Recent experience and 12 years follow-up after surgical closure of atrial septal defect type II in 120 children

Mambour N., Carbenez K., Rubay J., Poncelet A., Moniotte S., Shango P., Barrea C., Gonzalez C., Stuytsmans T.
Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, UCL, Brussels, Belgium

Objectives: Catheter closure of secundum ASD is an effective treatment and compared favorably with surgical closure. The surgical approach is still mandatory for a significant number of patients.

Methods: This retrospective study included all 120 children (85 girls, 35 boys) operated for isolated ASD closure from 1999 until 2011 in our institution. Mean age was 4.6±0.7 yrs (4 months-16 years), mean weight 17±2kg (3.6-63 kg). Perioperative course, hospitalization, and late-follow-up were analyzed.

Results: Surgical closure was effective on the first attempt in 118 patients (98.3%). Mean time of extracorporeal circulation was 38±2 minutes; mean time aortic cross clamping 19±2 minutes. There was 4% direct suture and 96% patch closure, 84% of the patients operated by sternotomy and 16% by thoracotomy. ICU stay was 2.4±0.2 days (2-9 days), hospital stay 11.2±0.9 days (4-43 days). No complication was observed in 60/120 patients (50 %). Eight children (6.7%) presented major complications: 1 patient (0.8%) died from sepsis and respiratory infection, 2 (1.7%) needed a redo procedure for residual shunt, 3 (2.5%) underwent invasive treatment (2 pericardial drainage for tamponade, 1 resuscitation for cardiac arrest), 2 (1.6%) presented thromboembolic complications (1 cardiac thrombus, 1 cerebral embolism).

Fifty patients (42%) had mild in hospital complications: 33 (27%) pericardial effusion requiring medical treatment (non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs n=25, steroids n=8, pericardiocentesis n=2), 15 (12.5 %) infections requiring treatment (respiratory n=9, gastroenteritis n=5, fever without clear origin n=3), 1 sternal instability, 4 anemia requiring transfusion, 7 (6%) pulmonary atelectasia, 2 post extubation laryngospasm (requiring steroids n=2, reintubation n=1). During follow-up after hospital discharge (mean 3.6±0.6 yrs, 2months-13yrs), there were 4 (3.3%) complications (2 respiratory infections, 1 wound infection, 1 fever without clear origin).

Conclusions: Our recent surgical experience of isolated ASD closure is similar to reports in the literature. Mortality is rare but not absent (0.8%). Major complications are rare (6.7 %) but more frequent than the 2 % complications after ASD transcatheter closure in 214 children in our institution during the same period (reported in AEPC 2013). Minor complications are frequent but did not result in sequela.