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## **IMAGING AND DIAGNOSTIC TESTING**

## CLINICAL AND ECHOCARDIOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF HEART FAILURE PATIENTS WITH WIDE QRS BUT WITHOUT MECHANICAL DYSSYNCHRONY AND THEIR RESPONSE TO RESYNCHRONIZATION THERAPY

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**Background:** The absence of mechanical dyssynchrony in heart failure (HF) patients with wide QRS has been associated with lack of response to resynchronization therapy (CRT).

**Methods:** We studied 298 HF patients with ejection fraction (EF)  $\leq$ 35% and QRS  $\geq$ 120ms. Dyssynchrony was defined as tissue Doppler (TDI) velocity maximum opposing wall delay in 3 apical views; ( $\geq$ 65 ms), speckle tracking radial strain anteroseptal to posterior wall delay ( $\geq$  130 ms) and/or interventricular mechanical delay (IVMD) ( $\geq$ 40 ms). EF follow up was available on 173 patients 7±6 months after CRT. Response was defined as a  $\geq$ 15% increase in EF.

**Results:** Of 298 patients, 24% had no dyssynchrony by TDI, 28% by radial strain, 54% by IVMD and only 9% had no dyssynchrony by any **Methods:** QRS in patients with and without TDI dyssynchrony were similar (160±26 vs.158±30ms, p=NS), but that was narrower in those with no radial dyssynchrony and IVMD (151±26 vs.161±27ms and 149±23 vs.172±27ms, respectively, p<0.01). Patients without dyssynchrony more often had ischemic disease (74% vs. 53% by TDI and 77% vs. 50% by radial strain, p<0.001). Patients without dyssynchrony had a significantly lower EF response to CRT from 23±5 to 26±6% (p=NS) vs. 25±5 to 34±8% in those with dyssynchrony (p<0.001).

**Conclusion:** HF patients with wide QRS but without mechanical dyssynchrony were characterized by having ischemic disease more often, a narrower QRS with no radial dyssynchrony, and a lower EF response to CRT overall. These observations may have clinical implications.

