

Insights Into the Mechanisms of Calcium Wave Propagation Failure From a Computational Model of the Rabbit Atrial Cardiomyocyte

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Intracellular calcium signals in atrial myocytes show a wide variation of amplitude and duration across time and spatial dimensions

Centripetal calcium wave propagation (U-shaped)

Calcium transient delay from subsarcolemmal (SS) space to cell center

High spatial calcium heterogeneity

Adapted from Blatter et al., J. Gen. Physiol. 2017, 149

Tachypacing-induced remodelling exacerbates incomplete regenerative calcium signaling in rabbit and human myocytes





Adapted from Greiser et al., Circ Res. 2009

Calcium wave propagation failure; Calcium silencing

Adapted from Lenaerts et al., Circ Res. 2009

The Voigt, Heijman (2014) spatial model contains adjacent domains with cytosolic, SR and subsarcolemmal compartments



Voigt, Heijman et al 2014

SR: sarcoplasmic reticulum SRS: SR Ca²⁺-release space We developed a novel model of the rabbit atrial myocyte with rabbit specific electrophysiology and spatial calcium handling



Voigt, Heijman et al 2014

Rabbit electrophysiology from Aslanidi et al. (2009)



https://www.cellml.org

The model was extensively validated against experimental data

Voltage clamp data



AP and CaT traces



Rate dependent intracellular Na+ concentration



The spatial model replicates properties of calcium wave propagation



The spatial model replicates properties of calcium wave propagation



Potential mechanisms of calcium propagation failure

- 1. Time constants of Ca²⁺ diffusion (modulate CICR kinetics)
- 1. Serca2a pump constants (modulate SR Ca²⁺ uptake kinetics)
- 1. Intracellular [Na⁺]

Diffusion time constant of calcium in the cytosol and SRS compartments modulate calcium transient dynamics



rdiff_{cyt}: time constant of calcium diffusion between SRS space and cytosol

→ Stationary buffers (SR, myofilaments, mitochondrias, phospholipids); Mobile buffers (calmodulin, ATP)

rdiff_{SRS}: time constant of calcium diffusion in SRS space along radial direction

 \rightarrow Ca2+ uptake/release from SR

Voigt, Heijman et al 2014

Varying **Tdiff**_{cyt} reproduces a range of calcium propagation scenarios



Varying **Tdiff_{SRS}** reproduces a range of calcium propagation scenarios



Calcium diffusion rate in the cytosol and SRS spaces depend on buffering strength and concurrent SR Ca2+ release/uptake



Voigt, Heijman et al 2014

SERCA pump constants modulate calcium uptake



Decreased calcium uptake by SERCA results in calcium alternans and calcium silencing



0.5

0.5

Calcium diffusion rate in the cytosol and SRS spaces depend on buffering strength and concurrent SR Ca2+ release/uptake



Decreased intracellular Na⁺ results in calcium alternans and silencing



Concluding insights

A novel model of the rabbit atrial cardiomyocyte has been developed and validated with published experimental data; parameters were fine-tuned to match physiological behavior.









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Thank you