



EHRA
European Heart
Rhythm Association

Groupe de Rythmologie et Stimulation Cardiaque de La Société Française de Cardiologie (GRSC-SFC)

French Working Group of Cardiac Pacing and Electrophysiology of the French Society of Cardiology

Pascal Defaye, President of the French WG

The French Working Group of Cardiac Pacing and Electrophysiology is a part of the French Society of Cardiology (Société Française de Cardiologie) and comprises a membership of 1250 individuals. It endeavors to represent all cardiologists, both academic and non-academic, within the field of clinical electrophysiology and devices.

Four times a year, we organize a meeting of committee members in Paris to define and discuss our objectives. The board committee aims to represent all cardiac practices in France, including academic and non-academic, public and private clinics. Additionally, we strive to encompass the major geographical regions of France.

President :

Pascal Defaye (Grenoble)

Vice-President :

Frédéric Sacher (Bordeaux)

Past President :

Laurent Fauchier (Tours)

Other members :

Eloi Marijon (Paris)

Serge Boveda (Toulouse)

Estelle Gandjbakhch (Paris)



Olivier Piot (Paris)

Philippe Maury (Toulouse)

Nicolas Lellouche (Paris)

Raphael Martins (Rennes)

Mina Ait Said (Paris)

Didier Klug (Lille)

Fabrice Extramiana (Paris)

The group is open to the entire Francophone electrophysiology community. In this context, our working group collaborates with the French working groups of heart failure, intensive cardiac care, cardiac imaging, cardiac surgery, neuro-vascular, pediatric cardiology, and genetics. These specificities and multidisciplinary aspects lead our group to promote exchanges between interventional and non-interventional electrophysiologists, paramedics, and, of course, EP physicians in training.

Our goal is to enhance the quality of life of patients by reducing the impact of cardiac rhythm disorders and decreasing the risk of cardiovascular mortality, especially sudden death, in the general population in France. In collaboration with all members of the French Society of Cardiology (SFC), we gather to encourage exchanges with our members, sharing current scientific knowledge, new ideas, and best practices to improve the quality of care and optimize the use of resources allocated to health.

Our group also has several specific objectives:

- Promote the relationships between different cardiology departments providing care for arrhythmias, for optimal scientific communication, and to maintain high standards of care for patients with rhythm disorders in France.
- Contribute to regulatory reflection by proposing recommendations on practices and management in our field on behalf of the French Society of Cardiology.
- Promote the establishment and, if possible, support research projects contributing to a better understanding, prevention, and treatment of rhythm disorders and their potential complications, especially in the form of registries.
- Assist in continuous medical education for all practicing cardiologists, as well as for the initial training of our young colleagues. In this regard, the group contributed over 20 years ago to the establishment of the Continuous Training Diploma in Cardiac Pacing and Cardiac Electrophysiology. The recent reform of the 3rd cycle of the medical studies, with the creation of the "Interventional



Electrophysiology and Cardiac Pacing" Option, led to a rethinking of this teaching for the years to come in collaboration with the National College of Cardiology Teachers.

We have also developed our specific website (rythmologie.fr), created periodic group's newsletters, and are actively present on social media: Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter.

We organize scientific meetings that have become essential events for training and networking for those who want to be well-informed, critical in the field of electrophysiology: Stimulation and Defibrillation Days every year in March, Congress of Avignon every 2 years at the end of September/beginning of October and now annually meeting of our group.

The initiatives:

- Organization of the annual meeting of our group:

The cardiac pacing and electrophysiology working group now organizes an annual congress. It is the Francophone Cardiology meeting, combining our group with other learned societies, particularly from the Francophone African world. This congress addresses all EP and cardiac pacing topics, covering both devices and interventional treatments.

It takes place over 3 days at the Palais des Papes in Avignon every 2 years, serving as an essential venue for our group's exchanges. The next meeting will be held in Marseille in June 2024, alternating with Avignon, where we will further involve the Francophone EP community.

- Rhythmology Books

The group has decided to write 3 electrophysiology books in French, which have been very well-received. These books cover all aspects of modern clinical and interventional electrophysiology, pacing and defibrillation, and are intended to be a reference in francophone EP.

