

AperTO - Archivio Istituzionale Open Access dell'Università di Torino

J-wave duration and slope as potential tools to discriminate between benign and malignant early repolarization

This is the author's manuscript

Original Citation:

Availability:

This version is available <http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1617071> since 2016-11-27T21:50:23Z

Published version:

DOI:10.1016/j.hrthm.2015.11.029

Terms of use:

Open Access

Anyone can freely access the full text of works made available as "Open Access". Works made available under a Creative Commons license can be used according to the terms and conditions of said license. Use of all other works requires consent of the right holder (author or publisher) if not exempted from copyright protection by the applicable law.

(Article begins on next page)

This Accepted Author Manuscript (AAM) is copyrighted and published by Elsevier. It is posted here by agreement between Elsevier and the University of Turin. Changes resulting from the publishing process - such as editing, corrections, structural formatting, and other quality control mechanisms - may not be reflected in this version of the text. The definitive version of the text was subsequently published in HEART RHYTHM, 13 (3), 2016, 10.1016/j.hrthm.2015.11.029.

You may download, copy and otherwise use the AAM for non-commercial purposes provided that your license is limited by the following restrictions:

- (1) You may use this AAM for non-commercial purposes only under the terms of the CC-BY-NC-ND license.
- (2) The integrity of the work and identification of the author, copyright owner, and publisher must be preserved in any copy.
- (3) You must attribute this AAM in the following format: Creative Commons BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/deed.en>), 10.1016/j.hrthm.2015.11.029

The publisher's version is available at:

<http://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S1547527115014368>

When citing, please refer to the published version.

Link to this full text:

<http://hdl.handle.net/2318/1617071>

Author's Accepted Manuscript

J Wave Duration and Slope as Potential Tools to Discriminate Between Benign and Malignant Early Repolarization

Yvonne Cristoforetti MD, Luigi Biasco MD, Carla Giustetto, Ole De Backer MD PhD, Davide Castagno MD, Piero Astegiano MD, Gianpasquale Ganzit MD, Carlo Gabriele Gribaudo MD, Marco Moccetti MD, Fiorenzo Gaita MD



www.elsevier.com/locate/buildenv

PII: S1547-5271(15)01436-8
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.hrthm.2015.11.029>
Reference: HRTM6520

To appear in: *Heart Rhythm*

Cite this article as: Yvonne Cristoforetti MD, Luigi Biasco MD, Carla Giustetto, Ole De Backer MD PhD, Davide Castagno MD, Piero Astegiano MD, Gianpasquale Ganzit MD, Carlo Gabriele Gribaudo MD, Marco Moccetti MD, Fiorenzo Gaita MD, J Wave Duration and Slope as Potential Tools to Discriminate Between Benign and Malignant Early Repolarization, *Heart Rhythm*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.hrthm.2015.11.029>

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting galley proof before it is published in its final citable form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

**J wave duration and slope as potential tools to discriminate between
benign and malignant Early Repolarization**

Running title: Is J wave amplitude the J key to Early Repolarization?

Yvonne Cristoforetti^{1*},MD; Luigi Biasco^{1,4*},MD; Carla Giustetto¹, Ole De Backer²,
MD PhD; Davide Castagno¹, MD; Piero Astegiano³,MD; Gianpasquale
Ganzit³,MD; Carlo Gabriele Gribaudo³,MD; Marco Moccetti⁴,MD; Fiorenzo
Gaita¹,MD.

1. University of Turin, Department of Medical Science, Division of Cardiology, Città della Salute e della Scienza Hospital, Turin.
2. The Heart Centre. Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark.
3. Institute of Sports Medicine, Turin.
4. Fondazione Cardiocentro Ticino, University of Zurich, Lugano, Switzerland.

*Both authors equally contributed to this work.

Correspondence to:

Dott. Luigi Biasco

University of Turin, Department of Medical Science, Division of Cardiology,
Città della Salute e della Scienza Hospital

C.so Bramante 88, 10126. Torino, Italy.

Phone: + 39 011 6335571

Fax: + 39 011 6336769

E-mail: luigi.biasco@gmail.com

Conflict of interest: none to disclose

Key words: Early repolarization syndrome; athlete; sudden cardiac death; J point elevation.

