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Direct probes of flavor-changing neutral currents in e+e- collisions (15' + 5')

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We propose a novel method to study flavor-changing neutral currents in the $e^+e^- \to D^{*0}$ and $e^+e^- \to B_s^*$ transitions, tuning the energy of e^+e^- - collisions to the mass of the narrow vector resonance D^{*0} or B_s^* . We present a thorough study of both short-distance and long-distance contributions to $e^+e^- \to D^{*0}$ in the Standard Model and investigate possible contributions of new physics in the charm sector. This process, albeit very rare, has clear advantages with respect to the $D^0 \to e^+e^-$ decay: the helicity suppression is absent, and a richer set of effective operators can be probed. Implications of the same proposal for B_s^* are also discussed.

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