

**P-172**

**Quality of life of patients after percutaneous closure of atrial septal defect**

*Kourkovei P., Kantzis M., Apostolopoulou S., Rammos S.  
Onassis Cardiac Surgery Center, Pediatric Cardiology Department, Athens, Greece*

**OBJECTIVE:** This study analyzes the quality of life (QoL) of patients after percutaneous closure of atrial septal defect (ASD) and the possible impact of age, psychological and functional status assessed by self reported questionnaires.

**METHODS:** All 199 patients aged older than 16 years old, registered at the congenital heart disease center, who had undergone percutaneous closure of ASD between May 2000 and December 2008, were sent a questionnaire package containing the SF-36 health survey (health related quality of life), the Beck Depression Inventory Scale (BDI), the Zung Self rating Depression Scale (Zung SDS) and the Duke's Activity Status index (DASI). Questionnaires were correctly completed by 89 patients (44,7%), 56 women and 33 men, median age  $42,3 \pm 17,8$  (range 16 to 76,2) years. Patients were assigned to one of three categories based on their age during the study; group A (young adults aged 16 to 24 years), group B (adults aged 25 to 60) and group C (elderly aged older than 60 years). The scores of QoL of each group were compared within them and with age matched normative data of the greek population.

**RESULTS:** In all SF-36 health dimensions patients showed excellent scores which are comparable to the normative data ( $p < 0,025$ ). Patients with depressive symptoms as estimated by both depression scales had significant lower scores in all dimensions of QoL ( $p < 0,021$ ). All SF-36 dimensions correlated significantly with functional status as assessed by DASI ( $p < 0,005$ ). Age affected physical functioning ( $p = 0,013$ ), bodily pain ( $p = 0,005$ ) and general health perception ( $p = 0,018$ ), as in normal population.

**CONCLUSIONS:** QoL in patients following percutaneous closure of ASD is excellent and comparable to standard population. As expected, older patients had poorer levels of physical functioning and overall general health perception compared to their younger counterparts, similar though to their normal peers. Depressive symptoms and impaired functional capacity was also associated with poorer QoL. Our data demonstrate that ASD closure, even at advanced age, does not have a negative effect in any of the QoL domains.