- "Précis de Rythmologie" under the direction of Frédéric Sacher and Philippe Maury.
- "Précis de Stimulation Cardiaque et Défibrillateurs" under the direction of Olivier Piot, Pascal Defaye, Serge Boveda, and Jean Claude Deharo.
- "Syncope" under the direction of Serge Boveda, Jean Claude Deharo, and Claude Kouakam.





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SYNCOPE

DIAGNOSTIC & TRAITEMENT

SERGE BOVEDA • JEAN-CLAUDE DEHARO • CLAUDE KOUAKAM

SOUS L'ÉGIDE DU GROUPE DE RYTHMOLOGIE
DE LA SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE DE CARDIOLOGIE





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Stimulation et défibrillation

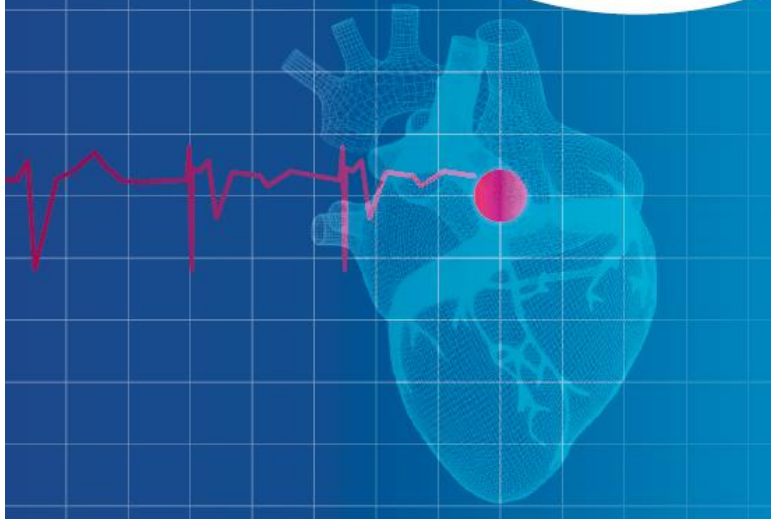
Co-éditeurs :
Olivier PIOT, Serge BOVEDA, Pascal DEFAYE et Jean-Claude DEHARO

