Cardiopulmonary Capacity in Relation to Right Ventricular Function and Volume in Patients with Fallot Tetralogy

Dirks S., Woile J., Danne F., Kühne T., Berger F., Ovroutski S.
Deutsches Herzzentrum Berlin, Germany

Introduction: Cardiopulmonary capacity, right ventricular volume and function play a key role in determining the indication and timing for pulmonary valve intervention in patients with Fallot tetralogy. Methods: Data of 47 patients (23 male, 49%) aged 26.6 (11-54) years, with Fallot tetralogy, who underwent cardiopulmonary exercise testing and MRI between May 2014 and September 2015 was analyzed. Measurements collected in MRI: right ventricular enddiastolic volume indexed to body-surface area (RV-EDV), RV-ejection fraction (RV-EF) and pulmonary valve regurgitation fraction (PV-RF). Maximum cardiopulmonary capacity (VO2max) was put in relation to predicted values according to Cooper and Weiler-Ravell. Results: Mean VO2max of predicted was 71.8 ± 17.9 % (range 43 – 122%). MRI data (mean and range: RV volume 114.3 (65.6 - 149.5) ml/m². RV-EF: 47.3 (31.6 – 61.8)% and PV-RF 19.1 (1.0 – 43.0). VO2max shows no correlation to RV-EDV: Pearson correlation 0.134, P=0.379. Mean VO2max of predicted did not correlate to RV-EF: Pearson 0.028, P=0.855 nor did it correlate to PV-RF Pearson: 0.171, P=0.267. Conclusions: RV endiastolic volume, RV Function and PV-Regurgitation measured in MRI are well established factors to make treatment decisions in patients with Fallot Tetralogy, but do not reflect the patient’s present exercise tolerance in a group of patients with RV-EDV not exceeding 150ml/m².