's take a look around

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Abstract

The growing number of atrial fibrillation catheter ablation procedures warranted the development of advanced cardiac mapping techniques, such as image integration between electroanatomical map and cardiac computed tomography. While scanning the chest before catheter ablation, it is frequent to detect cardiac and extracardiac collateral findings. Most collateral findings are promptly recognized as benign and do not require further attention. However, sometimes clinically relevant collateral findings are detected, which often warrant extra diagnostic examinations or even invasive procedure, and sometimes need to be followed up over time. Even though reporting and further investigating collateral findings has not shown a clear survival benefit, almost all the working groups providing data on collateral findings reported some collateral findings eventually coming out to be malignancies, sometimes at an early stage. Therefore, there is currently no clear agreement about the right strategy to be followed.

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Atrial fibrillation is an irregular heartbeat which originates in the upper chambers of the heart ... The areas inside and **around** the pulmonary veins generate 80% of **atrial fibrillation**. ... Usually the day before the **ablation**, a **CT scan** of the heart is performed. ... Many people have **atrial fibrillation during** the recovery period.
缺少字词: collateral findings

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It enables the physician to **take** angiograms, record blood flow, calculate ... openings between the atria (upper chambers), called **atrial** septal defects. ... **during** cardiac catheterization, the procedure is considered therapeutic as well as diagnostic. ... the heart; the left circumflex coronary artery wraps **around** and supplies the ...

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