

Most CRT-P patients would not benefit from addition of defibrillator

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Most patients with a cardiac resynchronisation therapy (CRT) pacemaker would not benefit from the addition of a defibrillator, according to results from the CeRtiTuDe cohort study presented for the first time today at ESC Congress and published in *European Heart Journal*.

"The choice between CRT with (CRT-D) or without (CRT-P) a defibrillator remains a contentious issue," said Professor Jean-Yves Le Heuzey, cardiologist at Georges Pompidou Hospital, René Descartes University in Paris, France. "No randomised clinical trial has been conducted to guide this choice."

Patients with [congestive heart failure](#) are at high risk of dying from sudden [cardiac death](#). Over the last decade, CRT and [implantable cardioverter defibrillators](#) (ICDs) have markedly improved prognosis. Guidelines do not make firm recommendations on the choice of CRT-P versus CRT-D, stating that there is insufficient evidence from [randomised controlled trials](#) to show that CRT-D would additionally improve survival compared to CRT-P.³ This has left room for physician discretion and resulted in wide variation in worldwide implantation rates. For instance, the proportion of CRT implantations which are CRT-D reaches more than 90% in the US whereas it is lesser across Europe.

"Whether such a high rate of CRT-D use over CRT-P is justified is an important question to answer in terms of significant costs and device-related complications," said Professor Le Heuzey. "ICD lead failures, inappropriate shocks and risk of infection are real problems with impacts on quality of life and possibly survival. But the ideal way to answer this question, a randomised controlled trial directly comparing CRT-P to CRT-D, would have to be large, expensive and is unlikely to ever be conducted."

The CeRtiTuDe study evaluated the characteristics

of CRT-P versus CRT-D [patients](#) in a real-world scenario and analysed to what extent CRT-P patients would have benefited from the presence of a back-up defibrillator. It was a multicentre prospective follow-up [cohort study](#) that enrolled a total of 1 705 consecutive patients implanted with a CRT (CRT-P 535; CRT-D 1 170) between 2008 and 2010 in France. Adjudication for causes of death was conducted at two years follow up.

Patients with CRT-P compared to CRT-D (Figure 1) were older (75.9 vs 65.6 years, p

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