



## Razgovor s prim. dr. sc. Jovićem prigodom prve radiofrekventne ablacije fibrilacije atrijske

## Interview with Head Doctor Jović, PhD on occasion of the first radiofrequency ablation of atrial fibrillation

**Ana Vučetić**

*Slobodna Dalmacija, Hrvatska  
Slobodna Dalmacija, Croatia*

**D**ugo se čekala ova vijest u kardiološkim i aritmološkim krugovima u Hrvatskoj, a najviše od pacijenata koji boluju od najčešće srčane aritmije, fibrilacije atrijske.

“Procjenjuje se da oko 40-50 tisuća bolesnika u Hrvatskoj ima ovu neugodnu i potencijalno vrlo opasnu srčanu aritmiju, a još 10 do 15 tisuća novih godišnje od nje oboli”, rekao nam je prim. dr. sc. Albino Jović, dr. med., kardiolog, Voditelj kateterizacijskog laboratorija Kardiološkog odjela Opće Bolnice Zadar.

“Ovih dana ostvario se san kojeg smo dugo sanjali, a najavljivali početkom ove godine”, nastavio je dr. Jović. “Svi naši naponi i moja osobna nastojanja prethodnih godina, bila su usmjerena u ostvarenju ovoga cilja. Primarno, obogaćivanjem našega znanja i sposobnosti iz interventne aritmologije, uz nabavku vrlo zahtjevne kardiološke opreme, stvorili smo konačno sve uvjete za izvođenje ovako složenog postupka kao što je liječenje i izlječenje fibrilacije atrijske metodom izolacije plućnih vena”.

Ovaj složen postupak izveden je 20. studenoga 2009. godine u kateterizacijskom laboratoriju Odjela za kardiologiju OB Zadar po prvi puta u Hrvatskoj. Izveli su je prim. dr. sc. Albino Jović, prim. dr. Damijan Vokač, kardiolog iz Maribora i višegodišnji prijatelj i suradnik zadarske kardiologije, specijalizant interne i kardiologije dr. Ante Anić, uz druge suradnike kardiologe te stručno medicinsko sestrijsko osoblje kardiološkog laboratorija. Izlječeni pacijent je pedesetogodišnjak iz Splita.

**W**e have long waited for such news in the cardiac and arrhythmology sphere in Croatia, and mostly from patients suffering from the most frequent cardiac arrhythmia, atrial fibrillation.

“Some 40-50 thousands of patients are considered to have an uncomfortable and potentially very dangerous cardiac arrhythmia and some additional 10 to 15 thousand of new persons yearly fall ill from it”, said Head Doctor, Albino Jović, PhD, cardiologist, Head of Catheterization Laboratory of the Cardiac Department of the Zadar General Hospital.

“These days our dream that we have been dreaming for a long time, has come true, but which was announced at the beginning of the year”, continued Dr. Jović. “All our efforts and my personal endeavors during the few past years have been focused on the accomplishment of this goal. Primarily, owing to expansion of our knowledge and an ability from interventional arrhythmology, along with acquisition of very demanding cardiac equipment, we have finally created all conditions for execution of such a complex procedure such as the treatment and healing of atrial fibrillation by applying a pulmonary vein isolation method”.

This complex procedure was for the first time executed in Croatia on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in the catheterization laboratory of the Cardiology Department of the Zadar General Hospital. It was executed by the Head Doctor Albino Jović PhD, Head Doctor Damijan Vokač, cardiologist from Maribor, a long year friend and associate to the Zadar Cardiology Department, and Ante Anić, MD, resident of internal medicine and cardiology together with all other associates, cardiologists and other expert medical staff, nurses



