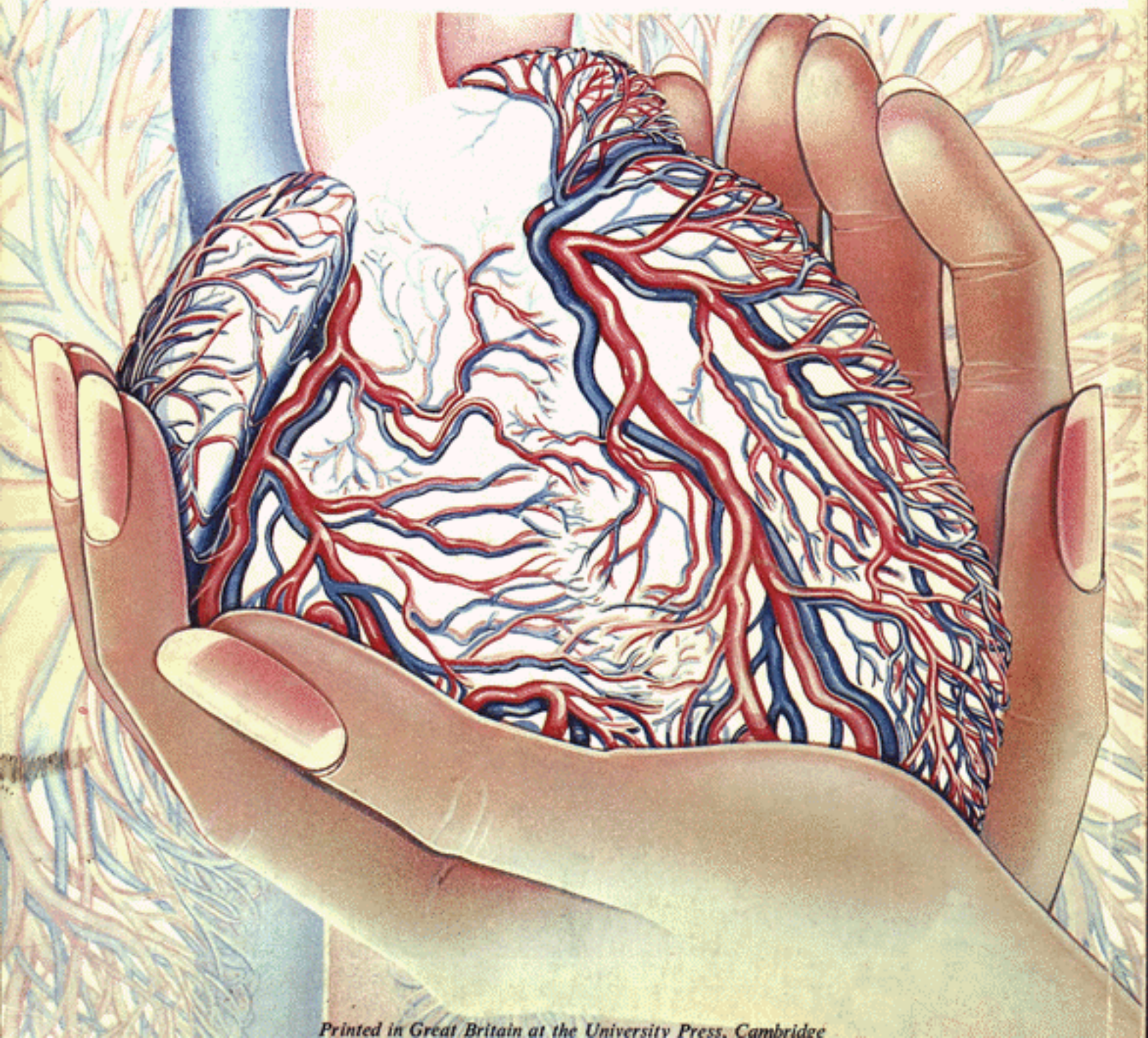

**THIRD JOINT MEETING OF THE
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SINOATRIAL CONDUCTION TIME: COMPARISON BETWEEN DIRECTLY MEASURED VALUES AND THOSE INDIRECTLY ESTIMATED USING CONTINUOUS ATRIAL STIMULATION AT THREE DIFFERENT RATES.

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Direct recording of sinus node electrogram (SNE) in man allows to measure sinoatrial conduction time (SACT) directly (SACTD). We compared values obtained using this technique with those indirectly estimated using continuous atrial pacing (SACTC) at 3 (SACTC3), 6 (SACTC6) and 9 (SACTC9) beats faster than the spontaneous sinus rhythm. The complete study was performed in 28 patients with normal sinus node function. Results (in msec) were:

	SACTD	SACTC3	SACTC6	SACTC9
Mean±SD	84±18	85±29	96±33	101±36

SACTC9 was significantly higher than SACTD ($p < 0.05$) and SACTC3 ($p < 0.001$). SACTC6 was significantly higher than SACTC3 ($p < 0.05$). A significant correlation was observed between SACTC3 and SACTC6 ($r=0.70, p < 0.001$), SACTC3 and SACTC9 ($r=0.75, p < 0.001$), SACTC6 and SACTC9 ($r=0.71, p < 0.001$). No correlation was observed between directly and indirectly obtained SACTs. Thus values measured from SNE and those estimated by continuous atrial stimulation do not appear to be interchangeable.