Sous l'égide du Groupe de Rythmologie
et de Stimulation Cardiaque



Société Française
de Cardiologie

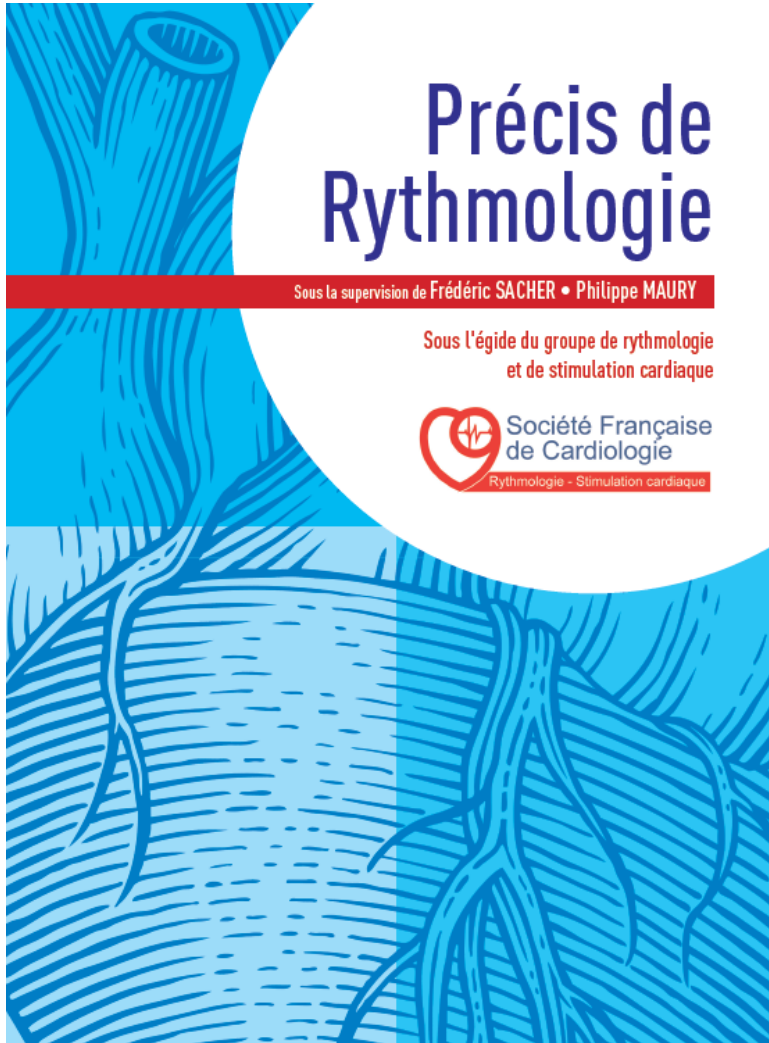
Rythmologie - Stimulation cardiaque



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Group Position Papers

The working group has written position papers on various subjects that have been published in the national journal 'Archives of Cardiovascular Disease':

- Left Atrial Appendage Closure
- Leadless Pacing
- Sustainability in Electrophysiology (EP)
- Competence, Performance, and Environment Required for the Practice of Complex EP Procedures
- Pediatric Ablation of Arrhythmias



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Surveys on the Needs for Electrophysiologists in France for the Next 10 Years

The working group has conducted an extensive survey and reflection on the demography of electrophysiologists in France and the prospects. There is indeed a justified concern about the retirement of cardiologists with expertise in arrhythmias, as well as the desertification of certain parts of the French territory.

A total of 185 EP physicians will be trained thanks to the Cardiac Pacing and electrophysiology Option, coupled with efforts to strengthen teams by hiring an additional EP physician. However, there will be 170 retirements within the next 5 years. Furthermore, there are 35 positions exclusively dedicated to cardiac pacing. The challenge is that currently, EP physicians in training are not inclined to focus solely on cardiac pacing, and it is not their training curriculum.

Moreover, there is an influx of many foreign doctors entering the national territory, and there is a need to consider their management. They typically go to general hospitals where there is a demand for cardiac pacing. Therefore, a strategic approach is required to train pacing specialists for these underserved hospital zones.

Development of the Website and Social Media

We have developed our website and dedicated pages on social media for the working group, providing continuously updated practical information, interviews, and presentations. These different platforms enable the group to reach a large audience in France and in other francophone countries, to encourage interactions and exchanges within our community, and to increase the visibility of the various actions implemented by the group.

- Rythmologie.fr
- Facebook : groupe de rythmologie et stimulation cardiaque
- LinkedIn : groupe de rythmologie et stimulation cardiaque
- X (ex-Twitter) : groupe de rythmologie et stimulation cardiaque

Relations with National Health Agencies

Over the past year, the group has played a significant role in organizing ourselves in France in response to the global shortage of medications such as nadolol, flecainide,



hydroxyquinidine, etc. We have been able to secure certain active supply chains, particularly for some genetic rhythm disorders, ensuring the stability of these channels.

Actively participating in the development of regulatory rules at the request of the supervisory authorities and by proposing recommendations on practices and management in our field on behalf of the French Society of Cardiology.

Teaching:

The working group was responsible for EP and pacing education through the Inter University Diploma in Electrophysiology and Cardiac Pacing. This diploma has now been replaced by a 2-year training program at the end of medical cardiology studies: the Interventional arrhythmia and Cardiac Pacing Option (OPTION RISC).

The group plays a significant role in online education and practical training under the supervision of Jean Claude Deharo. We also provide financial support to participants in this option (referred to as Junior Doctors) to enable them to attend the working group meetings and seminars with the participation of doctors in training are regularly organized in-person.

- Collaboration with EHRA :

Numerous initiatives have been driven by the French working group in collaboration with EHRA. We consistently encourage French EP physicians to register with EHRA because it is of great importance for French EP physicians to have a stronger presence at EHRA.

We also provide scholarships of €1000 to doctors in training (Junior Doctors) to ensure their participation in EHRA congresses. This is mandatory for their training curriculum. Additionally, we organize joint sessions with EHRA at all EP and cardiac pacing working group meetings.