Foreword

A Matter of Definition

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Consulting Editors

By definition, “normal” hearts shouldn’t give rise to significant ventricular arrhythmias. By using the word “apparently” in the title of this issue, the editors have emphasized that hearts giving rise to ventricular arrhythmias may not be “normal,” but appear normal. Some others may use the moniker, “structurally normal,” or some other qualifier to convey the same concept when classifying these arrhythmias. In this context, “normal” implies that there is no obvious heart disease based on ventricular function, absence of structural abnormalities discernible on an echocardiogram, or evident ischemia by stress testing or coronary angiography. Some authors would exclude from this group patients with abnormal ECGs, such as long- or short-QT syndromes and Brugada syndrome, as well as patients with abnormalities seen on a cardiac MRI, such as right ventricular dysplasia or sarcoid heart disease.

“Normal” hearts may be seen in up to 10% of patients presenting with significant ventricular arrhythmias. Our understanding of these disorders has evolved considerably over the last three decades, and the arrhythmias that may be included in this discussion depend on how wide a net one wants to cast and how one wishes to categorize them. The editors have decided to focus on commonly encountered arrhythmias in clinical practice: outflow tract arrhythmias, papillary muscle arrhythmias, fascicular tachycardias, nonsustained-, polymorphic-, and exercise-induced

arrhythmias, as well as the role of genetic testing, ICDs, and the role of medical therapy and catheter ablation.

We congratulate Drs Frank M. Bogun, Thomas C. Crawford, and Rakesh Latchamsetty for editing this issue of *Cardiac Electrophysiology Clinics* and for providing a practical discussion of “arrhythmias in apparently normal hearts,” based on contemporary understanding and current clinical approaches. They have drawn from leaders in electrophysiology to discuss these important arrhythmias in order to provide authoritative reviews. We hope that the readers will find the issue helpful in broadening their understanding of these arrhythmias.

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