Abbreviations:

ER : Early Repolarization

SQTS: Short QT syndrome

LQTS: Long QT syndrome

Accepted manuscript

Introduction

Interest towards Early Repolarization (ER) rose after the theoretical proposal¹ and the clinical demonstration² that certain electrocardiographic patterns characterized by an elevation of the J point were associated with an increased risk of sudden cardiac death in otherwise healthy individuals. Previous studies showed that only the rare pattern characterized by a significant J point elevation (≥ 2 mm) in the inferior leads associated with a slurred J wave and a horizontal/descending ST segment was associated with an increased risk of death (whether arrhythmic, from cardiac or any cause).³⁻⁶ Whether this pattern may constitute a real primary arrhythmic disorder rather than a predisposing substrate facilitating arrhythmias during ischemic episodes is still a matter of debate.

Moreover, those findings are somehow in contrast with the clinical evidence of patients presenting with idiopathic ventricular fibrillation and several different morphologies of the J wave and ST segment, questioning what is the real ECG marker able to distinguish between a malignant and a benign form of ER.

Thus, the aim of the present study is to compare the amplitude of J waves by measuring slope and duration in ER syndrome patients and healthy athletes with ECG evidence of J point elevation associated with J wave and to evaluate

its potential role as an electrocardiographic marker of increased arrhythmic risk.

Methods

Cases

A systematic review was performed to select those manuscripts reporting good quality, undistorted, preferably 12 leads ECG tracings of patients with episodes of idiopathic ventricular fibrillation and ECG evidence of J point elevation associated with J wave commonly accepted and referenced in contemporary works as patients with ER syndrome.

Only manuscripts reporting data and ECG of patients with isolated ER syndrome, not associated with any other form of congenital (Brugada syndrome, SQTS, LQTS, structural heart disease) or acquired causes of J point elevation (ER in the setting of acute myocardial ischemia) were taken into account.

Ovid MEDLINE, PubMed, CENTRAL, and Excerpta Medica (EMBASE) were searched up to February 2014 for suitable works, bibliographies of pertinent articles were also reviewed to search for relevant publications.

Detailed references of the selected manuscripts and tracings are reported in table 1. For all cases, the index clinical event was obtained through the

manuscript while J wave's morphology, localization, entity of J point elevation, were derived from available data (description and/or ECG) while duration and slope of the J wave were electronically measured from the published ECG tracings with an electronic caliper by two independent cardiologists. For both athletes and cases the (available) lead showing the wider J wave was chosen for measurements.

Controls

Controls were selected from our database comprising clinical, electrocardiographic, echocardiographic and long term follow up data of 338 male professional elite athletes, members of soccer clubs participating in the Italian national football championships, who were screened for a first pre-participation evaluation between June 1980 and April 2008 at the Turin Institute of Sport Medicine. A detailed description of this population was previously published.²⁷

Briefly, the incidence of J point elevation in this population was 35.6% and at a median follow up of 13.3 years no episodes of sudden cardiac death were observed.

From this initial population only subjects with a significant J point elevation ($\geq 0.2\text{mV}$) and evidence of J wave either with a notched or a slurred appearance, whatever the morphology of the ST segment

(horizontal/descending or ascending), were selected. A J point elevation $\geq 0.2\text{mV}$ was selected as an inclusion criteria in both cases and controls in order to obtain reliable measurements of the slope and duration of the J wave. Subjects with the traditional form of early repolarization characterized by J point elevation and upward displacement of the ST segment but without evidence of J wave were excluded.

ECG analysis.

All electrocardiograms were digitally acquired and analyzed by two independent reviewers who were blinded to all subjects characteristics. In ambiguous cases final adjudication was achieved by consensus with a third reviewer.

All measurements were performed using a digital caliper and protractor at a 400% magnification.

Measurements were performed following the recent recommendations on J point identification and measurement provided by the consensus paper published in July 2015 by Macfarlane et al. in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology²⁸.

In both cases and controls the duration of the J wave was measured as the interval comprised between the J point (J onset or J_o) and the intersection of the tangent to the J wave with the isoelectric line or the change of slope of the J wave into the ST/T wave, whatever come first. To assess the slope of the J wave, the “J angle” (the angle between an ideal line drawn from the J point (J_o point) perpendicular to the isoelectric line and the tangent to the J wave) was digitally measured. Angle measurements are expressed in sexagesimal degrees ($^\circ$). A graphic description of how measurements were performed is provided in figure 1.

According to previously proposed morphological classifications of J waves, a *notched J wave* was defined by the presence of a sharp and well-defined hump immediately after the R-wave, while a *slurred J wave* was identified when the QRS-ST transition was characterized by a change in the slope of the terminal portion of the R wave.^{3,4} To estimate the entity of J point elevation the height of the J_o point was measured, with the isoelectric line considered as a baseline.

