


Pulsed field ablation vs. thermal ablation (RF/cryo) for paroxysmal AF

Conclusion

 Pulsed field ablation (PFA) is noninferior to thermal ablation in paroxysmal atrial fibrillation (AF).


Impact on clinical practice

 PFA is as effective and safe as conventional thermal ablation to treat paroxysmal AF. Procedure times were faster for PFA than thermal ablation, but there was more X-ray exposure with PFA.



Study objectives

 ADVENT was the first randomised controlled trial comparing PFA to conventional ablation (either radiofrequency or cryothermal ablation).

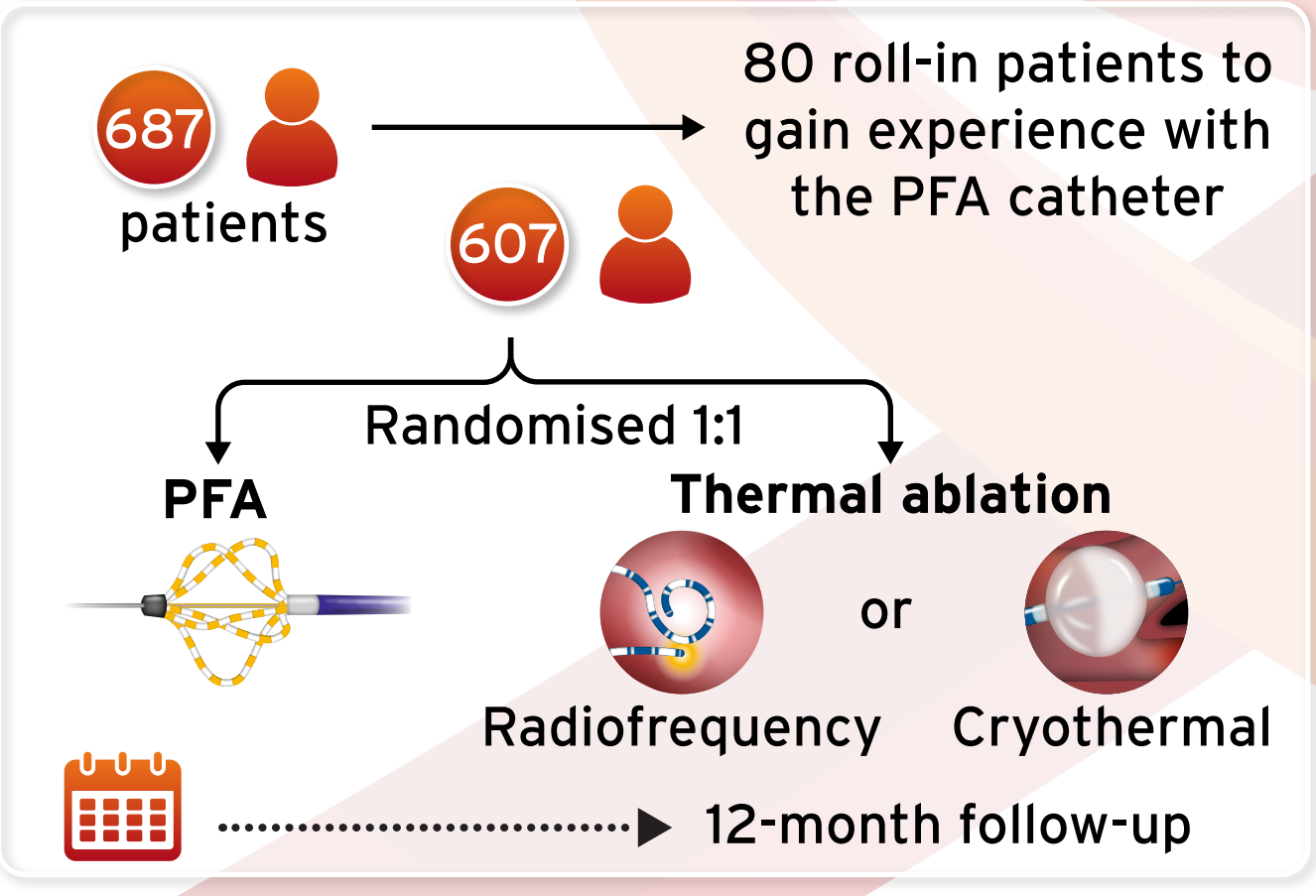
Study population

 Patients with drug-resistant, symptomatic paroxysmal AF

Where?

 United States  30 centres

Who and what?



Primary efficacy endpoint

Success rate, defined as acute success and chronic success (1-year freedom from recurrent atrial arrhythmias, antiarrhythmic drug use, and cardioversion or repeat ablation)

Group	Rate%
PFA	73.3%
Thermal ablation (Radiofrequency or Cryothermal)	71.3%

Met the prespecified criteria for noninferiority: between-group difference, 2.0%; 95% Bayesian credible interval (BCI), -5.2 to 9.2%; posterior probability of noninferiority >0.999

Secondary efficacy endpoint

Same as the primary efficacy endpoint, but tested for superiority: did not meet the criteria for superiority (posterior probability of superiority 0.708)

Primary safety endpoint

Composite of serious adverse events related to use of an ablation catheter or the procedure itself and occurring within 7 days, as well as pulmonary vein stenosis or oesophageal fistula occurring at any time during the 12-month follow up

PFA	2.1%
Thermal ablation (Radiofrequency or Cryothermal)	1.5%

Met the prespecified criteria for noninferiority: between-group difference, 0.6%; 95% BCI, -1.5 to 2.8%; posterior probability of noninferiority >0.999

Secondary safety endpoint

Change in pulmonary vein dimension (i.e., any stenosis or narrowing) from baseline to day 90

Group	Reductions in vein cross-sectional area
PFA	3.3%
Thermal ablation (Radiofrequency or Cryothermal)	19.5%

Met the prespecified criteria for superiority of PFA: posterior probability of superiority >0.999