**Long-term experience with Heart Transplantation in children and patients with congenital heart disease**


Pediatric and Congenital Heart Disease, University Medical Center of Lyon, France (1)
Cardiac Surgery, University Medical Center of Lyon, France (2)
Adult Heart Transplant Department, University Medical Center of Lyon, France (3)

This study is to assess the long-term outcome of heart (HTx) and heart-lung transplantation (HLTx) in patients with congenital heart disease (CHD) and children with non-congenital cardiac or pulmonary disease.

Methods: the study is a retrospective single-centre analysis of long-term outcome after heart transplantation of children and adults with CHD, and children with non-congenital cardiac disease.

Results: From 1984 to 2013, 111 first-HTx, 5 HLTx and 6 second-HTx were performed (62 males), in patients aged 11.7±8.2y (med 12y): 96 (79%) were aged <18y at transplant. Cardiac diseases included 61 cardiomyopathies (50.8%), 50 CHD (41.7%), 6 retransplants (5%). HLTx included 1 Eisenmenger syndrome, 1 primitive pulmonary hypertension, and 2 pulmonary diseases. Patients with cardiomyopathy were younger than those with CHD (8.7y vs 14.9y). Seventeen (14%) patients were under circulatory mechanical support as a bridge to transplant. Immunosuppression was achieved by tritherapy in the majority of cases. Acute rejection occurred more frequently within the first year post-transplant (> 5th year) or late after transplant because of non-compliance. Overall mortality was 27%: 33 patients died, 3.5±4.6y post-HTx (1 day to 16.4y, med 1.5 months), due to: early multivisceral failure in 6 (18%), Pulmonary hypertension in 3 (9%), acute rejection in 7 (21%), graft coronary disease in 6 (18%), sepsis in 5 (15%) and miscellaneous in 6. Graft coronary disease occurred in 15 cases (12.4%), of them 4 had 2nd HTx, 6 died and 5 are alive. Five posttransplant lymphoma occurred, 4months to 14y after HTx and were successfully cured in 4 (1died). Patients survival was 85% at 1y, 81% at 5y, 70% at 10y and 61% at 20y post-transplant. Graft survival rates were respectively 82%, 68% and 52% at 5y, 10y and 20y post-transplant. Survival did not differ with pretransplant disease, age, gender, pretransplant mechanical support. Mortality was higher in patients with coronary disease (40%) than those free from (25%). The majority of survivors (97%) are in NYHA class I.

Conclusion: Our experience with HTx and HLTx is favourable with acceptable long-term prognosis in patients with end-stage disease. Graft coronary disease is the main cause of failure, less frequent than in the adult non-CHD heart-transplanted population.