Statistical analysis

Descriptive analysis was performed using mean \pm standard deviation for continuous variables and counts and percentages for categorical variables. Comparisons between groups were performed with the Student’s t-Test, one way ANOVA and Yates corrected or uncorrected Chi-squared method when

appropriate. All probability values were considered to be significant at a value \leq 0.05. All the analyses were performed with SPSS software (SPSS, Chicago, IL).

Results

Out of 1523 papers evaluated only 21 works reported original, non-distorted, interpretable ECG tracings of 27 different patients with idiopathic ventricular fibrillation due to early repolarization syndrome.

Table 1 reports the clinical and ECG data obtained from original reports.

Out of 338 healthy, professional top series football players only 24 showed a J point elevation ≥ 0.2 mV (and a clearly identifiable J waves with a notched or slurred appearance). Table 2 reports the clinical characteristics of controls.

J point elevation was 0.307 ± 0.125 mV in cases and 0.269 ± 0.103 mV in controls ($p=0.243$) with a wide overlap of measurements between the two populations (Fig 2, left panel).

Cases showed a significantly longer duration of the J waves if compared to controls (69.48 ± 27.93 vs 35.05 ± 10.33 ms; $p < 0.001$). None of the controls showed a duration greater than 60 ms while 15 out of 27 cases (55.5%) showed a J wave duration longer than 60 ms (Fig 2, central panel).

When compared to controls, cases showed a significantly wider J angle ($32.59\pm 10.4^\circ$ vs $20.00\pm 6.84^\circ$; $p<0.001$), with only 2 out of 24 controls (8.3%) showing a J angle $>30^\circ$ (Fig 2, right panel).

Figure 3 shows the plot of J wave duration as expressed in millimeters (horizontal axis) and J angle (vertical axis). As shown in the graph controls, characterized by a short and steep J waves, are clusterized in the left inferior corner. None of the healthy athletes showed a duration longer than 60 ms in combination with an angle greater than 30° . On the other hand, cases showed a wide dispersion of measurements. Few of them had a short and steep J wave, while the majority showed, alone or in combination, a long and delayed J wave.

Discussion

The main finding of this work is that patients reported in contemporary literature with episodes of idiopathic ventricular fibrillation deemed to be related to ER syndrome show a slow and delayed J wave if compared to healthy controls, representing a new potential tool to discriminate between benign and malignant early repolarization.

Despite the recent rise of interest, clear electrocardiographic criteria to stratify the arrhythmic risk of subjects with ER are still missing. Several previous retrospective, population based works identified the rare pattern characterized by significant J point elevation (≥ 0.2 mV) in the inferior leads

concomitant with a J wave and a horizontal/descending ST segment as associated with an increased risk of (late) death, from cardiac or any cause. Subjects with a slurred J wave showed an increased risk if compared to those with a notched J wave.⁵ Those works failed to solve the issue whether deaths were effectively related to primary arrhythmic episodes, fatal arrhythmias in the setting of ischemic events or other causes.

As for the Brugada syndrome, the electrophysiological mechanism deemed to be responsible for the arrhythmogenicity of ER is a I_{to} -mediated loss of the epicardial action potential dome causing transmural dispersion of repolarization, a trigger for phase 2 reentry mediated short coupled ventricular extra beats, a potential cause of ventricular arrhythmias.^{29,30} Thus the basic idea supporting our work is that J wave's amplitude by impacting on the persistence of the J wave (i.e. longer duration and wider angle) will prolong the transmembrane dispersion of repolarization, thus enhancing the arrhythmogenic potential.

Similarly, subjects with Brugada type II or III ecg patterns with a drug elicited type I pattern showed a delayed and slurred J wave, evident with an ample angle between the upslope of the S wave and the downslope of the r' wave as compared to subjects with a negative drug challenge, supporting the hypothesis that the amplitude of the J wave may be an effective

electrocardiographic marker of increased arrhythmic risk.³¹ To the best of our knowledge, this is the first paper to systematically describe J wave's duration and slope in patients with ER syndrome and controls with ECG evidence of ER, a characteristic that has been advocated, but not yet evaluated, as a potential marker of increased risk.³⁰

Our data are hypothesis generating: the amplitude of the J wave, regardless of the morphology (slurred/notched) or location (inferior/lateral/combined) could represent an electrocardiographic marker able to distinguish between a benign and a malignant form of ER.