*Photo: Andrija Lučić*



Za ovako složen zahvat, uz svu uobičajenu kateterizacijsku opremu u modernoj angiosali, nužna je i posebna oprema za dijagnostiku i prikazivanje oblika i mehanizma srčanih aritmija. Nužna je dakle i optimalna oprema za 3-D elektroanatomski mapping, npr. CARTO sustav, kakav je nedavno nabavljen za potrebe kateterizacijskog laboratorija u Zadru. Potrebna je nadalje Rtg i CT kardioangio dijagnostika, transezofagusna i intrakardijalna ehokardiografija, koja je također unatrag nekoliko mjeseci u funkciji. Konačno složeni generatori radiofrekventne energije kao i posebni elektrofiziološki i ablacijski kateteri, setovi-igle za transeptalnu punkciju i još puno intervencijskog materijala. Posebno valja istaknuti potrebu interdisciplinarnu stručne suradnje i asistencije radiologa, torakalnog kirurga i transfuziologa u ovakvim zahvatima, što u zadarskoj bolnici funkcionira na izuzetno kvalitetnoj razini.

Do svega se ovoga stiže postupno. Zbog toga, najveća vrijednost i bogatstvo kateterizacijskog laboratorija OB Zadar i jest upravo veliko, nagomilano, dugogodišnje iskustvo, koje se rađalo kroz mukotrpan rad u progresivno sve boljim prostornim i drugim organizacijskim uvjetima. Entuzijizam, upornost i veliki radni naponi iznad svega, rezultirali su intervencijom, odnosno metodom liječenja koja se smatra vrhuncem u kardiološkoj interventnoj struci. Izolacija plućnih vena predstavlja najsloženiji zahvat koji se u ovakvim laboratorijima izvodi.

Presretni smo da smo upravo mi izveli prvu ovakvu intervenciju u Hrvatskoj. Nastavljamo dalje, već za desetak dana imamo nove bolesnike i intervencije, očekuje nas međunarodna suradnja i projekt s kardiolozima iz najjače kardiološke klinike u svijetu Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, SAD. Direktori njihova laboratorija posjetili su nas početkom ove godine i potvrdili suradnju ovih dana, pozdravivši naše prve uspjehe. Formirali smo i imamo listu bolesnika koji čekaju ovaj zahvat, nadamo se da ćemo u sljedećoj godini mnogima moći pomoći. Ovo je nesumnjivo prekretnica u hrvatskoj kardiologiji i aritmologiji", ne krijući svoje zadovoljstvo, zaključio je dr. Jović.

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E-mail: [albino.jovic@zd.t-com.hr](mailto:albino.jovic@zd.t-com.hr)

working for the Cardiac Laboratory. The fifty-year old resident of Split is a healed patient.

Special equipment for diagnostics and presentation of forms and cardiac arrhythmia mechanisms is required for such a complex procedure along with all usual catheterization equipment in a modern angiography laboratory. So, we need optimum equipment for 3-D electro-anatomic mapping, such as CARTO system, which was acquired not long ago for the requirements of the Catheterization Laboratory in Zadar. Further, we also require X-ray and CT cardio-angiography diagnostic devices, transoesophageal and intracardiac echocardiography, that has been in function for the last few months. Finally, the complex generators of radiofrequency energy as well as special electrophysiologic and ablation catheters, needle sets for transeptal puncture and a lot of more intervention material. A special emphasis is to be placed on a necessity of interdisciplinary expert cooperation and radiologist's assistance, thoracic surgeon and transfusiologist in case of such procedures which functions very well in the Zadar hospital.

All this is done gradually. For that reason, the largest value and asset of catheterization laboratory of the Zadar General Hospital lies in the large and extensive experience that has been gained through hard work in progressively better premises and other organizational conditions. The enthusiasm, persistent character and mainly hard work have resulted in an intervention, or rather a treatment method that is considered the top method in the intervention profession. The isolation of pulmonary veins represents the most complex procedure performed in such laboratories.

We are very happy that is it us who performed such first intervention in Croatia. We shall continue with this work, in already ten days we shall have some new patients and interventions, international cooperation and project with cardiologists from Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, USA, the most renowned international Cardiac Clinic has been offered to us. The directors of their labs visited us at the beginning of this year and have confirmed the cooperation during the last few days praising our first successful procedures. We have created and have a list of patients waiting for this surgery, so we hope to be able to help to many people during the next year. This is undoubtedly the turning point in the Croatian cardiology and arrhythmology" concluded Dr. Jović not trying to hide his satisfaction.