Title: The Greek experience of Renal Denervation in resistant hypertension

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The first renal denervation (RDN) procedures in Greece were performed in the First Cardiology Clinic, University of Athens, Hippokration Hospital by Prof. Costas Tsioufis in patients with severe drug-resistant hypertension.1 During the last 5 years numerous patients have undergone RDN in this center which participates in international studies and registries and important experience has been gathered regarding the safety and efficacy of this interventional therapy. In an attempt to identify responders to RDN therapy in an animal setting, we have shown that RDN causes an acute and chronic alteration in renal blood flow as well as resistive index,2 whereas stimulation of the renal arteries did not lead to augmentation of blood pressure (BP) in swines in contrast to previous reports.3 The Hippokration Hospital was also one of the few centers globally for the EnligHTN I study the first-in-human study with the use of the multielectrode RDN catheter. From this population important papers regarding the effect of RDN besides BP,4 on left ventricular mass with up to 24 months follow-up have been published.5,6 In Greece, the Hellenic Cardiological Society and the Working Group Hypertension and the Heart of the Society have organized a national registry on patients with resistant hypertension under the name Herhodotos with data on more than 300 cases providing a useful insight into the characteristics of potential candidates for RDN. Additionally, the Greek RDN registry has taken place in 4 Greek hospital centers including patients with drug resistant hypertension. In this “real-world’ multicenter national registry, the efficacy of renal denervation in reducing BP as well as safety is proven during a 12 months follow-up. Moreover, younger age and higher levels of baseline office systolic BP are independently related to better BP response to RDN.