Lessons learned from other primary electrical disorders such as Brugada syndrome and LQTS or other ion channel diseases taught that beside the presence of an electrocardiographic pattern, its extent and persistence may constitute a useful prognostic marker, further supporting our hypothesis.

Moreover prominent J waves are known to anticipate arrhythmic episodes in patients with ER syndrome², another evidence supporting our hypothesis.

In line with previous works, J point elevation as itself doesn't seem to play a real role as a ECG marker of increased arrhythmic risk, being slightly, but not significantly increased in cases versus controls.²⁻⁶

As evident figure 3, while controls are grouped in the right inferior corner of the plot, ER cases showed a true *disorder* of the early repolarization process,

evident as a wide dispersion of measurements. None of the controls showed a duration longer than 60 ms while a minority showed a slope greater than 30°. Only cases showed J waves >60 ms and a slope exceeding 30°, this representing a potential discriminant between a malignant and a benign form of ER that will be prospectively evaluated in a large population study planned to start in the next future.

Several limitations should be mentioned. First, the hypothesis was only derived but not yet validated in an independent large volume population. Second, the target of this work was not to definitely solve the ultimate question on how to stratify the risk of subjects with early repolarization, but rather to rise the interest toward a poorly investigated aspect such as the morphology of the J wave. Third, cases were evaluated only on ECG obtained from literature. Even if only high quality, non distorted, clearly interpretable tracing were selected, the editorial process could have introduced some minor distortions that could eventually impact on the results. Moreover, none of the evaluated works reported an accurate description of the filters used when recording the ECGs, this limitation mostly attributable to a lack of methodological accuracy of the original works. Finally, ER has both in the benign and malignant form a waxing and waning appearance, that is known to alter its electrocardiographic characteristics, and thus the evaluated parameters. Nevertheless, prominent J

waves are known forerunners of incumbent arrhythmic events, thus ultimately supporting our hypothesis.

In conclusion, this is the first paper to report the potential role of J wave's duration and slope as ECG markers of an increased arrhythmic risk. A delayed and prolonged J wave, marker of a transmural dispersion of repolarization may represent the new discriminant able to distinguish between benign and malignant ER. A prospective validation of this hypothesis is needed.

References

1. Gussak I, Antzelevitch C. Early repolarization syndrome: clinical characteristics and possible cellular and ionic mechanisms. *J Electrocardiol.* 2000; 33: 299-309.
2. Haïssaguerre M, Derval N, Sacher F et al. Sudden cardiac arrest associated with early repolarization. *N Engl J Med* 2008; 358: 2016-2023.
3. Rosso R, Kogan E, Belhassen B, Rozovski U, Scheinman MM, Zeltser D, Halkin A, Steinvil A, Heller K, Glikson M, Katz A, Viskin S. J-point elevation in survivors of primary ventricular fibrillation and matched control subjects. Incidence and clinical significance. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2008; 52 :1231-1238.

4. Tikkanen JT, Anttonen O, Junttila MJ, Aro AL, Kerola T, Rissanen HA, Reunanen A, Huikuri HV. Long term outcome associated with early repolarization on electrocardiography. *N Eng J Med* 2009; 361 :2529-2537.
5. Tikkanen JT, Junttila MJ, Anttonen O, Aro AL, Luttinen S, Kerola T, Sager SJ, Rissanen HA, Myerburg RJ, Reunanen A, Huikuri HV. Early repolarization: electrocardiographic phenotypes associated with favorable long-term outcome. *Circulation* 2011; 123 :2666-2673.
6. Rosso R, Glikson E, Belhassen B, Katz A, Halkin A, Steinvil A, Viskin S. Distinguishing “benign” from “malignant early repolarization”: the value of the ST-segment morphology. *Heart Rhythm* 2012; 9 :225-229.
7. Derval N, Simpson CS, Birnie DH et al. Prevalence and characteristics of early repolarization in the CASPER registry: cardiac arrest survivors with preserved ejection fraction registry. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2011; 58:722-728.
8. Merchant FM, Noseworthy PA, Weiner RB, Singh SM, Ruskin JN, Reddy VY. Ability of terminal QRS notching to distinguish benign from malignant electrocardiographic forms of early repolarization. *Am J Cardiol.* 2009; 104 :1402-1406.
9. Nam GB. Idiopathic ventricular fibrillation, early repolarization and other J wave-related ventricular fibrillation syndromes: from an

