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Sinus rhythm with isolated pulmonary vein fibrillation

A 47-year-old man was referred for pulmonary vein isolation for paroxysmal atrial fibrillation. During catheter ablation to encircle the left superior pulmonary vein, application of radiofrequency energy was applied to the roof of the vein restoring sinus rhythm within the atria; however, fibrillation persisted confined to the isolated left superior pulmonary vein.

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Panel A  Surface ECG tracings from leads I and II, ablation (AB), His, coronary sinus (CS) and circular pulmonary vein (PV) catheter electrograms. The surface ECG, His and CS electrograms demonstrate conversion to sinus rhythm, while atrial fibrillation persists within the vein.

Panel B  Carto mapping showing the posterior left atrium and pulmonary veins. The red dots indicate the location of ablation points. LIPV, left inferior pulmonary vein; LSPV, left superior pulmonary vein; RIPV, right inferior pulmonary vein; RSPV, right superior pulmonary vein.

Panel C  Left anterior oblique fluoroscopic projection showing the ablator and circular pulmonary vein mapping catheter at the orifice of the left superior pulmonary vein (dashed dots indicate the upper and lower borders of the vein). CS, coronary sinus.