



Aritmologija u Republici Hrvatskoj

Arrhythmology in the Republic of Croatia

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Napredak u zbrinjavanju bolesnika s poremećajima srčanog ritma u Republici Hrvatskoj tijekom posljednjih godina je značajan. Ritmološki portfolio zahvata prije desetak godina praktički je u značajnijoj mjeri uključivao ugradnju elektrostimulatora, pri čemu su dominirali jednokomorni sustavi. Složeniji elektrofiziološki zahvati (elektrofiziološka ispitivanja, kateterske ablacijske, ugradnja defibrilatora i resinhronizacijskih naprava) bili su brojčana rijetkost. Razvoj elektrofizioloških centara, rastući broj ustanova koje implantiraju naprave i kontinuirana edukacija liječnika s velikim entuzijazmom i interesom u području ritmologije osnovni su čimbenici koji stoje iza ovog napretka. U ovom kratkom preglednom članku prikazat ćemo najvažnije parametre koji opisuju trenutno stanje ritmoloških postupaka u našoj zemlji, na temelju izvješća EHRA White Book za 2010. godinu (izvješće European Heart Rhythm Association Europskog kardiološkog društva)¹.

Ukupan broj postupaka tijekom 2010. godine

Tablica 1 pregledno prikazuje ukupan broj najčešćih, tipičnih ritmoloških zahvata u Hrvatskoj tijekom 2010. godine (ukoliko je dostupan, radi usporedbe naveden je i broj zahvata iz 2009.).

Progress accomplished in management of patients with heart rhythm disorders in the Republic of Croatia during the past few years has been great. Rhythmology portfolio of procedures some ten years ago practically to a significant extent included mainly the implantation of pacemakers, whereas single chamber systems were dominant. Some more complex electrophysiological procedures (electrophysiological tests, catheter ablations, the implantation of defibrillators and resynchronization devices) were very rare. The development of electrophysiological centers, a growing number of institutions that implant devices and continuous education of physicians with great enthusiasm and interest in the area of rhythmology are the basic factors that have contributed to this advancement. In this short review article, we shall show the most important parameters that describe the current state of rhythmologic procedures in our country, according to report of the report EHRA White Book for 2010 (the report of the European Heart Rhythm Association of the European Society of Cardiology)¹.

Total number of procedures during 2010

Table 1 clearly shows the total number of the most frequent, typical rhythmologic procedures in Croatia during 2010. (If available, the number of surgeries from 2009 is

Table 1. The total number of the most frequent, typical rhythmologic procedures in Croatia.

Procedure	2009	2010
Pacemaker implants	2.274	2.452
- first implants	—	2.071
- replacements	—	381
- number of performing centers	11	14
CRT implants	35	42
- CRT-P	18	24
- CRT-D	17	18
- Number of performing centers	7	7
ICD implants	83	80
- Number of performing centers	9	11
Loop recorders	—	6
Catheter ablations	—	314
- AFib ablations	—	24
- Number of performing centers	4	4

Abbreviations: CRT= cardiac resynchronization therapy; CRT-P = resynchronization (biventricular) pacemaker; CRT-D = resynchronization (biventricular) cardioverter-defibrillator, ICD = implantable cardioverter-defibrillator; AFib = atrial fibrillation.



Podaci pokazuju da se tijekom 2010. godine nastavio trend izvođenja kompletног postupka od strane kardiologa, tako da trenutno u više od 2/3 slučajeva elektrostimulatore samostalno implantiraju kardiolozi. Broj implantiranih elektrostimulatora povećan je za 8%, što je u prvom redu posljedica otvaranja novih centara koji izvode ove zahvate. Broj resinhronizacijskih naprava neznatno je povećan, dok je broj novopostavljenih defibrilatora stagnirao, što je u prvom redu posljedica nepovoljnog položaja ovog zahvata u okvirima financiranja osiguravatelja. Postoji i određena tendencija poštivanja smjernica za liječenje sinkope, koje predviđaju implantaciju loop recordera kod odabranih bolesnika s nerazjašnjеним gubitkom svijesti, tako da su se tijekom 2010. godine na hrvatskoj elektrofiziološkoj karti u skromnom broju pojavile i ove naprave.

Rasprostranjenost i učestalost ritmoloških zahvata po ustanovama u Hrvatskoj

Tablica 2 prikazuje sve ustanove u Republici Hrvatskoj u kojima se izvode ritmološki zahvati, s naznakom vrste i ukupnog broja tipičnih postupaka.

Tijekom 2011. godine navedenim bolnicama treba dodati još tri centra koji su započeli s implantacijama elektrostimulatora i defibrilatora, OB Koprivnica, OB Pula i OB Varaždin.

