Cryoballoon: An alternative to radiofrequency ablation

OHSU OFFERS NEW TREATMENT FOR PAROXYSMAL ATRIAL FIBRILLATION

Indications for referral
The cryoballoon effectively treats a broad range of pulmonary vein anatomies. Indications for referral include:

- Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation that has failed at least one medication
- Otherwise healthy patients with no additional pre-existing conditions

Contraindications

- Prior afib ablation
- Prior surgical maze
- Patient > 80 years old

Advantages
This minimally invasive procedure is associated with faster procedure times than point-to-point radiofrequency ablation: Freezing helps the balloon maintain contact during the procedure. There is no need for continuous irrigation of the balloon, which results in less fluid delivery to the patient as compared to radiofrequency energy.

OHSU follow-up
Each patient is evaluated in our clinic one and three months after procedure. Referring physicians receive a complete report.

About us
The clinical cardiac electrophysiology (EP) service at OHSU is dedicated to the diagnosis and management of all types of heart rhythm disorders. We offer a complete range of noninvasive and invasive EP services, as well as a vigorous research program.

Charles Henrikson, M.D. is the director of the electrophysiology service at OHSU. Dr. Henrikson and his staff perform the full range of EP procedures including pacemaker and defibrillator implantation; EP study and ablation of supraventricular tachycardia, atrial fibrillation, and ventricular tachycardia; laser lead extraction; and epicardial access and ablation. He has an active research program with more than 70 peer-reviewed publications.

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