- electrocardiographic enigma to an electrophysiologic dogma. *Circ J.* 2012; 76 :2723-2731.
10. Riera AR, Ferreira C, Schapachnik E, Sanches PC, Moffa PJ. Brugada syndrome with atypical ECG: downsloping ST-segment elevation in inferior leads. *J Electrocardiol.* 2004;37: 101-104.
11. Watanabe H, Ohkubo K, Watanabe I, Matsuyama TA, Ishibashi-Ueda H, Yagihara N, Shimizu W, Horie M, Minamino T, Makita N. SCN5A mutation associated with ventricular fibrillation, early repolarization, and concealed myocardial abnormalities. *Int J Cardiol.* 2013; 165: e21-23.
12. Amara W, Monsel F, Salih H, Ben Youssef I, Sergent J. Recovered sudden cardiac death associated with an early repolarization syndrome: case analysis and practical aspects. *Ann Cardiol Angeiol (Paris).* 2012; 61: 379-381.
13. Sacher F, Derval N, Horlitz M, Haïssaguerre M. J wave elevation to monitor quinidine efficacy in early repolarization syndrome. *J Electrocardiol.* 2014; 47: 223-225.
14. Ohkubo K, Watanabe I, Okumura Y, Kofune M, Nagashima K, Mano H, Sonoda K, Nakai T, Kasamaki Y, Hirayama A. Prevalence of prominent J waves in patients presenting with ventricular fibrillation without structural heart disease: a single-center study. *J Cardiol.* 2012; 59: 313-320.

15. Nakagawa K, Nagase S, Morita H, Ito H. Left ventricular epicardial electrogram recordings in idiopathic ventricular fibrillation with inferior and lateral early repolarization. *Heart Rhythm*. 2014; 11: 314-317.
16. Aizawa Y, Chinushi M, Hasegawa K et al. Electrical storm in idiopathic ventricular fibrillation is associated with early repolarization. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2013; 62:1015-1019.
17. Garg A, Finneran W, Feld GK. Familial sudden cardiac death associated with a terminal QRS abnormality on surface 12-lead electrocardiogram in the index case. *J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol*. 1998; 9 :642-647.
18. Bastiaenen R, Hedley PL, Christiansen M, Behr ER. Therapeutic hypothermia and ventricular fibrillation storm in early repolarization syndrome. *Heart Rhythm*. 2010; 7: 832-834.
19. Katsuomi G, Shimizu W, Watanabe H et al. Efficacy of bepridil to prevent ventricular fibrillation in severe form of early repolarization syndrome. *Int J Cardiol*. 2014 ; 172:519-522.
20. Watanabe H, Nogami A, Ohkubo K et al. Electrocardiographic characteristics and SCN5A mutations in idiopathic ventricular fibrillation associated with early repolarization. *Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol*. 2011 ; 4: 874-881.
21. Nam GB, Ko KH, Kim J, Park KM, Rhee KS, Choi KJ, Kim YH, Antzelevitch C. Mode of onset of ventricular fibrillation in patients with early

- repolarization pattern vs. Brugada syndrome. *Eur Heart J*. 2010 Feb;31(3):330-9.
22. Hu D, Barajas-Martínez H, Terzic A et al. ABCC9 is a novel Brugada and early repolarization syndrome susceptibility gene. *Int J Cardiol*. 2014; 171: 431-442.
23. Talib AK, Sato N, Asanome A, et al. Impaired ventricular repolarization dynamics in patients with early repolarization syndrome. *J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol*. 2013; 24:556-561.
24. Shinohara T, Takahashi N, Saikawa T, Yoshimatsu H. Characterization of J wave in a patient with idiopathic ventricular fibrillation. *Heart Rhythm*. 2006; 3: 1082-1084.
25. Takagi M, Aihara N, Takaki H, Taguchi A, Shimizu W, Kurita T, Suyama K, Kamakura S. Clinical characteristics of patients with spontaneous or inducible ventricular fibrillation without apparent heart disease presenting with J wave and ST segment elevation in inferior leads. *J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol*. 2000; 11:844-848.
26. Biasco L, Cristoforetti Y, Castagno D, Giustetto C, Astegiano P, Ganzit G, Gribaudo CG, Gaita F. Clinical, electrocardiographic, echocardiographic characteristics and long-term follow-up of elite soccer players with J-point elevation. *Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol*. 2013; 6:1178-1184.