Nadalje, tijekom 2011. godini dodatno se povećala aktivnost centara u području ablacija, tako da se značajan broj zahvata uz pomoć 3D-navigacijskih sustava sada izvodi i u KBC Sestre milosrdnice, dok su istovremeno ablacie počele i u KB Merkur. Trenutno se može reći da, za razliku od ranijih godina, kada je određeni broj bolesnika s jednim od najčešćih poremećaja ritma, fibrilacijom atrija, bio upućivan na liječenje u inozemstvo, sada za time više nema potrebe.

Određeni prostor za poboljšanje postoji u području elektrostimulacije srca, budući da u ukupnom izvještaju

given for comparison). The data shows that in 2010 the trend of performance of the entire procedure by cardiologists continued, so that at the moment in more than 2/3 of cases, the electrostimulators are independently implanted by cardiologists. The number of implanted electrostimulators has increased by 8%, which is primarily a result of opening new centers that perform these operations. The number of resynchronization devices has been slightly increased, while the number of newly implanted defibrillators has stagnated, which is primarily the consequence of the negative position of this operation in terms of financing by the insurance institute. There is a certain tendency of following the guidelines for the treatment of syncope that require the implantation of the loop recorders in selected patients with unexplained loss of consciousness, so that during 2010 these devices were launched on the Croatian electrophysiologic map in a low number.

The distribution and frequency of rhythmology interventions in institutions in the Republic of Croatia

Table 2 shows all the institutions in the Republic of Croatia where rhythmology interventions are performed, specifying the types and total number of typical procedures.

During 2011, these hospitals should be added by three centers that began with implantation of electrostimulators and defibrillators, Koprivnica General Hospital, Pula General Hospital and Varaždin General Hospital.

Furthermore, during 2011 the activity of centers in the area of ablation has additionally increased, so that a significant number of operations are now performed with the help of 3D-navigation systems in the University Hospital Center Sestre milosrdnice, while the ablations were simultaneously started in the Clicinal Hospital Merkur. Currently we can say that, unlike in previous years, when a certain number of patients with one of the most common rhythm

Table 2. Croatian institutions where rhythmology interventions are performed.

Hospital	Pacemaker	ICD, CRT-D	CRT-P	Ablation (3D)
KBC Zagreb	357	45	4	59 (12)
KBC Sestre milosrdnice	217	11	-	88 (0)
KB Dubrava	185	7	1	-
KB Merkur	175	3	1	-
KB Sveti Duh	122	1	-	-
KBC Rijeka	349	11	-	-
KBC Split - Firule	257	6	3	-
KBC Split - Križine	163	5	-	-
KBC Osijek	118	4	-	-
OB Zadar	152	9	10	59 (22)
Klinika Magdalena	154	15	5	108 (11)
OB Dubrovnik	106	2	-	-
OB Slavonski Brod	26	-	-	-
OB Karlovac	71	-	-	-

Abbreviations: 3D = three-dimensional navigation systems; number of ablations represents total number of conventional and 3D ablations, number in parenthesis represents thereof using navigation systems.



još uvjek prevladava implantacija jednokomornih sustava (VVI, VVIR vs DDD, DDDR = 1,4:1), sa značajnim udjelom sustava bez senzora (npr. udio VVI sustava u ukupnom broju jednokomornih elektrostimulatora iznosi 34%). Vrlo vjerojatno bi u smislu ispravnosti indikacija trebali ipak prevladavati dvokomorni sustavi i sustavi s uključenim "R". Bolnice u kojima je implantirano više od 50% dvokomornih sustava su KBC Zagreb, KB Merkur, OB Zadar i Magdalena.

Jedan od najvećih problema koji su vidljivi iz ovog izvješća jest niska učestalost implantacije kardioverter-defibrilatora (ICD). Ukoliko se podatak o oko 25.000 smrti godišnje zbog kardiovaskularnih bolesti u Hrvatskoj uvrsti u račun prema kojem oko 70% (~18.000) kardiovaskularnih bolesnika umire zbog kardijalnih uzroka, a polovica od tog broja upravo naglom srčanom smrću (sudden cardiac death; SCD), dolazimo do procjene od oko 9.000 osoba koje su, nakon odgovarajućeg probira u smislu primarne i sekundarne prevencije SCD, kandidati za implantaciju ICD.

Nadalje, usporedba sa zemljama iz okruženja, od kojih su mnoge ekonomski slabije od Hrvatske, pokazuje nezavidan položaj — stopa implantacije ICD obično se u ovim usporedbama izražava kao broj implantiranih naprava na milijun stanovnika. **Tablica 3** kratko pokazuje poziciju Hrvatske.

Table 3. Comparison of ICD implant number per million population showing position of Croatia in comparison with some other countries.

