

Postoperative junctional ectopic tachycardia in paediatric patients

*Gebauer R.(1), Weidenbach M.(1), Kostelka M.(2), Paech C.(1)
Heart Center, University of Leipzig, Dept. of Pediatric Cardiology (1), Dept. of Cardiac Surgery (2),
Leipzig, Germany*

Junctional ectopic tachycardia (JET) is a serious postoperative complication with a mortality rate up to 14% in patients after heart surgery. In this study we evaluated the incidence, risk factors and outcome of junctional tachycardia. Methods: We analysed retrospectively the data from 1345 patients who underwent open cardiac surgery in our institution from 2006 to 2010. Results: The incidence of junctional ectopic tachycardia was 2,5%. The patients with JET were significantly younger (median 0,25 vs 1,04 years; $p=0,001$). They had also a longer cardiopulmonary bypass time (median 117,5 vs 91 minutes; $p=0,001$). Complete atrioventricular block (CAVB) after surgery was diagnosed in 33 patients, 19 of them developed postoperatively also a junctional ectopic tachycardia. In all of the patients with a combination of CAVB and JET recovered the AV conduction in the postoperative course spontaneously. Conclusions: The incidence of junctional ectopic tachycardia was in our cohort low (2,5%). The patients with JET were younger and had a longer cardiopulmonary bypass time.