27. Benito B, Guasch E, Rivard L, Nattel S. Clinical and mechanistic issues in early repolarization of normal variants and lethal arrhythmia syndromes. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2010; 56 : 1177-1186.
28. Macfarlane PW, Antzelevitch C, Haissaguerre M, Huikuri H, Potse M, Rosso R, Sacher F, Tikkanen JT, Wellens H, Yan G. The early repolarization pattern. A consensus paper. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2015;66:470-477.
29. Gussak I, Antzelevitch C. Early repolarization syndrome: a decade of progress. *J Electrocardiol.* 2013; 46: 110-113.
30. Badri M, Patel A, Yan GX. Cellular and ionic basis of J-wave syndromes. *Trends Cardiovasc Med.* 2015;25:12-21
31. Chevallier S, Forclaz A, Tenkorang J, Ahmad Y, Faouzi M, Graf D, Schlaepfer J, Pruvot E. New electrocardiographic criteria for discriminating between Brugada types 2 and 3 patterns and incomplete right bundle branch block. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2011;58:2290-2298.

Table legends

Table 1. References, clinical and electrocardiographic characteristics of cases.

Table 2. Clinical and electrocardiographic characteristics of control athletes.

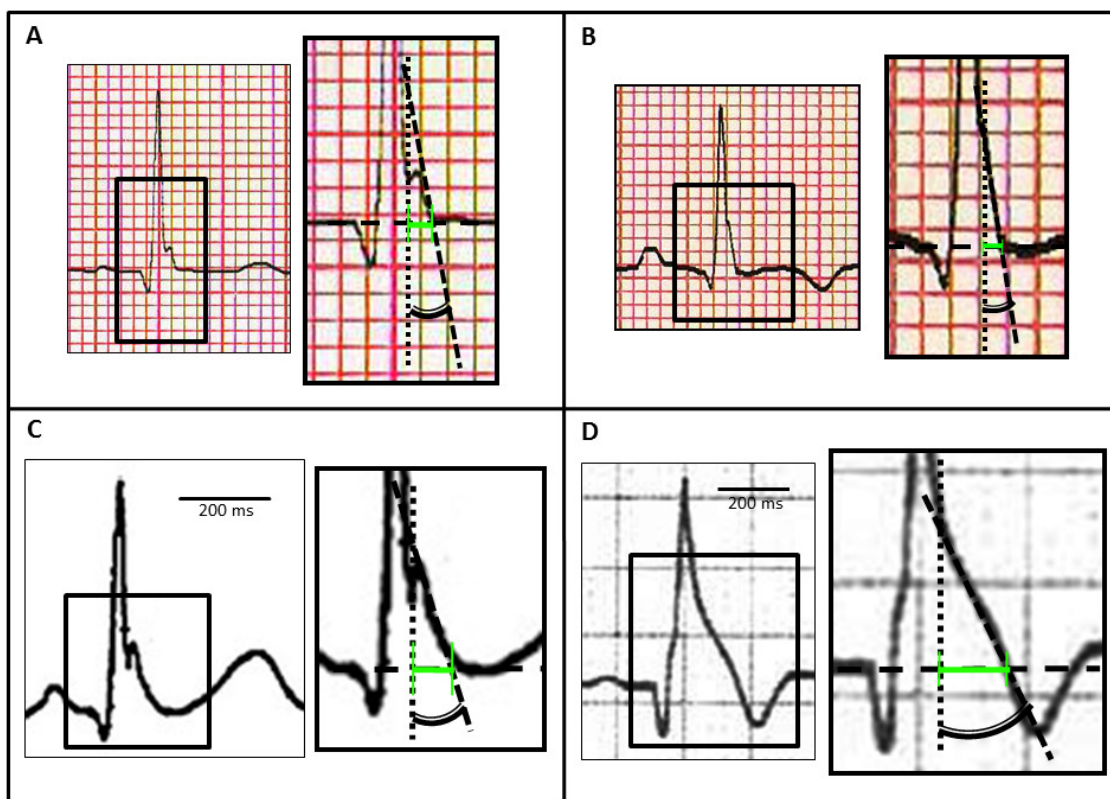
Figure legends

Figure 1. Measurement of slope and duration of the J wave. Panel A: notched J wave in a control subject; B: slurred J wave in a control subject; C notched J wave in a case; D: slurred J wave in a case.

Figure 2. Plot of J point elevation, duration and slope of the J wave in control subjects and cases.