Country	Number of ICD implants per million
Italy	472
Czech Republic	184
Slovakia	104
Hungary	76
Slovenia	57
Serbia	40
Croatia	23

Vidljivo je da se u Hrvatskoj postavlja dvostruko manje ovih uređaja nego primjerice u Srbiji te 3-4 puta manje nego u Sloveniji ili Mađarskoj. Radna skupina za aritmije i elektrostimulaciju srca Hrvatskog kardiološkog društva, uz potporu Predsjednika HKD, prof. Davora Miličića, još je prije dvije godine predložila nacionalnom osiguravatelju (Hrvatski zavod za zdravstveno osiguranje) djelomično rješavanje ovog važnog javnozdravstvenog problema po uzoru na slične postupke u drugim područjima (primjerice intervencijska kardiologija i primarna perkutana intervencija u akutnom infarktu miokarda s elevacijom ST-segmenta, posebno skupi ugradbeni materijal u neuroradiologiji i slično) s idejom osiguravanja posebnih sredstava van limita bolnica za prevenciju nagle srčane smrti, u prvom redu u smislu sekundarne prevencije. Cilj bi bio povećati stopu implantacije za barem 3-4 puta, čime bismo se svrstali uz usporedive zemlje u okruženju. Ovaj postupak za sada nije doveo do željenog rezultata, ali ga je sasvim sigurno potrebitno nastaviti.

disorder, atrial fibrillation, was referred to treatment abroad, it is now no longer necessary.

There is some room for the improvement in the field of heart electrostimulation, since in the entire report the implantation of single chamber systems still prevails (VVI, VVIR vs DDD, DDDR = 1,4:1), with a significant proportion of the system without sensors (e.g. share of VVI systems total number single chamber electrostimulators is 34%). It is very likely that in terms of proper indications two-chamber chamber systems and the systems with involved "R" should nevertheless prevail. University Hospital Center Zagreb, Clinical Hospital Merkur, General Hospital Zadar and Magdalena are the hospitals where more than 50% of two-chamber systems have been implanted.

One of the biggest problems shown in this report is the low incidence of implantation of cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD). If the data on about 25,000 deaths annually due to cardiovascular diseases in Croatia is included in the account according to which about 70% (~18,000) cardiovascular patients die due to cardiac causes, and half of that number die of sudden cardiac death (SCD), we estimate that about 9,000 people who, after appropriate screening in terms of primary and secondary prevention of SCD, are candidates for ICD implantation.

Furthermore, the comparison with neighboring countries, of which many countries are economically poorer

than Croatia shows an unenviable position — the rate of ICD implantation is usually in such comparisons indicated as the number of implanted devices per million inhabitants. **Table 3** briefly shows the Croatian position.

It is evident that Croatia implants twice as less such devices than for example Serbia, and 3 to 4 times less than Slovenia or Hungary. The Working Group on Arrhythmias and Cardiac Pacing of the Croatian Cardiac Society, with support from the CCS President, Prof. Davor Miličić, proposed even two years ago to the national insurance institute (Croatian Health Insurance Institute) a partly resolution of this important public health problem following the model of similar procedures in other areas (such as interventional cardiology and primary percutaneous intervention in acute myocardial infarction with ST-segment elevation, particularly expensive implantation material in neuroradiology, etc.) with the idea of providing special funds outside the hospital limits for the prevention of sudden cardiac



Zaključno se može reći da je tijekom posljednjih godina zaista ostvaren vidljiv napredak u području ritmologije, prvenstveno dokumentiran vrlo izraženim porastom broja centara koji se bave određenim postupcima, edukacijom kardiologa, povećanim brojem samih zahvata i time povećanom kvalitetom života za bolesnike. Postoji, međutim, i dalje velik prostor za poboljšanje, a jedan od najboljih primjera kritične točke u tome području jest uporna aktivnost stručnog društva na poboljšanju prevencije nagle srčane smrti.

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Literature

1. The EHRA White Books. <http://www.escardio.org/communities/EHRA/publications/Pages/white-book-project.aspx> (6. 11. 2011).

death, primarily in terms of secondary prevention. The aim would be to increase the rate of implantation by at least 3 to 4 times, whereas we would be included in comparable countries in the region. This procedure has not led to the desired results, but it should certainly be continued.

To conclude, we can say that during the last few years an evident advancement has been achieved in the field of rhythmology, primarily documented by a very significant increase in the number of centers that engage in certain procedures, organize training of cardiologists, perform an increased number of interventions and have consequently increased the quality of life for patients. There is, however, still much room for improvement, and one of the best examples of critical point in this area is the persistent activity of the professional societies on improvement of the prevention of sudden cardiac death.