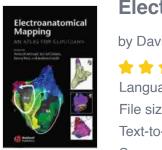
Electroanatomical Mapping: An Atlas for Clinicians

Electroanatomical mapping (EAM) is a minimally invasive procedure that uses a catheter with a sensor to create a 3D map of the heart's electrical activity. This map can be used to diagnose and treat a variety of heart rhythm disorders.



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by David J. Callans

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EAM is typically performed in the electrophysiology laboratory. The patient is sedated and a small incision is made in the groin. The catheter is then inserted into the femoral artery and advanced into the heart. The sensor on the catheter records the electrical activity of the heart as it moves through the chambers.

The data from the EAM is used to create a 3D map of the heart's electrical activity. This map can be used to identify the source of the heart rhythm

disorder. Once the source has been identified, the doctor can use the catheter to deliver radiofrequency energy to the area to ablate it.

EAM is a safe and effective procedure. It is typically performed on an outpatient basis and the patient can usually go home the same day.

Benefits of EAM

EAM offers a number of benefits over traditional methods of diagnosing and treating heart rhythm disorders.

- Accuracy: EAM provides a more accurate map of the heart's electrical activity than traditional methods, such as electrocardiography (ECG) and echocardiography.
- Safety: EAM is a minimally invasive procedure that is typically performed on an outpatient basis.
- Efficacy: EAM is an effective treatment for a variety of heart rhythm disorders.

Risks of EAM

EAM is a safe procedure, but there are some risks involved.

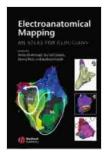
- Bleeding: There is a small risk of bleeding at the site of the incision.
- Infection: There is a small risk of infection at the site of the incision.
- Damage to the heart: There is a small risk of damage to the heart or blood vessels during the procedure.

Alternatives to EAM

There are a number of alternatives to EAM, including:

- Electrocardiography (ECG): ECG is a non-invasive test that records the electrical activity of the heart. ECG can be used to diagnose some heart rhythm disorders, but it is not as accurate as EAM.
- Echocardiography: Echocardiography is a non-invasive test that uses ultrasound to create images of the heart. Echocardiography can be used to diagnose some heart rhythm disorders, but it is not as accurate as EAM.
- Cardiac MRI: Cardiac MRI is a non-invasive test that uses magnetic resonance imaging to create images of the heart. Cardiac MRI can be used to diagnose some heart rhythm disorders, but it is not as accurate as EAM.

EAM is a safe and effective procedure for diagnosing and treating heart rhythm disorders. EAM offers a number of benefits over traditional methods, such as accuracy, safety, and efficacy. If you are experiencing heart rhythm disorders, talk to your doctor about whether EAM is right for you.

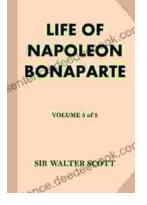


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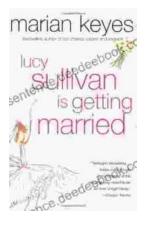
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