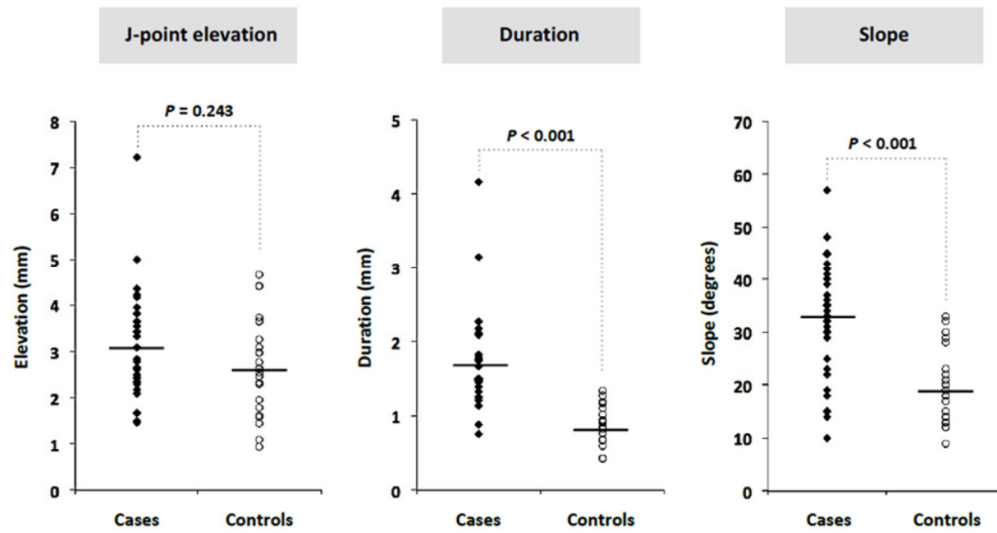
Figure 3. Scatter plot of J wave duration (mm, horizontal axis) and slope (degrees, vertical axis).

Fig 1.



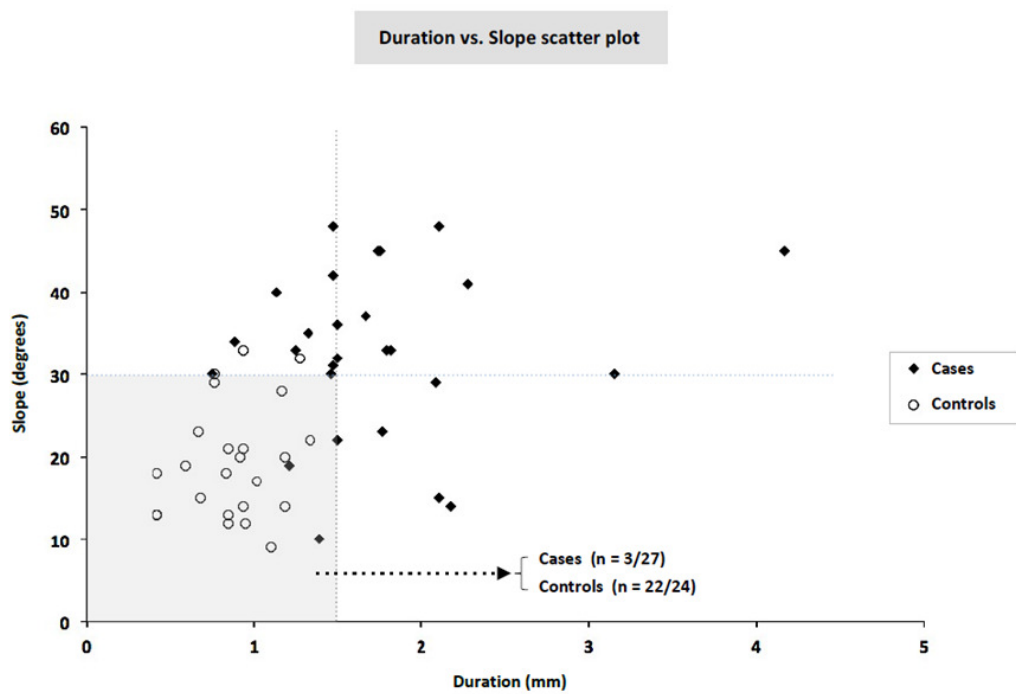
Accepted

Fig 2.



Accepted 11

Fig 3.



Accepted

Table 1. References, clinical and electrocardiographic characteristics of cases.

