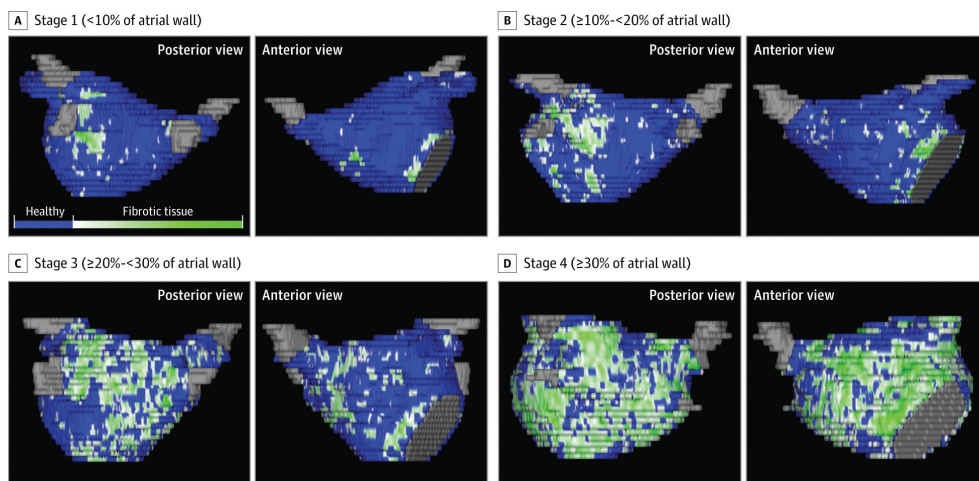


# Why the Posterior Wall?

## How does the quality of the tissue, heavily fibrotic or not, impact success?

Four Stages of Left Atrial Tissue Fibrosis Based on 3D Delayed Enhancement Magnetic Resonance Imaging Scans



- Green represents fibrosis on the back wall.
- Blue represents normal tissue.
- Fibrosis in the posterior wall creates signal disruption/arrhythmia.

Figure 1: Representative example from 4 different patients of each stage of left atrial tissue fibrosis. Normal left atrial wall is displayed in blue; fibrotic changes are in green and white. Stages 1 through 4 show increasing amounts of fibrosis as a percentage of the total left atrial wall volume. The pulmonary veins and mitral valve are shown in gray. JAMA. 2014;311(5):498-506. doi:10.1001/jama.2014.3

## How pericardial reflections can impact a post-epicardial ablation map.

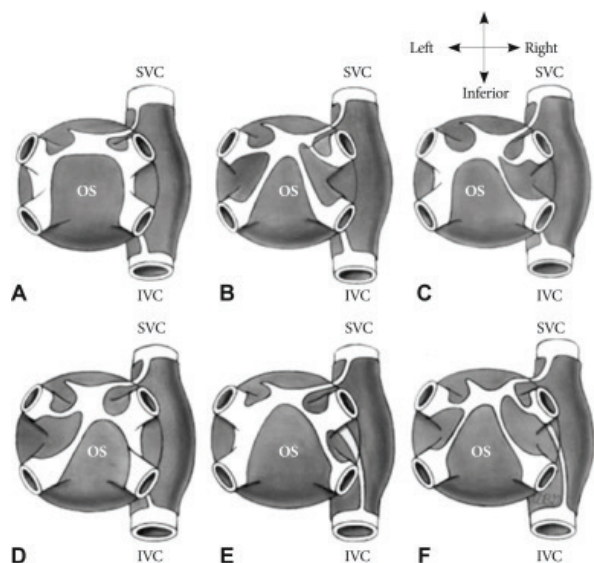


Figure 2

- There is great variety in pericardial reflections.
- Reflections define the boundaries for where surgeons can coagulate tissue.
- Regardless of those boundaries the surgeon will still access large areas of back wall substrate.

### References:

Figure 1. Marrouche, N.F., Wilber, D., Hindricks, G., Jais, P., Akoum, N., et al. (2014). Association of atrial tissue fibrosis identified by delayed enhancement MRI and atrial fibrillation catheter ablation: the DECAAF study. JAMA, 311(5):498-506.

Figure 2. D'Avila, A., Scanavacca, M., Sosa, E., Ruskin, J.N., Reddy, V.Y. (2003). Pericardial anatomy for the interventional electrophysiologist. J Cardiovasc Electrophysiol, 14(4):422-30.

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