Subject number	Publication			Patient			J wave characteristics					H
	Author	Year	Journal	Age (years)	Event	Morphology	Localization	J point elevation (mm)	Duration (ms)	Slope (°)	Lead of measurement	
1	Haissagu	20	N Eng J		IVF	S	n.a.	3	72	33	n.a.	
2	Derval ⁷	20	JACC		IVF	NS	Inf-Lat	3	58	30	II	4
3	Derval ⁷	20	JACC	29	IVF	S	n.a.	2,5	53	35	n.a.	
4	Merchan	20	Am J		IVF	N	Lat	2	50	33	V4	
5	Merchan	20	Am J		IVF	S	Inf-Lat	2	70	45	aVF	
6	Nam ⁹	20	Circ J	53	IVF	N	Lat	3	35	34	V5	
7	Nam ⁹	20	Circ J	50	IVF	N	Lat	5	70	45	aVL	7
8	Riera ¹⁰	20	J	29	IVF	S	Inf-Lat	6	126	30	aVF	
9	Rosso ³	20	JACC		IVF	S	Inf	2	67	37	III	8
10	Rosso ³	20	JACC		IVF	S	Inf	2	60	32	aVF	7
11	Watanab	20	Int J	29	IVF	S	Inf	2	45	40	II	5
12	Amara ¹²	20	Ann	61	IVF	S	Inf-Lat	2,5	59	48	V4	6
13	Sacher ¹³	20	J	14	IVF	NS	All	4	167	45	II	
14	Ohukbo ¹	20	J Cardiol	41	IVF	N	Inf		59	31	II	
15	Ohukbo ¹	20	J Cardiol	27	IVF	N	Lat		73	33	V6	
16	Nakagaw	20	Heart	42	IVF	NS	Inf-Lat	5	84	15	V5	
17	Aizawa ¹⁶	20	JACC	34	IVF	N	Lat	4,5	87	14	V6	
18	Garg ¹⁷	19	J	18	IVF/	N	Lat	4	56	10	V5	4
19	Bastiane	20	Heart	38	IVF	N	Inf	3	83	29	III	8
20	Katsuum	20	Int J		IVF	S	Inf-Lat	1,5	30	30	V6	
21	Watanab	20	Circ	36	IVF	S	Inf	3	91	41	aVF	
22	Nam ²¹	20	Eur	31	IVF	NS	Lat	5	71	23	V4	5
23	Hu ²²	20	Int J	20	IVF	N	All	6	48	19	V6	
24	Talib ²³	20	J	57	IVF	NS	Inf-Lat	4	60	36	aVF	
25	Shinoara	20	Heart	37	IVF	N*	n.a.	3	60	22	n.a.	5
26	Takagi ²⁵	20	J	27	IVF	S	Inf	3	59	42	aVF	
27	Takagi ²⁵	20	J	29	IVF	S	Inf	3	84	48	aVF	

IVF = idiopathic ventricular fibrillation; SD = sudden death; HR = heart rate (bpm); N = notched; S = slurred; Inf =

*on showed lead; ⁵Circ Arrhythm Electrophysiol; [#]J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol.

Table 2. Clinical and electrocardiographic characteristics of control athletes.

Subject number	Age (years)	J wave characteristics						HR
		Morphology	Localization	J point elevation (mm)	Duration (ms)	Slope (°)	Lead of measurement	
1	30	N	Inf-Lat	2	33	18	II	51
2	24	N	Lat	4	41	17	II	62
3	18	S	Inf	3	34	12	aVF	50
4	23	N	Lat	2	34	21	III	40
5	25	S	Inf	3	37	20	III	41
6	28	N	Inf-Lat	2	51	32	V5	38
7	29	N	Lat	3	17	13	V4	46
8	23	N+S	Inf-Lat	4	37	21	V5	54
9	25	N+S	Inf-Lat	4	34	13	V5	44
10	16	N	Lat	3	17	18	V4	75
11	28	N+S	Inf-Lat	2	27	23	V4	52
12	25	N	Lat	3	31	30	II	75
13	33	N+S	Inf-Lat	2	47	28	II	44
14	26	N+S	Inf-Lat	4	47	20	V5	47
15	30	N+S	Inf-Lat	2	37	33	II	58
16	22	N+S	Inf-Lat	2	27	15	V6	53
17	37	N	Lat	2	24	19	V5	57
18	22	N	Lat	2	31	29	V4	63
19	28	N+S	Inf-Lat	3	17	13	V4	66
20	17	N+S	Inf	3	53	22	III	54
21	14	N	Inf	3	47	14	III	72
22	20	N	Lat	6	44	9	III	55
23	14	N	Inf	2	38	12	III	62
24	29	N	Lat	4	37	14	V4	50

HR = heart rate (bpm); N = notched; S = slurred; Inf = inferior; Lat = lateral; Inf-Lat = inferolateral